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March 1, 2012

Ms. Teresa Grandinetti, President  
Coquitlam Teachers' Association  
2322 St. Johns Street  
PORT MOODY, BC V3G 2A9

Dear Teresa,

Thanks for meeting with me to clarify your concerns with my actions in being in Victoria earlier this week. As always, I respect your views but wish to comment on the assumptions included in our discussion and your open letter.

On Monday the Minister of Education invited education partners to Victoria for a technical briefing prior to tabling Bill 22. Steve Cardwell, Superintendent of Vancouver and president of the British Columbia School Superintendents' Association and I were invited to represent our Superintendent members at the technical briefings to respond to questions from an educational perspective. When introduced, Steve repeated that we were in attendance solely in our capacity of representing BCSSA members in all sixty school districts throughout the province.

We were asked for a response to questions with regard to class size issues. We responded to several good questions and offered our thoughts on some key issues. We did take the time to comment on the inadequacies of the Learning Innovation Fund and the fact that we would support classroom organizations that support student learning and that we would and could organize our class sizes to appropriate maximums. As we have done in the past we restated our support of a terrific school system that rivals any in the world. We also referenced that this school system is so successful because of the high caliber of our teachers in our schools. I will continue to communicate this message to all who would listen.

Contrary to some assumptions in your letter, we were not at the technical briefing to support Bill 22 and have never indicated "that we are working behind the scenes to ameliorate the actions of the Provincial government."

I took the time to inform you that I had been asked to represent our BCSSA members prior to attending the technical briefing. As you do as President of your Local Association, I understand the responsibility to represent the members of an organization. I realize that while I take that responsibility seriously, I am also aware that our attendance could be viewed as support to the government and the Bill. That was not our intention. In our respective roles we always support our various members and support public education.

It has been my history to be a strong advocate and I look forward to continued support of our educational community.

Sincerely

Tom Grant, Superintendent  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)