

School District #75 (Mission)

Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

January 14, 2020, 1:00 pm

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

Members Present: Board Chair, Tracy Loffler
Vice-Chair, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Shelley Carter
Trustee, Rick McKamey
Trustee, Julia Renkema

Staff Present: Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Secretary Treasurer, Corien Becker
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
Director of Student Services, Carolynn Schmor
Executive Assistant Aleksandra Zwierzchowska (Recorder)

Others Present: Janise Nikolic - MTU President, Ryan McCarty MTU VP, Faye Howell – CUPE President, Dionne Hairsine - DPAC, Linda Ziefflie – Principal/ PVPA, and Lynn Cummings - Vice-Principal/ PVPA.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

Moved and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 1:00 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'èwlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations.

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Amended Budget 2019/2020

MOVED and Seconded that the Amended budget be reviewed and discussed, including options to reduce the budget and avoid a projected deficit.

CARRIED

The Secretary Treasurer advised that the amended budget is showing a significant deficit (\$778,000). Staff are reviewing the budget to determine the reasons behind the deficit and exploring options that will minimize impacts on classrooms. Also, changes with the 2020 / 2021 budget need to be considered to ensure a deficit is avoided for next year.

It was requested that regular budget meetings be scheduled between now and approving the budget.

A question was asked about a hiring freeze. Clarification was provided that certain positions are mandated to be filled.

A conversation ensued regarding Board oversight and strengthening reserves in future years.

It was noted that the Board has revised their agenda report template which includes a line for budget impacts. This template allows the Board to review all impacts before approving an item.

It was noted that if Staff are being requested to watch spending, that the Board can consider cutting costs related to conferences and travel.

A high-level overview was provided on the Operating Expense Changes found on page seven (7) of the agenda. Items that require a deeper analysis are:

1. FTE Change - Teachers
2. Trend analysis on the different labour accounts

A question was asked regarding the report for the seismic review of the secondary school. The contract has been awarded and some of the work has started. The Ministry will reimburse the School District; however, the SD may need to absorb the cost temporarily. There is a risk that these costs will increase the deficit position. The work can be deferred for one year or the SD can request that the Ministry advance the expenses. The Board needs to decide how they would like to proceed.

A question was asked about what the School District needs to consider in order to move forward with items that need to be replaced (ie. White Fleet). The Secretary Treasurer explained that the first step is to address the deficit position followed by reviewing why this happened. The final step is to plan for the future. The School District needs to have more deliberative conversations on budget spending and controls.

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:50 pm.

Certified Correct:

Original Signed by Tracy Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original Signed by Corien Becker

Secretary Treasurer