

School District #75 (Mission)

Special Committee of the Whole Meeting

January 15, 2019, 3:30 pm

District Education Office, 33046 4th Avenue, Mission, BC

Members Present: **Board Chair, Tracy Loffler**

Trustee, Shelley Carter

Trustee, Randy Cairns

Trustee, Rick McKamey

Trustee, Julia Renkema

Staff Present: **Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson**

Secretary Treasurer, Corien Becker

Assistant Superintendent, Larry Jepsen

Director of Student Services, Carolynn Schmor

Executive Assistant, Aleksandra Zwierzchowska (Recorder)

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 PM by the Chairperson. The Chair acknowledged the meeting was being held on Stó:lō Territory. There are four First Nation Bands within the boundaries of the Mission School District: Leq:a'mel, Sq'ewlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Amended Budget 2018/2019

The Secretary Treasurer referred to the amended budget report and advised the Committee that the School District is facing a deficit of approximately \$600,000 after drawing monies from the reserve funds.

There are two notable changes with the amended budget; enrolment is significantly less than originally budgeted and the expense for substitute

employees is expected to be \$1.1 million greater than 2017/18. The School District agreed to post 22 additional TTOC positions which increased the expense for substitutes.

Upon reviewing the local capital projects, Staff prepared a summary of reallocating funds for the listed projects. Certain projects will proceed as funds cannot be reallocated.

This year's deficit will affect future budgets. If something doesn't change, the School District will experience a similar shortfall next year. Other considerations for next year's budget include the employer health tax, CPP expenses, and the operating budget for Stave Falls Elementary. There is no indication from the Province that there will be any grants available to offset the costs for the employer health tax.

Also, the School District has been ordered by Worksafe to complete an extra job safety analysis before completing any work. This will slow down the progress for completing projects and create additional costs.

Q: Why is there a decrease of approximately \$70,000 in EA Salaries from the Preliminary Budget compared to the Amended Budget?

A: The Director of Student Services advised that additional money was requested compared to other years and this expense can be adjusted.

Q: Does the EA line include Aboriginal Liaison Workers?

R: Yes.

Q: Who is included in the Other Professionals category?

A: Exempt staff.

Q: Can Staff comment on the increase in Professional Development and Travel?

A: The increase is related to the International department.

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the prime objective of this meeting is to communicate the financial position of the School District. Communication was issued to principals requesting a review of school budgets for ways to reduce costs.

The Board expressed concerns with deferring costs as this can cause strains on next year's budget. Student learning environments are a priority and the Board is seeking solutions that have little impact on student learning. Also, the Board is not looking at staffing reductions.

Staff will prepare a report with considerations for cost reductions, as well as any possible deferrals. The report will be presented to the Committee at the Special Committee of the Whole on February 12, 2019.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:50 PM.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed by Tracy Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

February 19, 2019

Date

Original Signed by Corien Becker

Secretary Treasurer

February 19, 2019

Date