

MOTION

7. Support for a Democratically Elected Board of Education

At the Regular Council meeting on November 15, 2016, Vancouver City Council referred this matter to the Standing Committee on City Finance and Services meeting on November 16, 2016, to hear from speakers.

MOVED by Councillor Reimer
SECONDED by Mayor Robertson

WHEREAS

1. On November 15, 2014, nine individuals were democratically elected to the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) for a term of four years by a process certified by the City of Vancouver and Elections BC;
2. On October 17, 2016, the provincial government's Minister of Education dismissed the VBE and replaced them with one appointed individual;
3. The City has a number of resident advisory committees and other bodies in which it reserves a spot for a VBE trustee with the assumption that the individual appointed by the VBE has a direct mandate from Vancouver residents;
4. Several advisory committees have expressed confusion or concern about having an individual with no mandate from Vancouver residents act in any capacity on an advisory committee established to empower resident voices;
5. The BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) passed a motion calling on the provincial government to hold an election to fill vacant trustee positions no longer than six months from the date of dismissal of a democratically elected board and as soon as is feasible;
6. Residents of Vancouver deserve the same right as residents of every other municipality in the Province of BC to independent and democratically elected School Trustees to represent their interests in regard to education, school facilities and related matters.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED

- A. THAT, interim to the provincial government requiring an election to allow for a democratically elected Vancouver Board of Education (VBE), the terms of reference for City of Vancouver Type A and B committees be amended to remove a request to the VBE to appoint a "liaison trustee" and instead invite the most recently democratically elected individuals to the office of School Trustee to apply to be a non-voting "special representative".
- B. THAT Vancouver City Council write to the Minister of Education and the Premier to state unequivocal support for the return of a democratically elected Vancouver Board of Education as soon as is feasible and no later than six months from the date of dismissal.

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