



February 22, 2023

Honourable Rachna Singh
Minister of Education and Child Care
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2
Via email: EDUC.Minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Minister Singh:

Re: Student and Family Affordability Fund

At the February 8, 2023, Public Board Meeting, the Board of Education of Central Okanagan Public Schools passed the following board motion:

THAT: The Board of Education write a letter to the Ministry of Education and Child Care requesting them to commit to ongoing funding of the Student and Family Affordability Fund past the expiry of June 30, 2023.

CARRIED

On behalf of the Board of Education of Central Okanagan Public Schools, I am writing to express my strong support for the Student and Family Affordability Fund, and to urge the Ministry of Education and Child Care to continue to provide funding for this critical initiative beyond the 2022/2023 school year.

As you know, the Student and Family Affordability Fund provides much-needed financial assistance to families during a time when they are struggling with inflation and the higher cost of living. It has been beneficial to our families in financial need, helping to ensure that their children have access to the resources they need to succeed.

Central Okanagan Public Schools utilized this funding in a variety of ways including:

- The expansion of current food programs (breakfast, lunch, backpack) and implementation of a new breakfast program to support Indigenous students in need;
- The development of an online waiver process for families and schools to waive school-related fees for families in need;

- The provision of funds to the Indigenous Education Department to support families through the purchase of supplies and food for land-based learning, gift cards for clothing and food for Indigenous families in need, bus passes, Christmas hampers, and equipment purchases for Indigenous gathering rooms;
- The support of new refugee families as they transition to living in the Central Okanagan.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to continue to provide funding for the Student and Family Affordability Fund.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours sincerely,



Lee-Ann Tiede, Chair
Board of Education

cc: Central Okanagan Board of Education Trustees
Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO

Board of Education – Trustees

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