

NPA SCHOOL BOARD TEAM:
COMMITMENT AND TRACK RECORD

As trustees, our responsibility is to ensure that students in Vancouver receive the best education possible.

We share a passion and commitment to ensure all learners can achieve and realize their potential and ambition.

The NPA School Board trustee candidates have as their primary goal to help foster an environment for **excellence in learning for Vancouver students**, and it is to them we owe **our greatest allegiance**.

FISCAL RESPONSIBILITY

THE COMMITMENT

- **Achieve** increased funding for special needs, gifted learners, seismic upgrades
- **Advocate** to Treasury Board for greater allocations of funds to Ministry of Education
- **Solve** budget constraints through creative partnering
- **Enhance** learning opportunities for kids through creative partnerships with other community organizations with an education mandate, e.g. the Aquarium, the Active Passport with Vancouver Parks Board
- **Lobby** for additional funding for drug prevention in secondary and elementary schools
- **Champion** volunteerism from community and students to act as coaches, mentors, readers

THE NPA RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Raised federal funding** for immigrant and refugee family support in schools (S.W.I.S.)
- **Raised \$30 million** for 3 of 5 provincial pilot projects for *Neighbourhoods of Learning*, maximizing public resources and facilities in making neighbourhood schools hubs of learning for the entire community; including construction upgrades to make the school seismically safe
- **Raised** funding from the federal government to expand the Drug Prevention Program in schools
- **Championed** a “Best Practices” model for special needs learning in Vancouver, in collaboration with parents, Metro School Districts, and state-of-the-art research with the objective of advocating for increased special needs education funding

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT EMBRACED: PROVIDING CHOICES

THE COMMITMENT

- **Encourage parental participation** in Board decision-making
- **Actively seek intelligence** from teachers, administrators, parents, VSB staff, for best enrolment forecasting and addressing class size/composition and incremental staffing issues, and seek advice regarding class reorganization/teacher re-assignment late in September
- **Continue to Champion *Neighbourhoods of Learning*** for the entire community of any given school and thereby providing additional learning opportunities for early learners, their parents and grandparents

THE NPA RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- *Neighbourhoods of Learning* Pilot Projects put in place
- **Protected schools** under threat of closure
- **Supported parents** in UBC/Dunbar to secure additional funding
- **Listened to Parents** and Kept schools open which were scheduled for closure
- **Listened to teachers** to work on the allocation of incremental staff in the reorganization of classes after September registration
- **Led** on encouraging VSB staff to include \$1.3 million in budget to address concerns over class size and composition

SCHOOL SAFETY

THE COMMITMENT

- **Continue Activation** of a comprehensive plan for Emergency Preparedness including relevant training for staff and the availability of up-to-date supplies at each school
- **Push for Accelerated Schedule of Seismic Upgrades**
- **Champion Anti-Gang Program** by working Vancouver Police Department Interministry Committee on Youth Crime and Violence
- **Support** Social Justice programs, such as anti-bullying programs

THE NPA RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Seismic Upgrading:** 7 schools completed and 4 pending as of December 2008 (just 3 years into a multiphased 15 year long seismic upgrade project)
- **Received concessions from province to increase allowable space** for upgrades under the *Neighbourhoods of Learning* concept
- **Developed an Emergency Preparedness Plan for Vancouver District**
- **Established** a drug prevention program (SACY) with Vancouver Coastal Health, VPC, UBC, Centre for Addiction Research involving youth, teachers and parents
- **Examining and Selecting** evidence-based methods of intervention for the Interministry Committee on Youth Crime

MULTICULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND STUDENTS

THE COMMITMENT

- **Expand** ESL Services
- **Increase** Graduation Rates for ESL/Aboriginal Students
- **Explore for action** mandarin/other heritage languages immersion
- **Increase** immigrant parents' involvement
- **Encourage** multicultural events in schools
- **Establish** concrete information on immigrant families' needs related to issues from war trauma, low education, missing family members
- **Promote** the emphasis of credit ESL programs, including linguistics, cultural awareness, reading skills, to teacher training institutions

THE NPA RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Raised** federal funding to assist the 60% of Vancouver resident children who speak another first language with the Support Worker in Schools Program
- **Extended** funding for additional ESL students that registered and entered the district after the cut-off date for funding
- **Pushed for second count of refugee students** (in February) to ensure funding coverage for that group

SUPPORT FOR ABORIGINAL STUDENTS

THE COMMITMENT

- **Support** the inclusion of Aboriginal history, tradition, culture and languages in the curriculum
- **Champion** the inclusion of aboriginal voices in the VSB's advisory committees
- **Support** the District's anti-racist education program with inclusion of the needs of aboriginal learners
- **Develop** an Aboriginal Student Mentorship Program

THE NPA RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Developed the Aboriginal Enhancement Agreement** with formal signing expected in December 2008
- **Supported schools** to monitor their relationship with their aboriginal community and their aboriginal students
- **Supported an Aboriginal Appreciative Inquiry** for consultation on what could be improved and supported the creation of an Aboriginal Student Council in one of the larger secondary schools

HEALTHY SCHOOLS AND HEALTHY LIVING

THE COMMITMENT

- **Seek** membership in Network of Health-Promoting Schools
- **Strive to meet LEED (top green building standards)** in seismic upgrading renovations
- **Expand SACY** (drug prevention program) in elementary and secondary schools and encourage youth leadership, teacher training, curriculum development, and parent involvement

THE NPA RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **In Place:** Drug Prevention Program for elementary and secondary schools
- **Included in the Canadian Sport for Life framework** which implements healthy active living for recreation to podium
- **Piloted the Active Passport Program** with Parks Board for elementary schools and 20,000 students to have free access to skating, swimming and recreational activity with a family member during spring break
- **Supported a Healthy Living Coordinator** to support Canadian Sport for Life and **Active Passport Program** for elementary schools
- **Supported student initiative** to implement recycling
- **Supported student-led** District-wide conference on Sustainability

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT AND LITERACY

THE COMMITMENT

- **RAISE funding for all-day kindergarten** and explore other possibilities for early childhood education
- **Expand** before and after-school care

THE NPA RECORD OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

- **Opened Strong Start Centres** in collaboration with community agencies in which caregivers and children together provide early childhood education including language development
- **Secured Community Space** during seismic upgrading so that no school loses community space currently operating within the school