

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

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING
April 11, 2016**

PRESENT:

Board - Committee Members:

Tom Hendrickson	Chair
Cindy Ferguson	Trustee

Representatives:

Lori Izawa	Parent	DPAC
Lynne Marvell	President	FCTA
Darlene Smith	Payroll	CMAWBC

Staff:

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

Recording Secretary:

Laurie Bjorge	Accounting/Data/Human Resources
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Regrets:

Bruce Becker	Principal	FCPVPA
Heather Stewin	Trustee	
Clair Gill	Parent	DPAC
Cathy Speth	Representative	AEC
Brad Bourel	Maintenance	CMAWBC

1. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:35 p.m. in the District Education Office in Hope, B.C.

2. Approval of Agenda

IZAWA/MARVELL

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes – January 18, 2016

Lori Izawa noted that she should be listed as representing DPAC in the minutes.

IZAWA/MARVELL

THAT the Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee meeting held on January 18, 2016 be approved.

Carried

4. Preliminary Budget – 2016/2017

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the Preliminary Budget for 2016-2017. This Committee is welcome to bring forward any issues and concerns during the budget process. There will be three readings of the budget by the Board. The approved budget is due to the Ministry by June 30, 2016. As of this budget period the district is now out of funding protection due to an increase in enrolment. If enrolment decreases the district could return to funding protection.

Initially districts were to receive \$37 million more in funding from the Ministry, when in fact districts received only \$14 million. An announcement was made April 5th that the Ministry was releasing the holdback funds, plus an additional amount, as a result of advocacy of boards, ending up increasing funding by \$42 million.

The district is once again balancing the budget using reserves. The district reserves helped to fund the shortfall so that there was no impact on staffing or programs. The district is spending \$292,000 more in salaries alone.

Excluded staff increases will be absorbed by the existing budget. BCPSEA has begun a study on a regional basis on how the exempt staff model will look. Principals and Vice-Principals have received increases (2% in July 2015 and 2% in January 2016), however, other exempt staff have not. Our district will be implementing increases for the exempt staff, but it still won't include the Assistant Superintendent and the Secretary-Treasurer, as those salaries are frozen and have been since 2009.

Funding is based on approximately \$7000 per student and now that the district is out of funding protection is it imperative that the 1701 numbers reflect exact numbers. Government has promised to add additional funds for any new students and increase the \$7,166 per FTE by \$52 per FTE.

Other savings and changes include:

- A reduction in benefit premium costs for teacher's pension plan provincially of \$45 million translates into approximately \$100,000 for our district.

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- LIF is slightly reduced by \$4,782, however, other programs remain about the same. \$25,000 for the Wellness Program was a startup amount; there were no additional funds for the program. The district is waiting to see how the pilot programs in other districts are coming along.
 - There will be an increase in NGN costs for 2016-2017. The Assistant Superintendent reported that implementation is now finished except at Harrison Hot Springs Elementary which is waiting for the internal system to be changed over.
 - Administrative savings and energy cost reductions resulting from the CE Barry closure.
 - WorkSafe premium costs have been reduced due to Shared Services. The district's rate has dropped to \$0.55 /100 assessable payroll from \$0.57 last year.
 - Technology changes have to be considered. The district posted a technician position and interviews have begun. The Assistant Superintendent advised that he set up an interview panel with another district with technological experience. The district has carried on with Evergreen Plan of \$70,000 each year of which each school receives a portion. CE Barry's portion has been left in the budget for additional needs.
 - This is the third year that the BC Ed plan money has been offered. This money is used for collaboration time at the schools to ensure teaching staff are educated in the new curriculum to ensure it is implemented in an effective way. The Superintendent explained that the money used to be used for changing results for young readers. With the implementation of the new curriculum, the funds will also be used for collaboration time.
 - The Chair noted the need and the Board motion for Pro D training for bus drivers, more so in the matter of training for dealing with challenging behaviour. The Chair wanted to ensure that drivers are educated in how to deal effectively with students in conflict situations. The Superintendent mentioned that this issue will be brought up at a CMAW meeting, as well with the Pro D committee.

The Secretary-Treasurer gave an overview of the budget division. 77% of budget is spent on Instruction; Administration takes up 5%, which includes business administration, payroll, human resources; 12% is spent on Operations and Maintenance which includes maintenance, custodial, and facilities other than AFG; 4% is spent on Transportation; 2% is left for local capital which includes upgrades that aren't paid for through AFG (ie. Coquihalla Elementary roof replacement). AFG has not increased in the last ten years.

Funding for the Wellness Program has not been spent. The Secretary-Treasurer clarified for the committee the difference between the Wellness Program and Health & Safety – which is mandated by WorkSafe BC. A Wellness Program is implemented to work with employees to minimize time off by developing initiatives with the district. Our sector is higher than the average of 10 days per year. It is incumbent on us to ensure we have a healthy workplace.

The Secretary-Treasurer noted the next steps in the budget process are as follows:

- The preliminary budget will be presented in a scaled down version to the Board at the next Board meeting
- The budget will be brought back to the Budget Committee with detailed numbers to the next meeting May 9th for recommendation to the Board
- The budget will be presented to the Board at the May 10th meeting.

5. Questions

- The FCTA President requested to see the numbers reported for teacher leaves. There is a concern that lack of staffing time may delay reporting. Trustee Ferguson suggested some funding could be spent on support to help with data collection.

**Notice of Next Meeting: May 9, 2016
 4:30 p.m.
 District Education Office**

Adjournment

IZAWA

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 5:40 p.m.