

July 2, 2021

Chair and Vice Chair
Vancouver School Board

*School District #39
1580 West Broadway Vancouver, BC V6J 5K8
Phone: (604) 713-5000*



Via email to: Carmen Cho at carmen.cho@vsb.bc.ca, Estrellita Gonzalez at estrellita.gonzalez@vsb.bc.ca

CC: Superintendent Suzanne Hoffman c/o Director of Strategic Communications & Public Affairs Patricia MacNeil at communications@vsb.bc.ca, Education Coordinator Charmaine Ho at chho@vsb.bc.ca, Eric Hamber Secondary School Principal Ms M. Jensen at mpjensen@vsb.bc.ca

Dear Chair and Vice Chair,

We are a nonprofit organization that extends support to the British Columbia gifted community in navigating the unique developmental journey of gifted children through advocacy, education and collaboration.

We understand that the Vancouver School Board (the “VSB”) has made a decision to cancel math and science honours classes, after having already cancelled English honours classes. We find this trend very concerning due to its impact on the many students with a special needs gifted designation, and believe that this action by the Board is in direct contradiction to Ministry of Education official policy as well as in contradiction with a Ministerial Order.

As you may be aware, this recent decision by the VSB has attracted negative coverage in national news media including in the Globe and Mail on June 16, 2021 and in the National Post, along with negative coverage in provincial media.

Attached please find our position paper on the harmful impact of these decisions to cancel honours classes, as well as the continuing impact of the lack of programming in Vancouver and across the province for special needs students with a gifted designation. This position paper was written in response to the coverage of the VSB decision on June 16, 2021 by the Globe and Mail.

We look forward to hearing your response and would welcome any dialogue with you regarding the topics we cover in the attached position paper.

Kind regards,
Lena Normén-Younger on behalf of the GCABC Board