

April 22, 2015

The Honourable Peter Fassbender  
Minister of Education  
PO Box 9045, Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Dear Minister Fassbender:

Re: **Bill 11 – Education Statutes Amendment Act**

The Delta Board of Education met on April 21, 2015 and discussed the recently introduced Bill 11. Delta Trustees expressed concerns that consultation as set out in the Co-Governance Relationship Memorandum of Understanding (“MOU”) did not take place in the development of this legislation. Trustees focused on the following section of the MOU:

***“Consultation and Notification***

*Any party proposing a change in policies or programs that will affect the other party will consult and collaborate with the other party to the fullest extent possible given the specific circumstances and any respective legislative and confidentiality obligations. This commitment includes, but is not limited to, timely notification of the proposed change.*

*The parties recognize that there may be extraordinary circumstances that limit the timeliness of consultation and notification. In such circumstances the other party will be provided with the rationale for the unusual limitations to consultation. New responsibilities will not be assigned to Boards of Education until resourcing implications have been discussed between the parties.”*

The Delta Board of Education remains committed to a robust co-governance relationship. We are also committed to continue exercising our fiduciary responsibilities to the highest standards possible while allocating resources to ensure an excellent public education for our students. In accordance with our Oath of Office, we have made many tough decisions to comply with *School Act* requirements for a balanced budget.

We have been democratically elected to safeguard the resources of our District on behalf of our constituents. We must therefore speak against any legislation that would alter this mandate by placing an unelected Special Advisor, who is not accountable to our community, in front of our Trustees' ability to serve our community.

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Therefore, last night, the Delta Board of Education voted to endorse the motions passed at the recent BCSTA Annual General Meeting and as outlined in Teresa Rezansoff's letter to you dated April 20, 2015 as follows:

***“That BCSTA demand the Government of BC immediately withdraw the sections of Bill 11 that override the authority of democratically elected Boards of Education. Specifically where Bill 11 adds new provisions which broaden the Minister’s authority to issue administrative directives, where Bill 11 would amend the special advisor provision, and where shared service providers are designated by the Minister of Education.***

***That BCSTA publicly advocate strongly against the erosion of local Board of Education autonomy in Bill 11.***

***That BCSTA demand an immediate review of the intent of Bill 11 legislation and an opportunity to recommend amendments prior to final adoption as well as the formation of a management partners’ working group to participate in the development of any subsequent process or resulting regulations.***

The Delta Board of Education envisions that by withdrawing these provisions of Bill 11, an opportunity would be created for Trustees to work with the Ministry of Education in the spirit envisioned by the MOU. We could consult and co-construct new legislation that would enable us to work together as co-governance partners, respecting the mandates given by our constituents and providing our communities with benefit of the local representation in meeting the needs of our students while supporting the broader goals of a strong public education system for our province.

Sincerely,



Laura Dixon  
Chairperson, Delta Board of Education

Enclosure: Letter from Teresa Rezansoff, BCSTA, to Minister of Education dated April 20, 2015

c.c. Scott Hamilton, MLA Delta North  
Vicki Huntington, MLA Delta South  
Rob Fleming, Opposition Spokesperson for Education  
Dave Byng, Deputy Minister of Education  
BCSTA Member Boards of Education  
Delta Board of Education Partners, DTA, CUPE 1091, DPAC & ADSA  
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