

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

**MINUTES OF THE BUDGET ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING
November 26, 2018**

PRESENT:

Board - Committee Members:

Tom Hendrickson	Chair
Heather Stewin	Trustee
John Koopman	Trustee

Representatives:

Shannon Perna	Teacher	FCTA
Aaron Dodd	Teacher	FCTA
Darlene Smith	Payroll	CMAWBC
Tammy McLaren	Payroll	CMAWBC

Staff:

Karen Nelson	Superintendent
Natalie Lowe	Secretary-Treasurer

Recording Secretary:

Laurie Bjorge	Accounting/Data/Human Resources
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Other:

Linda Kerr	Trustee
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Regrets:

Kevin Bird	Assistant Superintendent	
Bruce Becker	Principal	FCPVPA
Greg Lawley	Vice Principal	FVPVPA
Wayne Bobb	Representative	AEC
Wendy Clark	Parent	DPAC
Karl Koslowsky	Vice Principal	DISTRICT
Cheryl Davidson	Representative	AEC
Cathy Speth	Representative	AEC
Amy Smith	President	FCTA

1. Call to Order

The Secretary-Treasurer called the meeting to order at 4:30 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 Stewin nominated Trustee Hendrickson. Trustee Hendrickson accepted

the nomination. No other nominations presented. Trustee Hendrickson becomes Chair by acclamation.

3. Approval of Agenda

KOOPMAN/STEWIN

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – May 7, 2018

PERNA/KOOPMAN

THAT the Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee meeting held on May 7, 2018 be approved.

Carried

5. Mandate

The Budget Advisory Committee mandate outlining the purpose of the committee, representation on the committee, voting rights and selection of committee Chair was provided for information. The purpose of the Budget Advisory Committee is to review the detailed budget of the School District and make recommendations to the Board. The committee reviews the draft budget information, funding information, and requests from stakeholder groups.

6. Meeting dates

The Budget Advisory Committee meeting dates were provided in the agenda package as follows:

November 26, 2018

January 14, 2019

April 8, 2019

May 13, 2019

7. Preliminary Budget 2018/2019

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the key dates in the budget process:

- February – the Ministry announces the provincial budget and determines how much money will flow to education.
- Mid March – the Ministry of Education announces funding and Schools Districts put together a preliminary budget based on these amounts. The preliminary budget decides how much money each school will have and what staffing levels can be maintained and potential reduction of staff done at the end of April to balance the budget.
- May – there is a first reading of the budget by the Board.
- June 30 – the approved preliminary budget is sent to the Ministry of Education and cannot be a deficit budget.

- September 30 – enrolment snapshot of students which determine the School District’s actual funding.
- February 28 – amended budget is due based on actual enrolment and actual funding.

The District saw growth in enrolment numbers. The District’s decline leveled out in 2017/2018. We are continuing to project an increase over the next few years. Enrolment figures follow along with the increase in numbers provincially. QaLaTKu7eM school is a new addition to the District. Our district has partnered with SD #48 (Sea to Sky) to teach these students in the new school about four hours north of Agassiz.

In the 2017/18 budget, the MOE allocation for the next three years is \$740 million which includes additional funding for enrolment, rural education, student transportation, compensation costs and to address the MOA with the BCTF. The MOA provided \$50 million to be added to district funding in January 2017. This amount increased to \$100 million for the 2017/18 year in addition to \$80 million LIF for teachers for \$180 million in funding (\$150 million for teacher compensation and \$30 million for overhead and operating). The LIF funding will remain in place as well for support staff at \$20 million.

The government gave out notional allocations for the amount they anticipate the province will need to implement the former CA language. Our portion last year \$1.4 million. After our submission based upon our local language, we are expecting to receive \$165,000 more to meet our class size and composition issues. It is the district’s responsibility to ensure that district ratios are met. The Assistant Superintendent and the FCTA president meet to go over remedy actions. The Superintendent works with the Principals to ensure ratios are met.

The Annual Facility Grant is divided into Operating (\$98,137) and Capital (\$420,020), which is \$93,000 less than the previous year. Last year the district spent an additional \$500,000 in upgrades and improvements. The Director of Transportation and Facilities chooses to spend based on a rotating schedule - allocating the bulk of the money to one school each year for bigger projects, such as the Kent Elementary addition and upgrades. Hope Secondary renovations will be done next year.

Revenue has increased from last year due to an increase in Operating Grant money from MOE. Any surplus is used to balance budget. The district used surplus money last year to purchase snow clearing equipment which will save in contracting out the work.

The Ministry will announce a new funding formula next year. Not sure how this will look, but believe that the disadvantaged districts will have bridging options available.

The increase in students with special needs coming to our district raises challenges in terms of trying to find qualified staff, infrastructure and resources. Students that show up after September 30th, come without funding support. The Learning Improvement Fund of \$75,787 for support staff only funds approximately 1.5 SEAs.

The District continues to be conservative in budget approach to try to ensure that the impact of the changes in funding and costs do not mean any major cuts. The BC Ed plan money of \$33,235 is being used to support Pro D and collaboration time at the schools as well as provide fine arts and shop time at Boston Bar.

The district had been given \$25,000 a few years ago to begin wellness initiatives . This money had been earmarked in special purposes funds which the Assistant Superintendent is accessing to put a program in place.

Upcoming events that will affect budget is provincial and local bargaining will be happening this year, which will have an undetermined impact at this time. The MOE will be reviewing the funding formula, and the First Nations, federal, and provincial governments are working on a tripartite agreement as to how education will operate for First Nations students.

8. WorkSafe Rates

The district has been maintaining a low Worksafe rate and continues to do so. The 2019 rates will be released shortly.

9. Audit Tender Information

Chris Kelley has stepped down as our district Auditor. The Request for Proposal has gone out with a deadline of January 25, 2019.

Adjournment

/Dodd

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

Carried

Notice of Next Meeting:

January 14, 2019

4:30 p.m.

District Education Office