

Let's FACE the Facts about our Public Schools

In School District 68.....

- **14** schools have been closed since 2002
- Facilities are deteriorating with **40%** considered "beyond their useful life"
- We have been through multiple consultations over the years leading to uncertainty for numerous communities and schools
- We have schools in need of gyms, upgrades, basic maintenance, and new playground or other equipment
- We have seen devastating cuts to student supports, programs, teachers, EAs, and janitorial services

PACs across BC are fundraising and contributing an average of **\$25,000-\$30,000** per school every year to help fill the holes left by funding shortfalls. This money goes to a variety of different things including what many would call "basic" needs, including: earthquake supplies, playground equipment, classroom supplies, library books, sound equipment, sports equipment, musical instruments, art supplies, recess equipment, sexual education, and much more. This creates a system where your children's basic educational needs are dependent on the PAC's ability to fundraise, which in turn creates inequality in our public schools. **No child's education should depend on their parents' ability to fundraise.**

In BC.....

- **240** schools in BC have been closed since 2002
- Funding for public education has steadily decreased, while funding to private schools has increased. This year, close to **\$400 million** in public tax dollars will go to private schools, some of whose administrators make 6-figure incomes. At the same time, public schools are being asked to make further cuts, despite an increase in enrolment and operational costs
- In 2008 BC funded students **\$73 above** national average; by 2010 our students were funded **\$988 below** nation average.
- BC has some of the highest class sizes in Canada
- There are **16,516** classrooms in BC with 4 or more students with designated special needs - many of whom receive no extra help
- Multiple school boards are facing deficits and school closures every year due to funding shortfalls
- The BC government withholds upgrade funding until a district reaches **95%** capacity (*this proves to be exceptionally difficult in a district as spread out as ours*). This method is short-sighted, leaves no room for future increases in enrolment, and also shows a general lack of concern and regard for our children's safety

Students in BC are funded \$1000 less every year than the national average. This means that by the time our children graduate, they will have been shortchanged \$13,000 each in their education.

F.A.C.E - Families Against Cuts to Education

Founded by parents who are concerned about the direction of BC's public education system, its current funding issues, and how these issues directly impact our children.

FACE believes that every child should have the same access to a good quality public education, regardless of how much their parents or PACs can fundraise or the general income level of the school's community.

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Facebook - FACE Nanaimo

Twitter @FACEBC

facenanaimo@outlook.com

facebc.wordpress.com