

April 30, 2018

Independent Review Panel
K-12 Public Education Funding Model Review Committee

Via Email: K12FundingReview@gov.bc.ca

Dear Panel Members:

RE: Considerations for BC K-12 Funding Review

The current review of the funding model was initiated to develop a better mechanism to distribute provincial funding to school districts that, starting in the 2017-18 school year, had to implement significant changes in teacher staffing levels related to the return of the 2001 Collective Agreement.

While the provincial funding model had been of concern to some school districts, many operated effectively and efficiently with the resources available to them. In fact, the increasing level of accumulated surpluses held by school districts across the province had recently become of concern to the Ministry of Education.

Most can agree on the high-level concepts for a new funding model. A funding model should provide a sufficient level of funding that is stable, predictable, transparent and flexible. Such a model would allow Boards of Education to effectively deliver high quality and dependable programs and services to schools in their communities. Such a model creates the conditions for improved student performance.

This brief submission is intended to illustrate the notion that before any funding is provided to recognize costs related to implementing and managing the restored 2001 Collective Agreement, the base level of funding should ensure a level of efficiency and equity. As evidenced in the charts below, and using pupil:teacher ratio as measure, there exists a wide deviation in the staffing efficiency between districts of relative sizes. Care must be taken to ensure those districts that have attained this high level of staffing efficiency (as potentially demonstrated by a higher PTR) under the current funding model should not be disadvantaged in a new framework.

A new funding model will likely provide a base or core funding component plus recognition for special circumstances, specifically, the Collective Agreement provisions for teacher staff levels.

As noted above, the base or core funding should ensure an equitable level of basic education services, including unique student needs, and should ensure such services are delivered in an efficient manner. Due to such wide disparity in the resources required for school districts to become compliant with their old (2001) Collective Agreements, a cost based approach seems inevitable.

In addition, consideration may be given to ensure a mechanism is in place to monitor performance requirements of districts, thereby ensuring resources are put to effective use.

Sincerely,

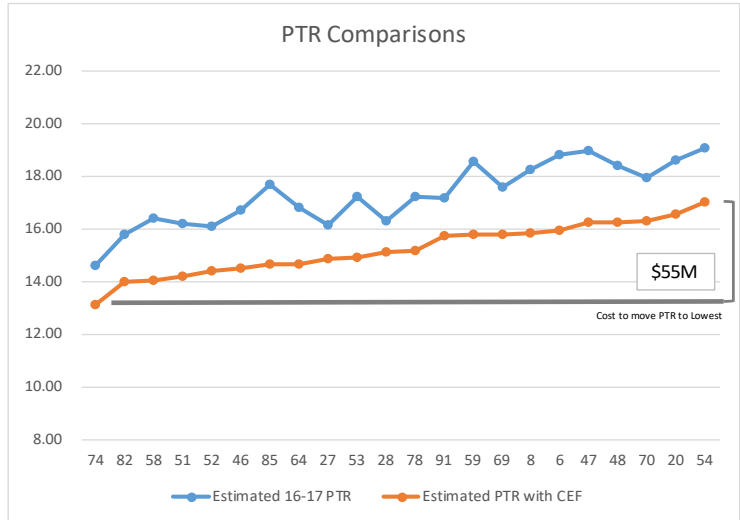
A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Shirley Wilson', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Shirley Wilson, Chair
Abbotsford Board of Education

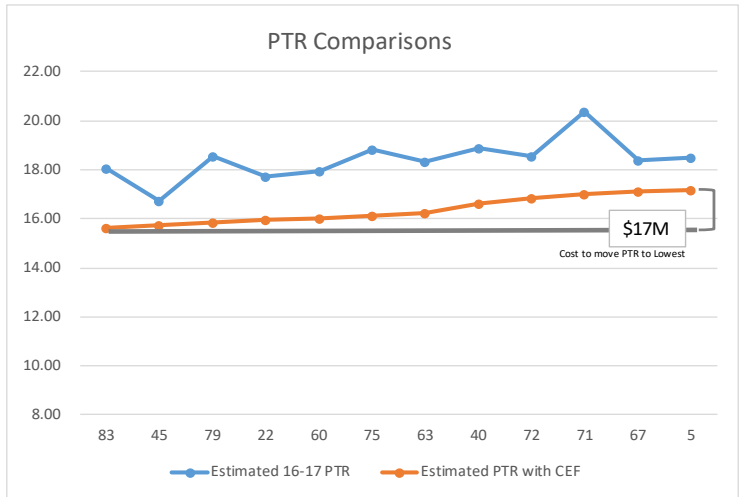
ESTIMATED IMPACT OF CLASSROOM ENHANCEMENT FUND ON OVERALL TEACHER STAFFING

Note: School Districts with enrolments under 1,000 have not been used

Enrol 1,000 - 5,000	Enrollment	Estimated PTR with CEF	
		PTR	CEP
74 Gold Trail	1,120	14.59	13.11
51 Boundary	1,287	16.18	14.21
85 Vancouver Island North	1,367	17.69	14.67
78 Fraser-Cascade	1,692	17.22	15.17
64 Gulf Islands	1,743	16.81	14.67
52 Prince Rupert	1,980	16.09	14.42
54 Bulkley Valley	2,032	19.05	16.99
47 Powell River	2,077	18.98	16.25
58 Nicola-Similkameen	2,257	16.42	14.07
53 Okanagan Similkameen	2,415	17.22	14.90
28 Quesnel	3,108	16.28	15.14
6 Rocky Mountain	3,155	18.80	15.92
46 Sunshine Coast	3,185	16.72	14.52
59 Peace River South	3,526	18.57	15.76
20 Kootenay-Columbia	3,869	18.61	16.58
70 Alberni	3,962	17.95	16.30
91 Nechako Lakes	4,181	17.19	15.74
69 Qualicum	4,192	17.57	15.77
82 Coast Mountains	4,196	15.81	14.00
27 Cariboo-Chilcotin	4,627	16.12	14.84
48 Sea To Sky	4,815	18.40	16.27
8 Kootenay Lake	4,873	18.26	15.85
Average in Group		17.30	15.23



Enrol 5,000 - 10,000	Enrollment	Estimated PTR with CEF	
		PTR	CEP
5 Southeast Kootenay	5,464	18.51	17.18
72 Campbell River	5,497	18.55	16.84
67 Okanagan Skaha	5,777	18.38	17.12
60 Peace River North	6,026	17.92	15.99
75 Mission	6,062	18.85	16.14
83 N. Okanagan-Shuswap	6,114	18.04	15.62
45 West Vancouver	6,943	16.73	15.76
40 New Westminster	7,155	18.88	16.63
63 Saanich	7,327	18.31	16.25
79 Cowichan Valley	7,851	18.54	15.87
71 Comox Valley	8,225	20.35	17.03
22 Vernon	8,437	17.73	15.97
Average in Group		18.40	16.37



Enrol 10,000+	Enrollment	Estimated PTR with CEF	
		PTR	CEP
62 Sooke	10,397	18.47	15.32
57 Prince George	12,977	18.91	16.72
33 Chilliwack	13,731	19.92	17.65
68 Nanaimo-Ladysmith	13,738	18.57	16.18
73 Kamloops/Thompson	14,484	18.95	17.17
42 Maple Ridge-Pitt Meadows	14,626	17.44	15.65
44 North Vancouver	15,325	17.56	16.25
37 Delta	15,743	16.36	15.33
61 Greater Victoria	19,139	17.73	14.87
34 Abbotsford	19,816	18.71	17.32
38 Richmond	20,289	17.07	13.78
35 Langley	20,565	17.63	15.11
23 Central Okanagan	22,365	18.42	16.51
41 Burnaby	24,424	16.08	14.98
43 Coquitlam	31,713	16.99	15.48
39 Vancouver	52,016	17.65	16.19
36 Surrey	71,414	17.21	15.70
Average in Group		17.86	15.90

