

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 78 (FRASER-CASCADE)**

**DRAFT MINUTES OF THE BUDGET ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING
April 10, 2017**

PRESENT:

Board - Committee Members:

Tom Hendrickson	Chair
John Koopman	Trustee

Representatives:

Bruce Becker	Principal	FCPVPA
Brad Bourel	Maintenance	CMAWBC
Shannon Perna	Teacher	FCTA
Jon Polishak	Teacher	FCTA

Staff:

Karen Nelson	Superintendent
Natalie Lowe	Secretary-Treasurer
Kevin Bird	Assistant Superintendent

Recording Secretary:

Laurie Bjorge	Accounting/Data/Human Resources
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Regrets:

Cindy Ferguson	Trustee	
Karl Koslowsky	Vice Principal	DISTRICT
Tina Wenman	Representative AEC	
Wayne Bobb	Representative AEC	
Mark Classen	Principal	FCPVPA
Wendy Clark	Parent	DPAC
Lori Izawa	Parent	PAC
Darlene Smith	Payroll	CMAWBC

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the District Education Office in Hope, B.C.

2. Approval of Agenda

PERNA/BECKER

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes – January 16, 2017**KOOPMAN/BECKER**

THAT the Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee meeting held on January 16, 2017 be approved.

Carried

4. Powerpoint Presentation – Preliminary Budget 2017-2018

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the 2017/18 preliminary budget beginning with the timeline and explained the budget process. This year will be a bit different with the Supreme Court decision to return to the old contract language for class size and composition. According to the Ministry the changes will be fully funded for old language.

April is the time that the district looks at layoffs. Because of the new class size and composition language, it was felt that there would be no need to lay off teachers, however, there will be support lay offs, but hopefully as with previous years they will be hired back.

The last few years the district operated under funding protection. This worked to the district's advantage as it helped create a yearly surplus. Now that enrolment figures have increased, funding protection has ended and the district returns to being funded per student. It is imperative that accurate numbers are reported to the Ministry. The budget will be more balanced; the reserve or surplus will not be increasing.

The government announced a \$740 million budget for the next three years. The Ministry has agreed to fund salary increases as well as the increased costs due to the class size and composition language. This past January government agreed with BCTF to allocate 50 million dollars as a priority measure to fund hiring teaching staff to the end of the school year. Next year, 100 million dollars will be provided to assist with what is now called "classroom enhancements".

Learning Improvement funding will change for 2017/18. The portion that was used to hire teaching staff now will be rolled into funding for classroom enhancements. The portion of the LIF funding that went to staffing support will remain with support.

The government has given out notional allocations to what they think the districts will need to implement the former contract language. Our district received \$851,500. They will fund more if needed, but will claw back what isn't used. The schools will have to show the district how the language will affect their school and the district will allocate on this basis.

There will be an increase in grant funding of \$752,998 for 2017/18 due to the classroom enhancement funding. Grant funding otherwise has remained close to 2016/17 funding.

The committee discussed maintenance costs regarding snow removal. The district is moving towards having it's own equipment and training staff so that the district doesn't have to rely on contractors.

The schools' budgets are created using per pupil calculations. 2016/17 was calculated on \$7218 per student; this will increase to \$7301 for 2017/18. Special Education levels have increased, as had Aboriginal Education, ELL, and adults funding.

The district will be receiving the Transportation funding again. This money is to be used to help eliminate fees for bussing services. The district does not charge for bussing, so the money will be used to help fund field trips.

The Trades program is growing; a support teacher was hired to help Mr. Koslowsky with the ongoing growth. This program is showing to be quite effective with very positive results and feedback.

Money and time is still needed for the growth and improvement of the MyEducation BC program. \$70,000 per year is needed to fund the Evergreen program which schools access to upgrade technology every other year.

The Secretary-Treasurer commented that the district has been quite successful in keeping the budget balanced. The unrestricted surplus has been used to balance the budget.

5. Financial Health Working Group

Recommendations from the working group include the review of the suggestion for districts to create a policy on how it intends to deal with its surplus. In future as more information is provided by the Ministry, the districts will review best practices regarding internal auditing. The Committee discussed how that would look and if there was a need for this considering the district already has an auditor. The Secretary-Treasurer would welcome another auditor and would open to any recommendations the committee or board would have.

The Secretary-Treasurer requested the committee to read the information included in the agenda package and give feedback at the next Budget Advisory Committee meeting.

6. Financial Review

The Secretary-Treasurer referred to the Financial Review included in the agenda package, which is what is presented monthly to the board.

Adjournment

POLISHAK/PERNA

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Carried

Notice of Next Meeting:

May 1, 2017
4:30 p.m.
District Education Office