 Bayside Middle School PAC

1101 Newton Place

Brentwood Bay, BC

V8M 1G3

May 19, 2016

**Honourable Mike Bernier**
Minister of Education
PO Box 9045 Stn Prov Govt
Victoria, BC V8W 9E2

Educ.minister@gov.bc.ca

Dear Hon. Minister Bernier:

RE:  **School District 63 (Saanich) - 2016/17 Budget**

Thank you again for your visit to Bayside Middle School on Monday, May 16thto announce the tremendous support from the Province towards our school facility.  This will put our school back in the condition the staff and students deserve.  While we are so very appreciative of this funding, we are compelled to support our District in its efforts to provide our children with the best education in this, soon to be upgraded, facility.

As a parent and member of the Parent Advisory Council (PAC) of Bayside Middle School, we would like to express our strong support of:   School District 63 Unprecedented Decision to Request Government Return Money

Bayside’s PAC recognizes the untenable position that our board has been thrust into by recent actions of the provincial government and stands in solidarity with the school board’s unprecedented decision to request the ministry of education return the funds.

 Specifically:

1.     Government took $700,000 we made in administrative savings into provincial coffers rather than having us move those savings into programs and services for students.

2.     We have been required to pay $314,000 of annual costs for a new provincial network for internet access, up from a cost of $30,000 for the previous system, PLNet.

These actions prevent our board from fulfilling its statutory and legal obligations under the school act to provide educational services to our children while maintaining a balanced budget.

It is further concerning to all parents in our school district that after meeting with the Ministry, our school board has been forced to withdrawal this budget only to avoid a further $100K to $200K cost of a Special Advisor fee as appointed by the Ministry.  This cost is too great to risk a further reduction to our continually underfunded education system.

The cost to our children’s continually underfunded education system is also too great for parents not to advocate until these unrealistic funding cuts are provided for by the provincial government.

Sincerely,

BAYSIDE MIDDLE SCHOOL PARENT