

School District #75 (Mission)
Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2021, 10:00 am
Zoom Meeting

Members Present: Board Chair, Tracy Loffler
Vice Chair, Shelley Carter (arrived at 10:05)
Trustee, Julia Renkema
School Trustee, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Rick McKamey

Staff Present: Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Derek Welsh
Director of Student Services Carolynn Schmor
District Principal of Indigenous Education, Vivian Searwar
District Principal of International Education, Collen Hannah
Director of Facilities, Dana MacLean
Director of HR, Tina Phelps
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)

Others Present: DPAC Chair - Cheryl Blondin, DPAC Treasurer - Jacquelyn Wickham, MTU President - Ryan McCarty, MTU Vice-President - Janise Nikolic, CUPE President - Faye Howell

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 am by the Chairperson. The Chair acknowledged that Mission Public Schools is 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.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

4. CURRICULUM

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6. STAFF REPORTS

6.1 Budget 2021/2022

Staff has presented more financial information. Some adjustments have been made to balance the budget, using 35 FTE students.

5 MTU members will need to be released for bargaining next year and have been counted in the budget in Substitute costs.

Hiring TTOCs on contract has not yet been contemplated (or budgeted for) to relieve the TTOC shortage. It would be costlier. Not on top of the priority list. Additional contract positions are added as needed.

Extra BSW for September is not currently part of the budget. Other SDs are including daytime custodians (additional cleaning support may still be needed).

A report providing an update of the staffing numbers/changes has not been completed yet. Other professionals include Exempt staff (Admin, MGMT).

A question was asked if the small deficit in Amended 2020/2021 Budget includes all the in-lieu time. A reserve was set aside. Substitutes line is conservative enough to cover this.

The Secretary-Treasurer would like to start a conversation with the Board as the 2020/2021 will have a bit of a Surplus, approximately \$1 million. We can put some funds into contingency. Some of the extra funds can go to local capital, and some can go towards special projects following the Strategic Plan and Facilities.

A question was asked about special needs support budget: Staff are looking at all of the expenses needed for supporting all of the students. It is not only EAs that special needs funding is for. Staff are working on preparing a reconciliation report regarding the special needs funding. As students arrive to school and generate support, staff allocate necessary resources. EAs, SLPs, etc.

Trustee Renkema would like to reinstate \$100,000 that was put in the budget for Riverside expansion, and Hatzic Elementary Portable addition, MTU would like to bring back some blocks to MSS.

Funding could provide support for a Social and emotional mentor teacher, who supports a classroom teacher, or a literacy mentor teacher. MDI shows that students are suffering in social/emotional wellness and require holistic support.

A question was asked if Settlement worker is financed by Social services. It is a similar position, but the Settlement worker position mentioned in the budget came from the District Principal of International Education and the Director of Student Services: Students with language barriers at home require support in a family manner, often after hours. This support has been falling on the ELL department. Translation, support for families is needed (Punjabi). The closest settlement worker is in Abbotsford.

At this point, staff have presented a balanced budget. Items on the list are the priorities to be looked at. Funding some of the projects could be drawn from the surplus. Staff are recommending a conservative approach, and only considering the additional items in September. The Trustees agree with being conservative, as no commitment from the Government has come in. Board can review things in September.

White fleet vehicles are purchased. SD should consider age and possible lease for IT and facilities vehicles. There may be a bulk deal on white fleet purchase. The Tractor/mower has been purchased for Grounds department out of local capital. Waiting for it to be delivered as parts were on back-order.

Hatzic Portable Discussion: planning and preparing for next year - the sooner we know, the better we can have it ready if needed. The portable would take pressure off Hatzic Elementary and Staff. It could also be used elsewhere if needed in the future. Director of Facilities noted that portables are difficult to find nowadays. It would be a good idea to have one available in the district, regardless of location.

Trustees absent the previous meeting have reviewed the previous discussion. There is no one solution to the Hatzic problem. The space fills up, and later, there will be even more demand. Cross Boundary - if all are pushed to other schools, pressure is pushed to other schools, as others are full as well. Trustees and CUPE would like to see a scenario, district-wide, where everybody goes back to their catchment school. There would likely be additional cost for busing to Dewdney. Buses for the morning should be feasible, but PM may be more difficult to arrange. Challenges come with time, not seats, as most are existing students. It can impact the routes.

We need to stop allowing cross-boundaries. How much remedy is appropriate? Portable helps reduce remedy cost by spreading students out more. There will be a multi-pronged approach needed. Hatzic has a capacity of about 260 students and has had about 300 students for the past few years.

We need to figure out who the students are who would like to move.

The area is growing fast, and we need to be aggressive with planning. Do we know how many new Ks are coming to Hatzic Elementary? There are

2 sibling cross-boundary requests. Just stopping the current cross-boundary requests would not alleviate the problem, but going forward, it will help. There used to be a portable at Hatzic before. New one would go into the existing space. New portables need to have a water connection.

Hatzic Elementary is on a small property. No matter what, there will be pressure on the site. The Ministry will consider building 2 story elementary schools. The portable would not impact the eventual replacement of the school if it was built at an alternative site. If replacement moved ahead, the portable would need to be removed. The park across the street may be an option and should be discussed with DOM and the Ministry.

The Portable may make some people happy but will be an expense of about \$300,000.

MOVED and Seconded that Staff take the draft Budget to the Special Public Board Meeting on June 22, 2021.

CARRIED.

8. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

8.1 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, May 11, 2021

MOVED and Seconded that the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes dated May 11, 2021, be approved.

CARRIED

10. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 AM.

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
June 15, 2021 at the Public Board
of Education meeting.