



Monday June 12, 2017

The Honourable Christy Clark, Premier of BC  
The Honourable John Horgan, Leader NDP Opposition  
The Honourable Andrew Weaver, Leader of the BC Green Party

*via email*

**Re: Vancouver School Board - request to maintain consistency prior to trustee by-election**

Dear Premier, Mr. Horgan and Mr. Weaver,

The Parent Advocacy Network (PAN) is a diverse, non-partisan group of Vancouver parents who advocate for the best possible public education for our children. In the context of a changing provincial government, we write to you today to request that the official trustee, Dianne Turner, remain in place in her role until the conclusion of a trustee by-election.

While PAN firmly believes that the Vancouver School Board (VSB) should have a publicly accountable, elected board, and the new government should call a trustee by-election, we strongly assert it would not benefit our children to introduce further instability by replacing Ms. Turner, with a different, unelected appointee, before an elected board is in place.

PAN is not affiliated with any provincial or municipal party. We are concerned about the situation in the district, given the departures at the highest levels of staff and the ongoing confusion over the restoration of class size and composition. Stability and consistency must be maintained wherever possible. To remove or replace Ms. Turner prior to a by-election would be a change motivated by politics rather than the best interests of our students and schools.

Whether a single person or a board of nine, the trustee(s) works with the staff and with input from stakeholders, including parents, in the best interests of students in the district; Ms. Turner has been doing so since October. Ms. Turner's experience and knowledge about the challenges the district is currently facing are crucial in retaining stability at this time; disrupting this would be its own political interference.

Until we once again have elected trustees in place, retaining Ms. Turner is the most prudent path forward, in the best interests of our children and the district.

We hope you will take this position into consideration.

*Sincerely yours,*

Parent Advocacy Network

CC:

Hon Mike Bernier, BC Minister of Education  
Dave Byng, Deputy Minister of Education  
Hon Rob Fleming, NDP Opposition Education Spokesperson  
Suzanne Hoffman, Chief Educator  
Dianne Turner, Official Trustee, VSB  
Gordon Swan, President, BCSTA

Hon Adrian Dix, MLA  
Hon Andrew Wilkinson, MLA  
Hon David Eby, MLA  
Hon George Chow, MLA  
Hon George Heyman, MLA  
Hon Mable Elmore, MLA  
Hon Melanie Mark, MLA  
Hon Michael Lee, MLA  
Hon Sam Sullivan, MLA  
Hon Shane Simpson, MLA  
Hon Spencer Chandra Herbert, MLA