

Don't Give Gregor Robertson a Blank Cheque

Why are we running?

- The Board needs opposition. We are committed to fight for you.
- We have leadership ability and experience. We have contributed on numerous occasions where the board has needed leadership and recognize we have an important role.
- We listen. You have a right to be informed and consulted. Your views need to be addressed.
- We fight for transparency by bringing issues to the Board in public forum.
- We focus on prudent fiscal management, rather than repeatedly confronting government on funding.

Some of the accomplishments we achieved are:

- Getting school break on Lunar New Year. A goal of Sophia to mesh professional day closures with ethnic holidays, for 2015 Sophia initiated a motion which got cooperation of the Vancouver Teachers to move a professional day.
- Having the Board examine school safety and provide direction to administrators with some consistency across the district. Prior to this safety matters were largely on a school by school basis.
- In one matter Administrators were unclear about the instructions for first responders in case of emergencies. A school warning code indicating Green for all clear was inconsistent with first responders code Green for evacuation.
- Sophia moved a motion to examine Policy on locking external doors. Administrators had different opinions about direction to lock external doors. A staff study was conducted and Board authorized a resolution which was circulated to schools.
- Getting mosquito devices used to deter vandals turned on. The devices were turned off because they were allegedly violating the human rights of youth. We took a common sense approach that it was the responsibility of trustees to protect school property and argued successfully to have the devices turned on.
- Focus debate on having historical wrongs against Chinese in prescribed curriculum as a stand alone subject.
- Continuing support for drug prevention. At the end of a federally financed pilot project four positions were transferred to VSB. In discussion for the subsequent budget year, 7 of 9 trustees approved cutting these positions. Through repeated motions, we were

successful in getting them funded. In the last budget deliberations for 2014/15 only 1 position is to be retained. Without us present and our passionate defense, the drug prevention program would be restricted to triage rather than education.

Vancouverdecides 2014: Joining The List today as selections 4 and 5 are School Board trustees, Sophia Woo and Ken Denike.

“It was easy for their political foes to pillory Ken and Sophia. Their foes were politicizing children’s sexuality for broad media coverage and stepping away completely from what trustees should do. They should deal with matters of a sensitive nature discreetly, without creating politics in such a harsh and predatory manner. Both Ken and Sophia showed a great deal of courage, and fortitude, to stand up for their principles. Hmmm, haven’t seen a lot of that in this administration.”

We recognize that it is important that communities retain their schools and funding is largely a provincial decision. Yet student populations are increasing in areas lacking adequate capacity while declining in areas with excess capacity.

A solution is the neighbourhood of schools concept developed by his 2005, 2008 Board. Ken was a key member of the West of Dunbar plan resulting in new schools at UBC (2012 - University Hill Secondary, 2014 - Norma Rose Point) and no closures in Vancouver.

We are committed to continuing to fight for the rights of all parents to be informed, consulted, and heard about policy changes that may affect their children.