

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 78 (FRASER-CASCADE)
MINUTES OF THE BUDGET ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING
January 20, 2020**

PRESENT:

Board - Committee Members:

John Koopman	Trustee	Chair
Heather Stewin	Trustee	

Representatives:

Lynne Marvell	President	FCTA
Greg Lawley	Principal	FVPVPA
Aaron Dodd	Teacher	FCTA
Darlene Smith	Payroll	CMAWBC

Staff:

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

Recording Secretary:

Laurie Bjorge (by recording)

Regrets:

Cathy Speth	Trustee	
Bruce Becker	Principal	FCPVPA
Tammy McLaren	Payroll	CMAWBC
Wayne Bobb	Representative	AEC
Wendy Clark	Parent	DPAC
Karl Koslowsky	Vice Principal	DISTRICT
Cheryl Davidson	Representative	AEC

1. Call to Order

The Committee Chair 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. Approval of the Agenda - January 20, 2020

STEWIN/SMITH

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

4. Approval of Minutes – November 25, 2019

STEWIN/DODD

THAT the Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee meeting held on November 25, 2019 be approved.

Carried

5. Amended Annual Budget

The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the presented amended annual budget has not changed substantially from the budget information presented at November's meeting. The key points in the amended budget were reviewed by the Secretary-Treasurer and the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

Most importantly, in consultation with the individual schools, enrolment within the district decreased last year and is anticipated to decline next year slightly again. This unfortunately may result in potential teacher lay offs this April. Funding allocation rates remain the same in the amended budget. Overall provincially there was an increase in enrolment by 2024 students. 40 districts increased in size, and 20 districts decreased of which our district was included.

In 2017 the MOE allocated \$740 million which included additional funding for enrolment, rural education, student transportation – of which our district received \$184,000, compensation costs, and to address the MOA with the BCTF, which was the main reason for the injection of funds.

Remedy costs are being tracked by the Assistant Superintendent. The district received \$1,706,738 based on our submission to meet class size and composition issues. Overhead cost is the other portion of the CEF funding, which covers extra supplies and equipment as a result of the added staffing.

AFG funding amounts to \$500,000 for upgrades and improvements. The district uses the funds by making significant changes throughout the schools. Minor projects are handled under AFG funds, major projects are done through capital funding submitted annually.

The Secretary-Treasurer noted that although enrolment decreased this year, staff levels have not changed. The district chose not to lay off teachers last April due to the shortage of teaching staff in the province. This meant a larger than usual staffing level in 2019/20 in relation to enrolment. It was noted that this practice is not sustainable and the district will need to look at decreasing staff due to anticipated lower enrolment.

The Ministry will release the new funding formula in March which will result in school districts being 'winners' or 'losers'. Priorities for the upcoming year include class size and composition, reviewing the new formula, and reviewing resources for special needs students.

The Secretary-Treasurer advised that it is prudent to base the budget solely on annual funding rather than relying on reserve. The schools, as well as Aboriginal Education, have had their own contingency funds built into their budgets which they have been spending mostly on extra staffing. This too will have to change.

SMITH/STEWIN

Recommend to the Board THAT the amended 2019/2020 budget be approved as presented.

Carried

Adjournment

/LAWLEY

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 5:20 p.m.

Carried

Notice of Next Meeting:

April 6, 2020

District Education Office