

TEAM POLICY - MAY 1978

EDUCATION SUB COMMITTEE

ISSUE I

The Impact of Declining Enrolment on Vancouver Schools.

OBJECTIVE I.1

To ensure that long and short term planning is initiated which maximizes the opportunities inherent in Declining Enrolment while minimizing the undesirable effects.

ISSUE II

Sharing of education costs.

OBJECTIVE II.1

Funding from sources other than the Vancouver taxpayer.

Policy proposals.... /2

POLICY PROPOSALS

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

I.1.(a) The School Board support the long-standing concept of neighbourhood schools and make every effort to keep them open.

(b) The School Board implement a program to communicate to the public the facts and effects of enrolment decline.

(c) The School Board avoid closures by finding suitable alternate uses for schools.

(d) Consultation be initiated with communities affected by predicted changes in school enrolments.

(e) Communities be advised at least two years in advance of possible closure or change of use of local school.

(f) The School Board budget reflect declining enrolment while maintaining quality education.

(g) Teaching, support, and administrative staff levels reflect declining enrolment and planned improvements in educational quality.

(h) Opportunities be created for teachers to increase their teaching subject-areas.

(i) The School Board actively encourage the enrolment of foreign students at no cost to the Board.

(j) All TEAM elected members seek cost sharing arrangements with possible co-users of schools.

(k) All TEAM elected members on all civic boards work to make Vancouver a more livable city of children.

POLICY PROPOSALS continued

BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

II.1.(a) All elected TEAM members encourage implementation of the McMath Report recommendation that the Province pay 75% of education costs.

(b) The School Board should provide education for severely handicapped children who would benefit therefrom; by assuming the annual gross operating cost per pupil; other unusual costs to be assumed by the Provincial Government.

(c) All elected TEAM members work to obtain Federal funding for English-as-a-Second-Language programs.

(d) Financial responsibility for community use of schools after regular school hours be assumed by other civic and provincial bodies.

(e) All elected TEAM members press the Provincial Government for half of the past and future funds Victoria receives from the Federal Government to compensate for Grade 12 Education costs.

(f) All elected TEAM members join with the Metropolitan Board of Health to press the Provincial Government for equitable sharing of preventive health costs.

(g) The School Board join with the B.C. School Trustees Association to continue to press the PROVINCIAL government to remove the two-year penalty clause in their arrangements for financing fire losses.

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NEW AND RE-WRITTEN POLICY ADDED TO 1976 POLICY STATEMENT

PRINCIPLE 1

- (d) The School Board should continue to emphasize Vancouver's requirements for a wide range of programs recognizing that rigid provincial prescription courses, texts, and supplementary material is inappropriate for the diverse needs of students. New

PRINCIPLE 3

- (e) The initiative for professional development of teachers such as updating, retraining for new programmes or training for proficiency in a wider subject range, should lie primarily with the teachers. Re-written
- (f) The School Board should actively explore arrangements for inservice that will minimize the removal of teachers from classrooms during regular school time. Re-written
- (i) It is essential to build a district staff of teachers skilled in handling children with widely divergent intellectual, social, and emotional development rates. New

PRINCIPLE 4

- (b) The School Board should ensure regular assessment and evaluation of principals. Re-written

New and re-written policy added to 1976 policy statement cont.

PRINCIPLE 6

Schools should be a place where students acquire good standards of behavior. Re-written

(a) Students should show respect for the rights and feelings of others.

(b) The School Board should continue to endorse positive forms of discipline.

PRINCIPLE 8

(e) Schools should make use of their recent alumni as a valuable source of information on the effectiveness of the school's programs. New

