

Chair: Ryan Painte Vice Chair: Tom Ferris
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Diane McNally, Rob Payne, Jordan Watters, Ann Whiteaker

School Districts are in a unique position to show leadership in mitigating and adapting to address the impacts of climate change. We are a member of the public sector with a unique and special responsibility to not only manage our resources such as our buildings and infrastructure in an environmentally sustainable manner but to also support an environmental ethic. This includes the importance of sustainability in our educational programs.

This runs up against a challenging reality; the current provincial approach to school district capital funding limits school ability to address joint provincial and local obligations to reduce emissions. This results in districts being unable to take more meaningful and effective steps to address the climate emergency through environmentally sustainable investments in our capital assets.

In its 2021/2022 Annual Five Year Capital Plan, the Board applied for four electric buses. The Board was subsequently successful in securing \$883,792 Ministry of Education funding and a further \$474,540 Clean BC funding for buses valued at \$1,503,040. The funding shortfall of \$194,708 was left to the Board to finance.

Funding the shortfall from operating or local capital funds creates the cost of direct service to our students, staff and families that would otherwise be spent on instruction, health and safety and learning and work environments. The funding shortfall disincentivizes school districts from electrification of its transportation fleets and in districts with no ability to fund the shortfall, eliminates the electric bus option altogether.

Students in School District No. 61 and around the world are calling on leadership to do something to secure their access to a safe and livable planet for their futures. The Board of School District No. 61 is committed to doing its part in reducing emissions and creating a better future our students are calling for. Therefore, the Board requests the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Finance to do their parts and fully fund electrification of busses in the 2023 school year and subsequent capital planning years.



Cc: Board of Education Board of Ed306 BT 673.0 /F1 12 Tf 1 0 0 1 108.02 731.76Tf 1 0 0 1 72.025
Deb Whitten,

