



School Team Bulletin

Volume 7 Issue 6

May 2, 2014

VBE Budget 2014/15

On Wednesday evening, the VBE passed the finalized budget for the 2014/15 school year.

It is important to put the current budget into the context of the more than a decade of underfunding of public education. The impact of this on-going underfunding is clear in the restoration budget that Trustees asked the Treasurer to prepare. Returning Vancouver schools to the level of service for students that existed before the BC Liberal government began cutting public school funding in 2002-2003 would add \$54.3 million to the current operating budget. Attached are two graphic representations of the cumulative impact of this chronic underfunding in Vancouver. Unfortunately for all, this is not the actual budget that the Board was forced to pass in the end.

At the Board meeting, Trustee Wynen made three motions to amend the preliminary budget proposal (available on the VBE website). The first was to remove the proposal for 3 school closure days in November from the budget which was approved unanimously. The second was a series of amendments to restore several items and positions to the budget. These items are detailed below. The final motion was to allocate the funding necessary for these restorations from the district's Local Capital Reserve Fund. This was supported as the desperate times in public education prove that we have in fact reached "a rainy day (if not an unending deluge!)." The case was made that public education needs to be able to offer the full range of educational experiences, ranging from music to athletics.

The following items are among those restored to the 2014-2015 operating budget (letter refers to original proposal number in revised budget):

- B1: Maintenance service (painting, etc.) — restore 1.00 FTE
- D2: Elementary Band and Strings program — restore 8.85 FTE
- D4: Gifted Ed mentor — add 0.20 FTE
- D5: SACY- Substance Abuse Prevention — restore 1.00 FTE (CUPE)
- D7: Area counsellors — restore 3.00 FTE
- D8: Teacher Psychologist — restore 1.00 FTE
- D9: Speech and Language Pathologist — restore 1.00 FTE
- D10: Multi-Cultural Liaison Worker — restore 1.00 FTE (CUPE)
- D18: Peer to Peer Mentors — restore 3.00 FTE
- D20: Athletic Coordinator — restore 1.00 FTE (CUPE)
- D21: School Closure Days — remove 3 days in November

Other items such as the District Pay Parking proposal (C4), a reduction by 0.20 FTE to the Anti-Racism Mentor position (D16), the elimination of 1.00 FTE ELL Consultant (D17) and the reduction of 1.686 FTE in Alternative Education Programs (D15) and 1.00 FTE at City School (D3) were maintained.

Relief over these restorations is tempered by the stark realization that next year, there will be no recourse to a Local Capital Reserve Fund (only \$530,000 projected) to address the 2015-2016 anticipated \$27.6 million shortfall. It is crucial that we remain united in our resolve to advocate for funding of public education that ensures success for *all students*.

Budget 2002/03

\$415 Million

2002 service levels in 2013
(adjusted for inflation and enrollment)

\$533 Million

2013/14 Funding

\$486 Million

**Additional funding
required to match
2002/03 service levels:**

\$47 Million

\$47 Million =

\$31.5 Million
in lost staffing,
including
524
entry-level
teachers lost



**\$15.5
Million**
loss of



**Supplies &
Services**



instructional supplies,
school supplies,
textbooks, technology,
building maintenance

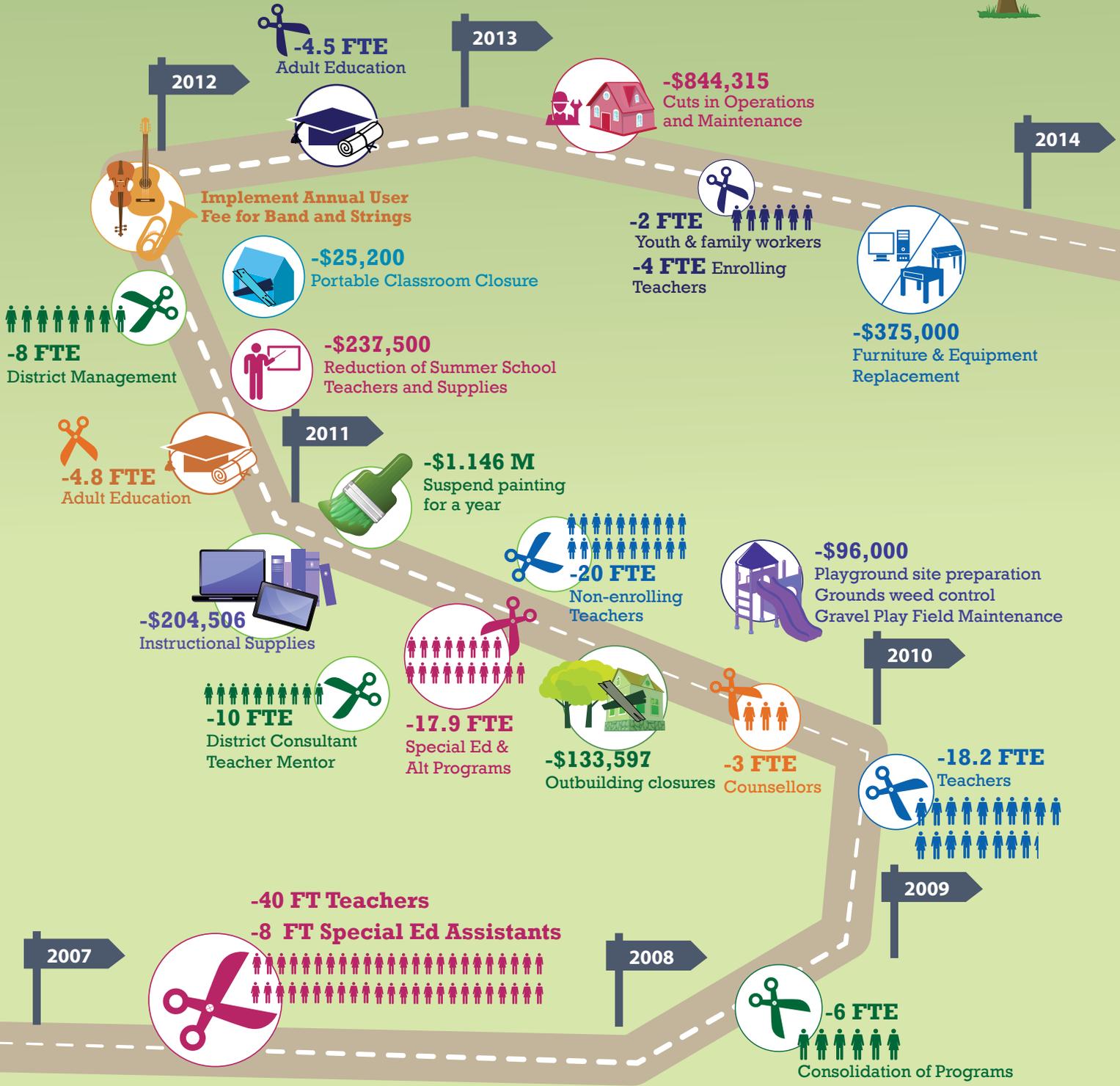


The **IMPACT** of Underfunding on the

VSB

2007-2014

Cuts to FTE: 197
Cuts to Services
and Supplies: \$ 8.52 M



Just some of the cuts implemented in the last 7 Years