

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

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING
January 18, 2016**

PRESENT:

Board - Committee Members:

Tom Hendrickson	Chair
Heather Stewin	Trustee

Representatives:

Lori Izawa	Parent	PAC
Clair Gill	Parent	DPAC
Lynne Marvell	President	FCTA
Bruce Becker	Principal	FCPVPA
Cathy Speth	Representative	AEC
Brad Bourel	Maintenance	CMAWBC

Staff:

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

Recording Secretary:

Ashley Limb	Accounting/Data/Human Resources
-------------	---------------------------------

Regrets:

Cindy Ferguson	Trustee	
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

IZAWA/SPETH

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes – November 30, 2015

IZAWA/MARVELL

THAT the Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee meeting held on November 30, 2015 be approved.

Carried

4. Powerpoint - Budget

The Secretary-Treasurer presented a Powerpoint on the Final Budget for 2015/2016. The budget is driven by enrolment. There has been a decrease of students in the last several years, however, this year the School District saw an increase in enrolment, similar to most districts in the province. It is anticipated that for the upcoming year, the School District should maintain this enrolment, or see another slight increase.

The Secretary-Treasurer explained that in February for the 1701 recount, if there are additional students taking Continuing Education under certain criteria, the School District could receive more funding outside of funding protection.

A slide was presented on how funding per student is comprised. Student funding begins with basic allocation, then has other determining factors such as special needs, English language learning, aboriginal education, and adult education. The School District receives additional funding for unique district factors, such as Boston Bar being a small community with low enrolment, how far the District Education Office is from Vancouver, climate factors and sparseness. Funding protection is also a factor but is currently declining.

A discussion surrounded the Local Education Agreements and how the Ministry calculates the block funding per student. The Provincial Government reduces the School District funding by the amount of students in the LEA, provides those funds to the bands, and then bands in turn pay us the calculated amount. Due to Fraser-Cascade's small size, the per pupil amount tends to be higher than neighboring districts.

The School District potentially may be out of funding protection by next year as it is seeing an increase in enrolment again. In the current year, there were 56 additional students in comparison to last year, but this did not provide any additional funding to the School District as it is still in funding protection. Monies from the reserve were used to support the additional students.

There have been a few initiatives come through for the School District with International Students and programming. The District does not have staff solely dedicated to this initiative at this time. Other district revenue comes from interest income, as well as two daycare programs that are run at Silver Creek Elementary School and Harrison Hot Springs Elementary School.

Cost pressures for the School District continue as the support staff union received a salary increase this year, as well as the Principals and Vice-Principals. With wage increases, wage-

sensitive benefit costs also increase. The teacher salary increase was funded through changes to the block funding. MSP premiums are also on the rise again, however effective July 1, 2016 Teacher Pension Plan premiums are going down.

There is still an ongoing expectation from the Ministry of Education that Districts meet the administrative savings targets of \$113,350 in the current year. The School District's savings came from shared services with WorkSafe, utility savings from the school closure, reduction in principal time due to school closure and overall energy consumption reduction.

Hydro rates are set to increase another 4% in April. The School District is continually upgrading facilities to keep hydro costs as low as possible, such as putting in motion detectors/sensors, changing most of the ballasts, more efficient gym lighting and looking at LED lighting for outdoors. The District just received confirmation of funding to upgrade Silver Creek Elementary lighting, as well as the mechanical system upgrade at Kent Elementary. It is anticipated that the mechanical upgrade will project a payback in savings in around 10 years.

Discussion surrounded successful programs in the School District such as full day Kindergarten, StrongStart, outdoor education, swim program and the band program, as well as teacher collaboration to work on the BC Ed Plan. The Superintendent spoke to the implementation of the NITEP (Native Education Teacher Education Program) in the district to promote aboriginal education. The School District has partnered up with Sts'ailes, Seabird and School District No.33 regarding this. This will take place in 2016 with students needing to apply on or before March 15, 2016.

The technology education program has started in the District with the welding program at Hope Secondary School. This program has a dedicated half time principal to spearhead this endeavor and bring student's awareness to trades. The welding program students will graduate at the end of January 2016 with a level C ticket.

The School District will work with the Ministry of Education on their mandatory savings initiatives through the shared services delivery project. These include:

- Bus purchasing/white vehicle purchasing
- Cash management
- Purchasing cards
- Legal services (no premium cost this year)
- Attendance support and wellness
- Potential new funding formula

With a reduction in funding, the School District is relying more heavily on the district's contingency fund to continue to provide the current programming and new programming, such as trades and technology. The School District will continue to be thoughtful and conservative with spending and continue to try and retain all programs. The Secretary-Treasurer will send out a preliminary budget for schools to use in March 2016.

5. Amended Annual Budget

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the amended annual budget to the committee and answered questions in regards to line items and what specific funds are spent on.

MOTION:

THAT the Budget Advisory Committee recommend that the 2015/2016 Amended Annual Budget be sent to the Board of Education for first and second reading.

**Notice of Next Meeting: April 11, 2016
 4:30 p.m.
 District Education Office**

Adjournment

IZAWA/SPETH

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 5:33 p.m.