

**Public Education Matters:
Get Informed
Take Action**



“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has.”

Margaret Mead



'public' education & PAN

- Is based on a principle of solidarity - all of us caring for all our children.
- Investing in the education of all our children pays back dividends socially and economically for the long term as they are our future.
- PAN believes all children have a right to high quality public education, accessible in their own neighbourhoods, in educationally appropriate and seismically safe buildings with the resources and staff necessary to meet their learning needs.

Let's call it 'advocacy'

- Noun - *public support for or recommendation of a particular cause or policy*
- If the status quo isn't working or acceptable, within our democracy, it's our right to ask questions, push back, demand change
- Advocacy continuum – a mix of small and big actions – it's the collective result of all our actions which brings about change

***BC's budget may be
in the BLACK...***

***but
PUBLIC
EDUCATION
is in the RED.***

#bcedinred
facebc.wordpress.com

Province or District? Confused?!

Province

- Responsible for funding (incl model); providing & maintaining infrastructure
- Responsible for decisions related to school operations costs (i.e. MSP, Hydro etc.)
- Make decisions (i.e. 95%) w/o Board input, push these & costs down to Boards

District

- Receive 95+% of their funds from the Province
- Only responsible for managing & operating schools
- No ability to affect decisions that affect them (i.e. 95%) on downloaded costs (i.e. MSP, wages, utilities etc.)
- By law must have a “balanced budget”

VSB: Budgets & Shortfalls Explained

- Fact: Board voted NO and rejected Budget
- Fact: \$21.8M shortfall a reality
- Fact: Budget cuts being made to ensure 'balanced budget'
- Fact: Reductions on the front-line affect our children

Advocacy Moments



Talk, Write, Repeat

- Talk to others, share the facts, bust the myths
- Read and learn about the issues, jargon
- Write emails, send letters
- Post on Facebook, Twitter & Instagram
- Connect with or join advocacy groups
- Talk to media – they love a parent story

What are we advocating for?

- Adequately funded, high quality public education for all children, accessible in their own neighbourhoods, in educationally appropriate and seismically safe buildings with the resources and staff necessary to meet their learning needs.
- Implementation of the all-party Select Standing Committee's Recommendations
- Revision of the broken per-pupil funding model
- Repeal of the 95% utilization capacity target

Public Education IS an Election Issue

- Citizens/voters have spoken out, repeatedly, thru many mediums, message the same
 - **Fund public education, it's a priority**
- All political candidates & parties must commit to re-prioritizing public education
- May 9th is a chance for people to speak up and #vote4BCed2017

Resources at a Glance

- PAN Website - all info posted
 - <http://www.panvancouver.ca/>
- #BCedinRed email tool – email MLAs
 - <http://www.panvancouver.ca/bcedinred.html>
- Docs and links
 - <http://www.panvancouver.ca/resources.html>
- FACEBC – advocacy group
 - <https://facebc.wordpress.com/>

Let's Connect

- Know more?
- Q&A session
- Time to connect, talk, share
- Plan to take action