

# Restoration of the Vancouver School Board Elementary Band and Strings Program Extra Curricular Elementary Choral



# BC Music Curriculum Grade 6

## Arts Education 6

Arts Education K 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12

### Big Ideas

Engaging in creative expression and experiences expands people's sense of identity and community.

Artistic expressions differ across time and place.

Dance, drama, music, and visual arts are each unique languages for creating and communicating.

  
**We are not here.**

Experiencing art is a means to develop empathy for others' perspectives and experiences.

# The Petition



**I immediately ask that the Vancouver School Board Trustees restore Elementary Band and Strings to its pre 2016 cut level. In addition, the VSB should put in a five-year plan to provide equitable access to Band, Strings and a Choral program across all Vancouver elementary schools.**

**475 signatures as of Jan 17, 2019**

**1581 signatures as of April 21, 2019**

# Band and Strings Budget from 2016

Revised Preliminary Budget Proposal | 2016/2017

## E12.15 – Optional Elementary Band and Strings Program

### Background & Analysis

The optional band and strings program provides opportunities for elementary students to learn to play a band (gr. 6-7) or string instrument (gr. 5-7). Currently 44 elementary schools have an optional strings or band program.

Curriculum requirements are met through general music programming in the school setting. The band and strings program is an additional service which is currently not provided within all elementary schools. The program is delivered by teachers in itinerant positions, and requires funding beyond the regular staffing allotment provided to a school. Currently, more than 50 % of elementary schools in the district have Music as prep to some or all of the grades in the school, approximately 40 % have classroom teachers providing all of the Music instruction, and many schools have a combination of Music specialists and regular classroom teachers providing Music instruction.

For the 2015-2016 school year, the annual fee was raised from \$25 to \$50 a year in order to offset some of the staffing and program costs.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that the teaching staffing associated with the optional band and strings program be eliminated.

### Budget Implications

Staffing Impact (FTE)			Budget Impact (\$)			
Base	Reduction	Employee Group	Salaries & Benefits	Supplies	Revenue	Total
5.86	5.86	VTF	530,603		(135,000)	395,603

# District-Wide Extra-Curricular Elementary Choral Program

- Do not disrupt current choral programs; Support and network them
- Build a standard set of songs and performance goals each term and year (in advance) from which an incoming choral director can build
- Add choral programs as quickly as possible, focusing where there is need and community support/interest
- Engage PACs and Principals in the process
- Cross connect schools; each should have a sister school
- Parent Pay with Bursaries
- Self Funding with 10 new schools participating

# Why? There's so much other need!

- Please Don't ask me ...

“What would you pull from the budget?”

“Why is music more important than special needs children?”

- And don't blame the Ministry of Education – they aren't telling you to ignore the music curriculum.

# Budget is a Problem, but Health is the Issue

- Do you like mental health in children?
- A typical hospital stay in Canada is \$7000. Source [https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2008/03/18/average\\_hospital\\_stay\\_costs\\_nearly\\_7000\\_study.html](https://www.thestar.com/news/canada/2008/03/18/average_hospital_stay_costs_nearly_7000_study.html)
- It is estimated that 10-20% of Canadian youth are affected by a mental illness or disorder – the single most disabling group of disorders worldwide. Source: <https://cmha.ca/about-cmha/fast-facts-about-mental-illness>

# Kids Heal Themselves with Music

- The examples of kids using music to express pain and deal with it are well documented.
- Learning a musical instrument is shown to help brain development
- There is no vaccine for depression and anxiety, but artistic expression is shown to help heal.
- This is cheaper than drugs and a hospital.