

**BOARD OF EDUCATION  
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 78 (FRASER-CASCADE)  
MINUTES OF THE BUDGET ADVISORY  
COMMITTEE MEETING  
November 25, 2019**

**PRESENT:**

**Board - Committee Members:**

John Koopman	Trustee
Heather Stewin	Trustee
Cathy Speth	Trustee

**Representatives:**

Bruce Becker	Principal	FCVPA
Aaron Dodd	Teacher	FCTA

**Staff:**

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

**Recording Secretary:**

Laurie Bjorge

**Regrets:**

Tammy McLaren	Payroll	CMAWBC
Greg Lawley	Vice Principal	FVPVPA
Wayne Bobb	Representative	AEC
Wendy Clark	Parent	DPAC
Karl Koslowsky	Vice Principal	DISTRICT
Cheryl Davidson	Representative	AEC
Lynne Marvell	President	FCTA
Darlene Smith	Payroll	CMAWBC

**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. Acknowledgement of Indigenous Territory**

**3. Introduction of Jenny Veenbaas, Assistant Secretary Treasurer**

Welcome to Ms. Veenbaas to the newly created Assistant Secretary-Treasurer position.

**4. Election of Chair**

The Secretary-Treasurer called for nominations for Chair of the Budget Advisory Committee. Trustee Stewin nominated Trustee Koopman. No other nominations presented. Trustee Koopman becomes Chair by acclamation.

5. **Approval of Agenda – November 25, 2019**

**DODD/STEWIN**

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

**Carried**

6. **Approval of Minutes – May 13, 2019**

**SPETH/STEWIN**

THAT the Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee meeting held on May 13, 2019 be approved.

**Carried**

7. **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.

The Secretary-Treasurer noted that the mandate will need to be updated at a future date.

8. **Meeting dates**

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

November 25, 2019, January 13, 2020, April 6, 2020, May 11, 2020

9. **Preliminary Budget 2019/2020**

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 enrolment numbers. 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. Next year the funding model will change based on headcount instead of FTE.
- 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 Ministry of Education goals are to:

1. Improve student achievement and success
2. Improve student outcomes
3. Improve transitions to post-secondary institutions

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the provincial Ministry of Education Goal 1 and how it coincides with the district's goals. Most of the public sector contracts have been settled. The support staff contract has been settled within the provincial mandate. BCTF has not settled yet.

Overall provincial debt continues to rise and is expected to reach \$82 billion by 2021. Approximately \$4 billion is set aside to cover wage increases.

MSP premiums will be eliminated by January 2020, but is being replaced by the employer health tax which costs the district more. The government did provide grant money to cover the duplication of districts paying both the employer health tax and MSP premiums.

The government is investing \$6 million in respite services, \$85 million for children in care, \$75 million for mental health initiatives, \$18 million in adult education and ELL, and \$21 million for BC transit and Handydart.

Carbon tax will increase by \$5 per ton effective April 2019 and an additional \$5 in each of the next two years to \$50 per ton by 2021 – this will cost the district an extra \$10,000 per year.

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed last year's budget compared to the 2019-2020 preliminary budget. The budget funding has been very stable for the last few years. The Community Link grant which is set aside for vulnerable students including costs associated to staffing, and school meals programs, increased slightly.

Overall costs, such as hydro, gas, CPP, and WCB have increased. SEP projects such as lighting and heating upgrades have helped operation costs, offsetting those increases. WCB rate has increased provincially, but because our district has a very good experience rating, we are well below provincial average.

The Secretary-Treasurer discussed the influx of special education students after the 1701 snapshot date of September 30<sup>th</sup>, which means they are not funded. These costs have to come from the overall budget. There is an increased need for bus monitors as the safety risk to other students and drivers has increased.

The district is continuing to work on teacher collaboration and other initiatives to assist in implementing the new curriculum. The BC Ed plan money of \$34,769 is being used to support Pro-D and collaboration time at the schools. We are also supporting professional development to ensure staff are exposed to the latest information on education transformation.

The Ministry of Education is in the process of revamping the funding system. The formula will be implemented in the 20/21 year with transitional funding to districts so they can adjust over a short time.

**Adjournment**

**/STEWIN**

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

**Carried**

**Notice of Next Meeting:**

January 13, 2020

District Education Office