

April 19, 2010

Vancouver Board of Education  
Attn: Administrative Coordinator  
Secretary-Treasurer's Office  
1580 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC  
V6J 5K8

Sent by e-mail: budget2010\_11@vsb.bc.ca

**Re: Proposed Budget Cuts for 2010-2011 School Year**

Please accept this letter from the Lord Byng Secondary School PAC (Parent Advisory Council) in response to the proposed cuts suggested by the Vancouver School Board to deal with the upcoming budget shortfall for the 2010-2011 school year.

The termination of all Elementary School String and Band Music Programs to offset the current VSB deficit is unacceptable. This elimination will have a direct and devastating impact on all High School Music Strings & Band Programs including the highly successful Lord Byng Symphony Orchestra within 1 academic year.

Without applicants and registrants from feeder elementary schools, our High School Music Strings & Band Programs will not have the numbers to warrant continued funding. All High School Music – Strings & Band will be on a fast downward spiral to extinction. The loss of Music Education in all High Schools is a very real inevitability with the demise of elementary school band and strings programs.

We do not support any budget cuts to the public schools that will directly affect school programs. This includes cuts to music programs, as well as all mini schools including the Byng Arts Mini school, and athletic programs, enrichment programs, and programs that directly affect special needs students, ESL students and students in general.

We trust that a workable alternative to these proposed budgets cuts can be developed which will not compromise our students.

Yours very truly,



Sylvie Lefebvre,  
Lord Byng PAC Co-Chair (2009-2010)  
604-224-5722

cc: Anne Denman, PAC co-chair

cc: Lord Byng PAC Executive

cc: Maria Taddei, Principal, Lord Byng Secondary School

cc: Alec MacInnes and Jim Rutley, Vice-Principals, Lord Byng Secondary School

cc: Patti Bachus, VSB Chair