

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 78 (FRASER-CASCADE)
MINUTES OF THE BUDGET ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING (VIA ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCE)
April 6, 2020**

PRESENT:

Board - Committee Members:

Cathy Speth	Trustee	Chair
John Koopman	Trustee	
Heather Stewin	Trustee	

Representatives:

Bruce Becker	Principal	FCVPA
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Staff:

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

Recording Secretary:

Laurie Bjorge

Guest:

Ron Johnstone	Board Chair
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Regrets:

Kevin Bird	Assistant Superintendent	
Greg Lawley	Principal	FVPVPA
Lynne Marvell	President	FCTA
Aaron Dodd	Teacher	FCTA
Darlene Smith	Payroll	CMAWBC
Wendy Clark	Parent	DPAC
Karl Koslowsky	Vice Principal	DISTRICT
Cheryl Davidson	Representative	AEC
Wayne Bobb	Representative	AEC

1. Call to Order

Via Zoom videoconference, the Secretary-Treasurer called the meeting to order at 4:45 p.m. Due to technical difficulty, the meeting was delayed.

2. Approval of the Agenda – April 6, 2020

SPETH/KOOPMAN

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes – January 20, 2020

STEWIN/KOOPMAN

THAT the Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee meeting held on January 20, 2020 be approved.

Carried

Due to the Committee Chair unable to join the Zoom video conference, only by phone, Trustee Speth was appointed to chair with unanimous agreement.

4. Preliminary 2020-2021 Budget

The Secretary-Treasurer and Assistant Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the 2020-2021 preliminary budget. The provincial overview of enrolment reflects an overall provincial estimated growth of 0.6% (3480 students), with 42 districts increasing and 18 districts declining in enrolment. Special education funding of \$627 million will support an estimated 34,471 students province wide.

Within the province's new budgeting system, grants that the districts previously received will be rolled into base budget. There will be more money in the budget with no holdback. Labour settlement grant for support staff is included in the Operating Grant. The Equity of Opportunity Supplement was introduced totaling \$23 million replaces the Supplement for Vulnerable Students and part of the Curriculum and Learning Support Fund. This is to help with mental health programs and recognition of vulnerable students using district EDI data. The Employment Health Tax is rolled into the Operating Grant block. The district received quite a bit less than what was paid out in terms of that benefit.

Classroom Enhancement Fund and Learning Improvement Fund money is still available. As with previous years, the district will begin with less CEF money and are expected to show how much the district actually needs. The LIF amount will stay the same, which the district uses to hire approximately two additional support staff.

The district is responsible for on-going reporting to the union and government, of district ratios of teacher staffing and class size composition. Remedy reporting is also required. Because of arbitration, payout of remedy was put on hold because the district didn't know where it was going to land with severely learning disabled versus learning disabled students. This will impact what is owed to the teachers.

Overhead cost reporting is required as well which includes additional staff time required, extra supplies and equipment. The Secretary-Treasurer noted that unused classroom space has been utilized not only because of the new contract language, but because of the increased needs of the special needs students, resulting in the need of smaller class sizes.

The Assistant Secretary-Treasurer discussed the funding rate increases per pupil. It is important to note the increases especially per special needs category.

Increases in Rates over 3 years

Funding Supplement	18/19 Dollars per Category	19/20 Dollars per Category	20/21 Dollars per Category	Cumulative Change per FTE over 3yrs
Per pupil	\$7,423	\$7,468	\$7,560	\$137
Level 1	\$38,800	\$42,400	\$43,000	\$4,200
Level 2	\$19,400	\$20,200	\$20,400	\$1,000
Level 3	\$9,800	\$10,250	\$10,300	\$500
ELL	\$1,420	\$1,495	\$1,520	\$100
Ab Ed	\$1,230	\$1,450	\$1,500	\$270
Adult Ed	\$4,696	\$4,773	\$4,823	\$127

The Secretary-Treasurer is anticipating enrolment to decrease by ten students next year. The basic enrolment funding shows an increase overall, however, this comes from an increase in terms of unique geographic factors; enrolment funding is not keeping pace with increasing costs. The decrease in students will put the district back into funding protection. Every additional student generates \$7560 (more for special needs students). This money is put into basic enrolment funding, but is taken out of funding protection money. In order to get ahead, the district needs an additional 20 more students. The Secretary-Treasurer stresses the importance of being cognizant to not overspend and overstaff as we try to manage funding protection.

The district is receiving an additional \$486,958 in the upcoming budget. This will cover support staff increases. Any increase due to the teacher settlement will be funded as well. As discussed previously, teachers were not laid off last year, as the district wanted to keep teachers in light of the difficulty in hiring. The staffing levels for 2019/2020 was higher than needed which is not sustainable, so teacher and support layoffs are necessary for 2020/2021.

Overall the main highlights for the 2020/2021 budget is that even though there was a slight increase to per pupil funding, with the anticipated decrease in enrolment, the difference in budget is negligible. The decline in enrolment has resulted in funding protection for 2020/2021. Wage increases are covered in the budget and layoffs will be done by April 30th. There will not be any significant changes to the system or programs.

The Secretary-Treasurer and Superintendent both noted their appreciation to the Principals for being responsible in managing their budgets so well.

Adjournment

/SPETH

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Carried**Notice of Next Meeting:**

May 11, 2020