

**Kitsilano Parent Advisory Council**

c/o Kitsilano Secondary School  
2550 West Tenth Avenue  
Vancouver, B.C.  
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James Burton

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<http://kitsilano.vsb.bc.ca/Parents/>

February 2, 2009

Valerie Overgaard  
Associate Superintendent, Learning Services  
Vancouver School Board  
1580 West Broadway  
Vancouver, BC, V6J 5KB

Dear Ms. Overgaard,

Kitsilano had a part time French immersion teacher (Ecology and Planning) who recently left, in part due to the heavy demands on a teacher's time to provide supplementary French resources. An example is the new grade 10 science text (there are both English and French versions) which has supplementary resources available in English, but not yet in French.

PAC appreciates that the VSB approved money this summer to pay Kitsilano French Immersion teachers to develop grade 10 science support materials that could be used by our school and by others in the district. This was very helpful.

At the Kitsilano Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting January 14, 2009, there was discussion about this matter.

There was a sense that efforts to address this problem had not received enough support from the BC Ministry of Education.

There was a resolution at this PAC meeting that the Kitsilano PAC Executive write the VSB to express the PAC's concern regarding the lack of support resources for classes taught in French.

This PAC resolution emphasizes that it is important for the VSB to work with teachers and the Ministry of Education to ensure support resources in French for the benefit of our students.

From the PAC's perspective, this sort of support should not have to be requested on a piece by piece basis and should not be a responsibility shared only by the school and the district. The BC Ministry of Education should be providing this support at least to the same level as is available for English course materials.

PAC has noted that the Federal French Funding Guide for 2008-9, online at: [http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/frenchprograms/fed\\_funding.htm](http://www.bced.gov.bc.ca/frenchprograms/fed_funding.htm) has information about Federal financial support for matters like support resources in French.

Sincerely,

James Burton  
Kitsilano PAC Chair

**Copy:**

Alex Grant, Kitsilano Secondary School Principal

Bonita Hoppen, Kitsilano Secondary School, French Immersion Department Head

Daniel Belanger, Modern Languages Consultant, Vancouver School Board

Lesley Wright, Kitsilano CPF Representative

Kate Gregory, CPF Vancouver North Chapter President

Wendy Massing, CPF VSB Modern Language Advisory Committee (MLAC)  
Representative

The Honourable Shirley Bond, BC Minister of Education