

July 4, 2012

*Sent Via E-Mail*

Mr. Robert Harper  
Secretary-Treasurer  
School District #79 (Cowichan Valley)  
2257 Beverly Street  
Duncan, BC V9L 2X3

Dear Mr. Harper:

**Re: CUPE Supports Cowichan School Board's Stand**

The Board of Education for School District #79 (Cowichan Valley) is to be commended for its determination to stand-up for the interests of children, their families and public education.

This Board was elected on a platform of commitment to restoring the damage down by years of provincial underfunding. The Board campaigned and won on a platform of doing its utmost to restore lost programs, services and staff as part of an effort to rebuild public education in the Cowichan Valley.

The Board's refusal to sanction another annual budget marked by cuts is an important piece of advocacy on behalf of those committed to the idea that our children deserve better than what another lost decade of substandard funding support will bring. Current levels of funding undermine public schooling and also erode public confidence in what can and should be an education system committed to quality of access to quality programs and support for student excellence.

CUPE Local 606 stands behind its Board. The union calls on the provincial government to take a step back from its record of inadequate funding support by restoring funding to levels capable of addressing student needs and making our school system the best that it can be.

Sincerely,



Ron Farino  
President of CUPE Local 606 (Mid-Island Schools)

RF/dm

C: BC Minister of Education George Abbott  
MLA Nanaimo: Leonard Krog; MLA Nanaimo-North Cowichan: Doug Routley; MLA Cowichan Valley: Bill Routley  
SD 79 Board of Education School Trustees  
Local 606 Executive Board and Stewards, CDTA, LCTA, NDTA, DPAC

*"Working together - making a difference"*