



VANCOUVER and DISTRICT LABOUR COUNCIL



February 7, 2023

Vancouver School Board Trustees
Via Email

Dear Vancouver School Board Trustees,

We write with regard to the Notice of Motion pertaining to the “creation of a combined Finance and Personnel Committee” that is scheduled to come forward to the Policy and Governance Committee this Wednesday.

The Vancouver School Board has operated with Standing Committees for decades and these have been deemed appropriate and necessary to meet the high level of consultation required in the public sector to effectively and meaningfully govern. The dialogue and debate that occur at Standing Committees are important opportunities for stakeholders to be heard and to allow the public to engage with issues of import at the Board. They are an efficient and comprehensive method for dealing with the myriad of issues before Trustees and allow full and proper consultation to occur before final decisions are taken.

We are opposed to this new direction the Board wants to take to limit transparency and opportunity for debate. We are further distressed that this new Board has not been through a budget process yet, nor had adequate time to assess the effectiveness of the committee structure at this early juncture. We worry that this new committee structure would not allow trustees to have time to properly deliberate.

We believe that the Board should not combine these two committees without the support from those of us who are key participants in the consultative process. We look forward to the opportunity to discuss this matter with you in public at the Policy and Governance Committee.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Yours Truly,

Stephen von Sychowski
President, Vancouver and District Labour Council

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On behalf of:

Canadian Union of Public Employees – Local 15
Canadian Union of Public Employees – Local 407|
International Union of Operating Engineers – Local 963
Vancouver and District Labour Council
Vancouver District Parent Advisory Committee
Vancouver Elementary and Adult Educator's Society
Vancouver Secondary Teachers' Association

svs/eb

cc: VDLC Executive
VDLC Political Action Committee

