

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 6, 2017  
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## **MEDIA ADVISORY**

### ***Surrey Students Now partners with other Parent-Led Advocacy Groups***

**Surrey, BC** - Surrey Students Now, along with other parent advocacy groups throughout the Province, met with Premier John Horgan and Minister of Education, Rob Fleming last Friday, December 1<sup>st</sup> to discuss a wide range of important recommendations collectively brought forth. Surrey Students Now provided a non-exhaustive list of Surrey-specific recommendations:

**That** capital funding be released for new schools in districts which are severely overcrowded.

**That** portables are no longer used as permanent structures, and planning for district growth by municipalities includes schools so that buildings can be in place before they are needed.

**That** portables be funded separately from operational budgets. Operational budgets include other budget categories including teacher salary/benefits, education assistant salary/benefits, classroom supplies, technology, music programs, custodial, etc.

**That** the Ministry update the 2002 School Site Acquisition Charges to match current land values and to reflect current rates by using a percentage based rate, rather than flat rates.

**That** the [Project Contribution Policy](#) 1.8 stating “All major projects, other than the least cost option for a seismic mitigation project, require school districts to contribute a 50 percent cost share” is eliminated for districts seeing a high growth pattern such as Surrey, Langley, Sooke, Chilliwack, etc.

**That** the Ministry of Education rescind Policy 2.3 in the [Capital Plan Instructions](#) stating a district must adjust “grade configurations and educational programming” and create new policy that protects the location and curricular approaches of existing programs, enshrines the individuality of learning, and simply recognizes a child needs a seat in a school building. Policy 2.3 creates unnecessary strain on a District’s ability to offer programming that meets the needs of the students they support.

This first of many meetings, was positive and engaging. Surrey Students Now will continue to work with these Parent-led advocacy groups to keep pressure on government to ensure public education remains a priority.

To read more of the recommendations, please see the entire document we presented:

[www.surreystudentsnow.com](http://www.surreystudentsnow.com)

#### **About Surrey Students Now**

Surrey Students Now is a group composed of parents concerned for the education of the community’s children.

[www.surreystudents.now.com](http://www.surreystudents.now.com)

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