

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

January 25, 2022, 3:30 pm
Zoom Meeting

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

Staff Present: Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Derek Welsh
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
Director of Instruction, HR, Tina Phelps
Director of Operations, Dana MacLean
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)

Others Present: CUPE President, Nansy Gibson, MTU President, Ryan McCarty, Principal, Angela Condon

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 3:30 pm 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'ewlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations. The Chair also took a moment to acknowledge the discoveries of unmarked graves in Williams Lake, as the announcement was made today.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded THAT the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS

4. CURRICULUM

5. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

P. 6: 1.9 million increase in the operating revenue. Industry Training Authority (ITA) shows a decrease - we have been conservative with the funding. A fewer student FTE created a reduction of budget in the Alternate program.

A clarification was asked about salary differential supplement showing a significant drop: all the teaching staff and the teaching salaries depend on where our average teacher salary falls as compared to the rest of the province. New teachers draw the number down whereas the more senior teachers raise the number. The differential is received based on OUR average cost per teacher.

P. 7: Operating Expenses: Teachers - many new positions have been put in place. Ministry removed speech pathologists from the funding (we shifted operating funds into classroom enhancement funds)

Significant increases in the EA category. Some temp positions are becoming more permanent.

Indigenous Education Success Coach - to reflect that we had 0.5 Ind Ed in the operating budget. We have moved the entire position into the operating budget; therefore, freeing up some targeted funds. We are having some trouble hiring for this position, as it is a temporary role. We are considering it into a permanent role. This student support is important.

A question was asked about P/VP Student Services = Beth-Anne (should it be labelled temporary?) This is 0.7 FTE. 0.3FTE comes from Mental Health Special Purpose funding.

A question was asked about Support/Transportation = it is not a reduction of any position, but it is an adjustment for unfilled positions (we did not have enough drivers)

P. 8 Prior year's surplus with a few changes in local capital (reduction in ITA grants). We are starting to replace more computers again. Some of our previously purchased computers still have more life left. Student laptops get used/abused more and need replacing. Previously, computers were being recorded as an operating lease. Now, based on the recommendation from the auditors, we are allocating them under local capital. Funds received are reported under local capital.

A question was asked about PD & Travel - Early Career Mentorship for teachers funding carried over from last year.

A question was asked if an increase in international recruiting expenses is expected post-Covid? Most likely. We have put a cap on international students a few years ago. We would like to stay at the 150 number.

P.9 Summary of the overall budget

Mental Health - received an additional 70,000. Received additional restart (BSW) resources. The Classroom Enhancement Fund is up significantly. The Ministry does not include remedy in their preliminary budget but pays it out in the amended budget, which accounts for a significant swing in value.

P. 10 Local Capital Summary

P. 11 We are projecting a surplus of just under a million dollars. P.11 is a fluid document, an attempt by Staff to allocate the available resources. K-6 Indigenous student success advocate is funded by targeted funds, but if changed to a permanent position, it will need to be covered by the operating surplus.

We have identified the need to expand our bus fleet. We may need to fund it now. Any future buses may be funded by the Ministry. We have 4 small buses currently. We have 2 that are old but are used as spares. \$75,000 is a low estimate for a special ed bus (\$100,000 would be more accurate, plus wage of the bus driver etc). Electric special ed bus costs about 2x more. There may be some funding available. Staff will inquire. A clarification was provided, that we budget for the bus driver after we are sure we will get the bus.

A question was asked about technology - we are getting an IT presentation in February - are these only computers or something else? \$20,000/yr is a recurring cost (loan financing). We are doing a review of technology services. Senior staff are meeting next week. We may put more funds into software updates. Additional IT tech support positions will be considered for the budget for next year.

A question was asked about Student Services settlement worker/navigator - to support students new to the district/Mission/Canada, helping people get settled, connect them to community supports. International Ed: EAs instead of supporting only students have been supporting parents. This position has been a liaison for the whole family.

Safe schools liaison - we would like to have 2 people, for middle and secondary level. Constable Robinson has seen changes in the community and increased drug use. This Liaison should be a young person who relates to kids, to get an idea of what is going on outside of school. Typically, students get suspended for using drugs at school. We need someone to follow up. We have someone from Fraser house who spends time at the school. They also support attendance (going after chronic non-attenders). 1 for middle school, 1 for MSS and Fraserview.

A question was asked about the order of importance of the items on the wish list.

A question was asked if the Finance Manager could be classified as a support position: we would have challenges hiring someone with the right

expertise. Other school districts have a Finance / Budget Manager. We need to do internal audits, and it is difficult from a CUPE perspective. We need a bit more management authority.

Trustees would like to see a cost projection for a Special Ed electric bus, based on the policy recently passed.

A support/Youth Care Worker would be a person connected to the kids. The whole idea is to be proactive... not reactive. To stop the drug use or get ahead of it.

The Secretary-Treasurer indicated that \$200,000 should be put aside for a portable, as we will likely need to add one in September.

The dust collector system at Riverside is creating issues and the cost is significant. Carpentry should be moved to Ferndale, and we can redesign the space after. Not sure if the facility will ever be up to the ITA standards.

PA/phone system is a priority for principals and is part of safety. (high priority)

Safe Schools Liaison (\$100,000 on a continuing basis. May not be as much this year) (high priority)

K-6 Indigenous support advocate needs to be prioritized and changed to a permanent position.

The Settlement/navigator can be moved into next year's budget (Staff/Board would like more information)

Riverside expansion should be deferred to 2023, maybe even 2024 budget. The safety of students is a concern, as there is not enough space.

IT, additional security support 2023

Finance Manager - prioritized for this budget (not at the full amount, as most of the year is gone).

The Secretary-Treasurer would like to bring an updated report back on February 8, 2022.

Bus Predictive STOP arm camera for buses was discussed. There was a report on 9 tickets issued for cars driving by a stopped bus. Four of the five trustees believe funds should be allocated for this upgrade to prevent future accidents.

Trustees would like PA systems, Safe Schools Liaison, Dust Collector, K-6 Indigenous Success coach, Finance Manager prioritized in groups.

A comment was made that recurring expenses should go to the preliminary budget.

The Board Chair would like to close the year off and reminded attendees that very thorough reporting has been requested. The Board would like to hear from partners on what their priorities are.

The Secretary-Treasurer would like to prepare a 1-page summary of the realistic budget for next week's Committee of the Whole and would like to get the budget approved by February 15, 2022.

7. **NEW BUSINESS**
8. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**
9. **INFORMATION ITEMS**
10. **ADJOURNMENT**

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 pm.

Original signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Original signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
February 15, 2022 at the Public
Board of Education meeting.