



March 18, 2024

Board of Education of School District No. 34
Att: Michelle Gehring and David deWit
CORE, 2606 Alliance Street, Abbotsford

Dear Michelle and Dave,

Thank you for granting me the opportunity to present our Impact Report to both of you earlier this February. I truly value the time you dedicated to learning about how we're bolstering Abbotsford students through our In-School Mentoring and Group Programs. As a follow-up to our discussion regarding ongoing direct program funding to sustain our efforts in 2024, we extend an invitation to the Board of Education to consider continuing sponsorship of our school programs.

In 2023, we received district funding to facilitate 4 afterschool "Explorations" Groups; however, we managed to expand our support and extend this program to 5 schools within the Abbotsford district. Our group program aims to foster personal wellness and growth among students in grades 4 and 5, empowering them to realize their full potential. BBBSFV diligently screens and trains 2 to 3 volunteer Group Leaders to facilitate weekly activities, which include games, group discussions, and exercises aligning with the designated theme for the week. The program's objectives encompass enhancing decision-making skills, fostering social connections and friendships, and bolstering self-esteem and a sense of belonging among students.

At Big Brothers Big Sisters, we continuously reassess our services to enhance our value-added programming for both participants and the district. We've bolstered our program-specific volunteer training for group leaders, provided comprehensive Trauma-Informed Care Training to all volunteers, offered an assortment of healthy snacks for participants, and compiled a selection of resources and materials for students to take home, reinforcing the weekly learning themes.

For 2024, our objective is to maintain the same level of programming across the district with 5 schools, catering to approximately 50+ students who greatly benefit from these vital social-emotional connections. We humbly request the Abbotsford School Board to continue sponsoring our group programs with a contribution of \$5000.00 to cover the basic costs of all 5 groups (equivalent to approximately \$14 per child per session). We would be delighted to recognize your financial support on our website as the primary sponsor of group programs in Abbotsford Schools.

If you would like any information, I would be happy to offer further feedback. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly at 604-852-3331 ext. 103 or by email at cheryl.unger@bigbrothersbigsisters.ca.

Thank you for your consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cheryl Unger".

Cheryl Unger
Program Manager