

VV All Candidates Meeting-School Board Candidate Meeting
September 9, 2008
Open Remarks-Mike Lombardi

Good evening

On November 15th we have an opportunity to once again put the children of Vancouver first! On election day we can elect a new and PROGRESSIVE Board of Education in Vancouver.

As a Vision Vancouver school board candidate I will work with my colleagues to provide leadership, advocacy and sound new ideas to strengthen and champion a public education system where Vancouver students are at the centre of learning. My vision for our schools is a public education system where all Vancouver students succeed and realize their potential so that they can become full participating members of our democratic society.

Let's be frank, the current NPA-dominated Board of Education has underperformed and let down the students of our city. It's time for a change!

If elected as a Vision Vancouver candidate:

- I will advocate for more funding for Vancouver schools. I will support the submission of a needs budget!**
- I will work to improve deteriorating learning conditions by reducing class sizes and increasing support for students with special learning needs.**

- **I will ensure school district decisions are made through genuine, respectful, and transparent consultation processes.**
- **I will protect and expand student access to comprehensive neighbourhood schools.**
- **I will continue to advocate for seismically safe schools, effective emergency response plans and safe school environments free from bullying and harassment.**
- **I will advocate for the development of a comprehensive Vancouver green plan that involves the school board, city council, and parks board.**

Throughout my 35 year career in education, I have been a passionate advocate for public education. In every capacity—as a teacher, as an education leader, and as a parent leader—I have worked tirelessly to achieve conditions and supports in the public school system to enable all students to succeed.

I have been inspired by the leadership of Gregor Robertson and positive momentum of Vision Vancouver Education Committee.

I am seeking your support to win election as a Vision Vancouver candidate for the Vancouver School Board because I believe I have the skills, experience, and knowledge to work with my colleagues to put Vancouver students first.

Thank you.

Closing Remarks-Mike Lombardi

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the candidates for participating in this event. We heard lots of good ideas here tonight.

As a Vision Vancouver school board candidate I will work tirelessly with my colleagues to provide leadership and advocacy to:

- increase education funding**
- reduce class sizes and increase support for students with special needs**
- maintain our neighbourhood schools.**

As a passionate advocate of public education I will always be open to new ideas to improve our schools. However, all ideas must be assessed:

I will use the following test to assess education ideas:

- Is the idea good for students and public education?**
- Is the idea supported by research**
- Is the idea supported with adequate funding?**
- Can the idea be implemented in a manageable way?**

Don't you wish the current NPA board and the minister of education would ask these questions prior to announcing their ideas for education!

If nominated I will use my skills, experience, energy, and knowledge to work with my VV colleagues to put Vancouver students first.

On September 20th, please vote for Mike Lombardi.