



COALITION OF

child care advocates OF BC



Working together for a community based, non-profit child care system that is high quality, affordable, accessible, publicly funded and accountable.

Board of Trustees
Superintendent Steve Cardwell
Vancouver Board of Education
1580 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8

February 16th, 2011

Dear Board of Trustees and Superintendent Cardwell,

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC would like to applaud you for the vision you have shown in adopting the December 14, 2010, Administrative Report of the Public Consultation on School Closures and Recommendations to the Board of Education. We are particularly pleased with the following recommendation:

RECOMMENDATION #5

That the Vancouver Board of Education direct staff to determine the feasibility of offering child care spaces within Vancouver schools at no cost to the provider.

The Coalition of Child Care Advocates of BC is a voluntary organization of interested citizens – parents, child care providers and community activists – working together for a publicly funded, community-owned child care system that is high quality, affordable and accessible. Your recommendation is a fine example of the leadership necessary to make progress on an issue that is so relevant to a large majority of families with children in Vancouver.

We are aware the Special Advisors Report commissioned by the Ministry of Education in June 2010 recommended that the VSB “implement annual childcare rate increases as a revenue generating opportunity”. This suggestion was repugnant to many and so your subsequent budget decision, to maintain child care rental rates at cost recovery only, was welcomed as recognition of the vital support role that child care plays for working/studying families with school age children.

There is no doubt the school closure process in the fall of 2010 was a challenging and emotional one for all concerned but the recommendations and decisions flowing from that report have the potential to chart a progressive and positive new course for Vancouver schools, children and families.

We are very pleased with the recommendation to consider offering space at no charge for child care. It fits well with our Plan for an Integrated System of Early Care and Learning in BC which has been endorsed in principle by both the Vancouver Board of Education and Vancouver Joint Child Care Council.

We offer our assistance where it might be helpful as you move through a closer examination of the recommendation.

Sincerely,

Susan Harney
Chair