

August 2, 2017

Dear Minister Fleming:

**RE: By-Election for the Vancouver Board of Education**

On behalf of the City of Vancouver Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee, congratulations on your appointment as Minister of Education. Our Committee is made up of a diverse range of people including residents as young as 10 with individuals under the age of 22 representing two-thirds of the group. The Committee is excited to work with you and your colleagues to improve public education not only for Vancouver students, but for students across the province. We believe that the restoration of a democratically-elected school board in Vancouver is a crucial first step towards fulfilling this goal and we are asking you to call a by-election for the Vancouver School Board simultaneously with the one for City Council.

This Committee has been very active in terms of its unequivocal support for public education. In 2016, we supported the views of parents, students and advocacy groups in their belief that the VSB Budget should be rejected. In addition, the Committee in partnership with local students met with Vancouver MLAs to discuss funding issues related to their public education experience. Students voiced their concerns related to the funding of their music programs, class size and composition, their ability to access courses, and the urgent need for seismically safe schools.

Vancouver residents, students, teachers and staff deserve to have an elected school board that represents and responds to their views. Across the province, it is a democratic right of all citizens to elect a School Board. We hope that you will take swift action on this issue.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Best regards,



Aaron Leung  
Committee Chair  
(604) 970-7818  
aaronchrisleung@gmail.com



Cheryl Andre  
Committee Junior Chair  
(778) 996-7009  
cheryl\_andre@hotmail.com

**1. Presentation: Single-Use Item Reduction Strategy**

Michelle Harris, Engineer, Solid Waste Strategic Services and Katie O’Callaghan, Communications Coordinator, Public Engagement, provided a presentation on the single-use item reduction strategy. Ms. Harris and Ms. O’Callaghan responded to questions.

For more information visit: <http://vancouver.ca/zerowaste>

**2. Letter to Vancouver School Board Re: Democratic Governance**

MOVED by Aaron Leung  
SECONDED by Nico Cullen-McKnight

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee approve retroactively, the letter submitted to the Minister of Education on August 2, 2017, supporting a democratically elected school board.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

**3. New Business**

**a) Updates from Committee Members and Liaisons**

Commissioner Evans provided an overview of an upcoming motion to prohibit balloons in Vancouver parks.

Mab Oloman reported that she will be meeting with independent scholar, Tim Gill to discuss child friendly urban planning. She also noted that fellow committee members are welcome to attend. Tim Gill’s website: <https://rethinkingchildhood.com/>

Aaron Leung reported on the following:

- The Council of Councils meeting will take place October 12, 2017;
- Lihwen Hsu, Program Coordinator, Public Engagement is looking for committee members to work with him on the Public Engagement Strategy;
- Staff will present on the Millennium Line at the November meeting;
- The Walk for Reconciliation is taking place on September 24, 2017;
- A screening of “All Our Father’s Relations” will take place at the Museum of Vancouver on Thursday, November 2, 2017. Contact Aaron for tickets.

**ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED by Janice Douglas  
SECONDED by Jane Childerhose

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### 4. Supporting Democratic Governance at the Vancouver School Board

The Committee discussed suspending their previous decision on supporting democratic governance at the Vancouver School Board. Due to the recent change in provincial government and the opportunity for a by-election, the Committee noted that they require more time to make an informed decision.

REVISION MOVED by Eric Wong  
SECONDED by Anna Zhang

THAT the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee rescind their decision of May 11, 2017, regarding the re-instatement of previously elected Vancouver School Board Trustees.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

MOVED by Janice Douglas  
SECONDED by Lena Hozaima

THAT over the summer break, the Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee develop a position on the status of the Vancouver School Board and write a letter to the Minister of Education regarding this position;

FURTHER THAT the position to be developed above be ratified at a future regular Children, Youth and Families Advisory Committee meeting.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

#### 5. Establishing a Sustainability and Climate Action Youth Subcommittee

The Committee agreed to discuss establishing a Sustainability and Climate Action Youth Subcommittee at a later date.

#### 6. New Business

None.

#### ADJOURNMENT

MOVED by Nova Ember-Fey Funk  
SECONDED by Cheryl Andre

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY  
(Eric Wong absent for the vote)