

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

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING
January 19, 2015**

PRESENT:

Board - Committee Members:

Rose Tustian	Chair
Tom Hendrickson	Trustee
Heather Stewin	Trustee

Representatives:

Darlene Smith	Payroll	CMAWBC
Lori Izawa	Parent	DPAC
Lynne Marvell	President	FCTA
Brad Bourel	Maintenance	CMAWBC
Bruce Becker	Principal	FCPVPA

Staff:

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

Recording Secretary:

Ashley Limb	Accounting/Data/Human Resources
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Regrets:

Cathy Speth	Representative	AEC
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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. Election of Chair

The Secretary-Treasurer called for nominations for Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee. Trustee Hendrickson nominated Trustee Tustian. Trustee Tustian accepted the nomination. No other nominations presented. Trustee Tustian becomes Chair by acclamation.

3. Approval of Agenda

IZAWA/SMITH

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – December 1, 2014

IZAWA/SMITH

THAT the Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee meeting held on December 1, 2014 be approved.

Carried

5. Powerpoint – Budget

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the final amended budget. The preliminary budget planning begins in March and in September after enrolment is known, the funding for the District is normally known. The School District is currently in funding protection therefore the budget doesn't change significantly as we know what funds are being received when the District sets the preliminary budget.

The Secretary-Treasurer displayed statistics in regard to the declining enrolment in the last five years. We expect to continue to see a decrease until approximately 2017. Also shown was the headcount that was submitted to the Ministry of Education for the 1701 fall data collection. In the next couple of weeks there will be an enrolment audit done at Hope Secondary School, Agassiz Centre for Education and Two Rivers Education Centre.

The Secretary-Treasurer showed a breakdown of the district including FTE, special education numbers, adult education and home schooling. There is an increasing number of special needs identified students in the district despite dropping enrolment. Special education funding particularly in support services has increased.

An overview of grant funding was discussed overall. Operating funding for the province have remained unchanged, and out of the \$61.1 million holdback, the Ministry will take \$40.1 million to allocate out leaving a holdback for growth in February and May. A supplemental grant of \$77 per FTE school aged student totaling \$40.1 million was paid out. This reduced the District's funding protection allocation.

Next year funding will be reduced to 98.5% of current funding unless the enrolment is better than anticipated. CommunityLINK funding as well as Pay Equity are expected to be maintained.

The School District has very little revenue from International students. Discussion took place surrounding an International program and home stays. The District does not currently have a coordinator in place, and it is a challenge to be able to provide home stays for students at times.

There are two rental agreements for licensed daycares at Silver Creek Elementary and Harrison Hot Springs Elementary Schools which produce revenue as well as are very successful.

Continued cost pressures are support staff cost increases, which increases wage-sensitive benefit costs, however, there was a premium holiday this year for teachers and support staff benefits. MSP premiums increased in January by approximately 4%. The District received \$284,214 to fund the teacher salary increase.

BC Hydro rates are set to increase again by 6% in April 2015, down from the 9% increase the previous year. BCeSIS is changing to a new platform called MyEducationBC and School Districts must fund the training and implementation themselves. PL Net upgrades may require further outlays, as well. There is a continued need for technology upgrades.

Looking forward, the annual budget schedules remain unchanged and the Annual Facilities Grant announcement is expected to be maintained at the current level. Full day kindergarten has been successful and will continue, as well as the Strong Start program. The outdoor education is going to continue to be maintained as well as the swim and band programs. The District's outdoor education coordination has been taken over by staff and has been a very successful program in the District despite spending fewer dollars.

The School District is continuing to provide time for teacher collaboration to work on the BC Ed plan implementation and meeting the needs of the learners. This has proven to be an excellent way to provide individualized learning plans.

The Superintendent is looking at implementing the Native Education Teacher Education Program within the School District. This will assist in promoting aboriginal education and will be in partnership with the University of British Columbia. A joint application alongside Seabird Island Band, St'sailes First Nations and School District No.33 is being discussed. There is no cost to the District other than to provide a classroom. Office space, funding for the coordinator and professors are all provided. The proposal will be submitted within the next few weeks.

The Ministry of Education has now made the shared services delivery model mandatory, meaning that School District's will work together in doing things in a more economical way such as bus purchasing, cash management, purchasing cards, legal services, as well as attendance support and wellness. The School District is already taking part in the cash management service and is benefitting from interest in return. As well, the purchasing cards are being utilized with a percent return on every dollar spent. Legal services are not a large cost within the School District but that is not the case in many Districts. There is a sense we could benefit from sharing this expense.

The funding formula is being reviewed to ensure it is still a good model. Another unknown is a date for increases for excluded staff and whether that will be funded. Excluded staff has not had a wage increase since 2009, and there is some compression of salaries and benefits.

With a decline in enrolment next year there will be some staffing changes reflect in this, but no significant decreases are anticipated.

The Secretary-Treasurer will send out a preliminary budget for schools to use in March 2015. Administration will continue to be conservative in spending and try to retain all programs potentially using surplus funds. The Secretary-Treasurer spoke to the fact that administrators work well to save money and provide the best possible environment for students and staff in the School District.

6. Amended Annual Budget

The Secretary-Treasurer presented the Amended Annual Budget showing the financials for the year ended June 30, 2015. The committee reviewed the package which shows changes that were made from the original Annual Budget, as well as financial line items, such as Learning Improvement Fund, bursary funds, strike savings recovery and grants such as Ready, Set, Learn and French programming.

MOTION:

IZAWA/HENDRICKSON

THAT the 2015 Amended Annual Budget go to the board for recommendation.

7. Questions

A committee member asked what a 6% increase in BC Hydro costs would mean for the School District and the Secretary-Treasurer said approximately \$12,000. A lot of work has been done in terms of Power Smart and retrofitting and the power consumption has not increased as a result of that work. The power is still being utilized at C.E. Barry Intermediate as work is being done in the school so there will not be a decrease from the closure yet.

The Superintendent thanked the Secretary-Treasurer for the hard work and great presentation and for keeping the School District financially stable.

**Notice of Next Meeting: April 15, 2015
 4:30 p.m.
 District Education Office**

Adjournment

IZAWA/

THAT the meeting be adjourned.

Carried

The meeting adjourned at 4:46 p.m.