

Committee of the Whole Meeting

June 6, 2017 1:00 pm

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

Members Present:

Chair Tracy Loffler
Trustee Rick McKamey
Trustee Randy Cairns
Trustee Jim Taylor

Staff Present:

Superintendent Angus Wilson
Secretary Treasurer Corien Becker
Assistant Superintendent Larry Jepsen
Assistant Secretary Treasurer Derek Welsh
Director Student Services,Carolynn Schmor
District Principal Technology and Innovation, Colleen Hannah
District Principal, Aboriginal Education, Joe Heslip
Executive Assistant Tracy Orobko

Absent: Trustee Shelley Carter

Partner Groups Present:

DPAC: Cyndi Polovina, Laura Wilson
MTU: Amber Chung
PVPA: Brian Barber

Regrets: Trustee Shelley Carter

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.

2. Adoption of Agenda

Three Additions:

- 6.1 Riverside Electrical and Budget Implications –
- 6.2 French Immersion Balance and Cross Boundary
- 6.3 Trustee Public Communications

A concern was raised regarding the solar array item and the motion was read from the January 2017 Public Board meeting where Board gave Staff direction: ***THAT the purchase and installation of an initial solar photovoltaic electrical generation system be approved; AND THAT the Board of Education direct the Secretary Treasurer to include a line in the budget from the 2016/2017 amended budget and/or the 2017/2018 budget.*** From the motion passed there was an assumption that 1) the Board said it will purchase a solar array; 2) will be in either this budget or 2016/2017 amended budget.

The Secretary Treasurer indicated that whatever the committee moves forward to the Board, it is still the Board's decision. The Committee of the Whole makes recommendations to the Board; not decisions. All expenditures are approved with the budget. If recommendation(s) cross over to a new Board, the new Board has to have the ability to modify and adopt a budget. At this point, the motion is not in the budget – it is 'not law'. The Board always has the ability to address issues affecting circumstances.

Concerns were raised around process. Objection was expressed that solar arrays are to be included in the 'want list' of budget items as they had already been approved by the Board.

This is a body to make a recommendation to the Board.

The Board ensures monies are spent to the best ability for the best interests of the School District. Gives opportunity for discussion. At the next public Board meeting (June 20), the Board will move into passing the budget for 2017/18 and will make that decision as a Board of five. Options are available to ensure it maintains fiduciary responsibility.

Comments included:

- External factors beyond the School District's control (ie: Collective Agreements);
- List of items on the original draft budget - are discretionary and were highlighted;
- End of the day, this is the Board's budget and Trustees direct what is in/out;
- Ultimately the Board's decision.

There was strong objection to solar array's inclusion in the Budget presented for consideration.

The Committee reached agreement to move the solar arrays item from the budget line for consideration to be included in the budget, at a cost of \$55,000.

The Committee Chair introduced Aleksandra Zwierzchowska, Executive Assistant to the Board of Education, Secretary Treasurer and Superintendent of Schools. Aleksandra will be assisting while Tracy Orobko moves into the Human Resources department on a temporary basis.

**MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as amended.
CARRIED**

3. Delegations/Presentations

4. Unfinished Business

5. Staff Reports

5.1 Halq'emeylem Teachers Information

The Superintendent provided overview of indigenous references. In particular language instruction. Referred to the report in the Agenda and opened the floor to questions.

Discussion ensued regarding the hiring of aboriginal language teachers, risk of losing existing students, culture, learning ability/opportunity. This course will bring comfort to our aboriginal kids allowing them to be in/out of classroom in their own communities.

Questions were asked regarding salaries.

Clarification was made to the positions. HMS .2 FTE Halq'emeylem for Deroche: 7 blocks - should be .714.

Discussion ensued around Halq'emeylem teachings and teacher time. Comparisons to French, Spanish classes were made. All Gr. 7 students would be exposed to the language. Language and culture is the key. The District Principal, Aboriginal Education thanked the committee for the interest in this conversation. There are two teachers with the ability to reach out to other districts already introducing these programs.

Concerns were raised around students continuing with the language at secondary level. This is not an immersive program. There is always vulnerability.

Looking at adding two teachers is a significant commitment and is in the spirit of the committee of the whole.

5.2 Student Input – Budget Feedback

The Superintendent has not yet received written feedback. When he attended the MSS leadership class, students provided their thoughts. Approximation as he heard it:

- Computers and computer technology, wireless;
- Experiential learning – field trips;
- Books – fiction esp. at secondary level; middle schools are great; secondary not;
- “Non-regular sports equipment” – not soccer, football, floor hockey (Physical ed.) – ‘different things to do’;
- Support levels for middle school for academics;
- Support for elementary students – counseling behavioural support; and
- Smaller class sizes at elementary to provide more academic support for students.

Next year, would like to start engaging students earlier, and at the middle school level.

5.3 2017-2018 Preliminary Budget

The Secretary Treasurer introduced three options. Trustee Cairns provided a handout reflecting a fourth option.

It was proposed to look at the larger items first and prioritizing.

Clarification was made around technology infrastructure. The foundation investment of \$500K is required for the work to be performed over the summer months.

Question: Is there always a surplus at amended budget? Response: No. Not always. Just to replace what we currently have: \$2.2 million.

Clarification was provided regarding facilities enhancements. The amended budget included \$175K to address backlog of work orders. It is still not addressing school demands. The current maintenance budget does not include all improvements. There are also unknown factors such as depreciation.

Ministry is proposing policy regarding contingency funds / reserves and determining suitable amounts.

There was support for a phased in move of contingency funds.

If the Board does not set aside \$500K in the budget, I.T. work will not happen over summer. Discussion ensued around purchase vs. leasing.

It was posed for the committee to consider its commitment to technology and the organization. If it is a minimalist tool, then purchase and not replace for 10 years: Security risks. Either we invest in technology and improve, or maintain status quo. The Secretary Treasurer is in favour of leasing right now as the system is in dire need of repair or replacement.

Question: If we were to lease, can we wait for part until we get to January or February and pull from contingency or go with amended budget? Response: It is about \$365K to kick off leasing plan. We could defer the next part until after the amended budget is done. This does not change the fact that we need \$500K to start the infrastructure part.

If we enter lease agreements for the next three years, we would be committed financially.

Discussion ensued around the disposal of two properties. Sales from properties could be put back into local capital.

There is no legal requirement to have a contingency fund at this time. It is suggested from the Ministry that Boards consider having one but not a legal requirement. Conservatism comes in to protect against deficits. A proposal was put forward to pull funds from contingency to start the technology process with agreement to repay.

The committee agreed to work with Option 1 which includes already pulling \$100K out of contingency.

Classroom enhancement fund of \$400K is still unknown.

Agree to not pull white fleet from contingency and defer to amended budget discussion.

Facilities equipment – some will be required to assist with the move of facilities to Ferndale. Balance deferred to amended budget. The Secretary Treasurer proposed to do a partial: \$60K

Temporary District Admin. for Recruitment – SD has applied for funding to partly assist with this. Agreed to move \$40K (of the \$80K) for recruitment to the amended budget.

An estimate for remedies is already included in the budget. Classroom enhancement fund \$4.5 million for all new hires for class composition and size. The district has submitted a report to the Ministry. Based on preliminary math, it was included in that fund.

Today 17 TOCs shortages in the district. It is not uncommon for Principals/VPs to be in classrooms 2 – 3 days/week. Worry about wellness of the group. Emergent situations; stress is now the #1 cause of health concerns.

Supreme Court decision affects: 30 more classrooms; 60 more people coming into our system. Support teachers, EAs for the classrooms.

Agreed to reduce Facility Enhancements from \$150K to \$49K.

<u>The following items are to be included in the budget bylaw:</u>	Amount
Technology plan	500,000
Halq'emeylem teachers at HMS/HPMS (2 FTE)	187,500
Temporary district admin for recruiting	40,000
DP ABED to Operating (3 yr transition?)	45,000
International EA at MSS (1 FTE)	38,000
Speech/language pathologist assistant	38,000
Youth care workers - 30 to 35 hrs for 4 FTE	20,000
Program for hungry children (Deroche/Chehalis)	10,000
LGBTQ2S community needs	10,000
Additional contract occupational therapist time (.1 FTE)	10,000
Dewdney Renovations	30,000
Facilities Equipment	60,000
Facility Enhancement	49,000
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	1,037,500

Funding Available for Allocation	<u>837,391</u>
Shortage	<u>(200,109)</u>

The following items are to be deferred to consider with the amended budget discussion:

Facility Enhancements	100,000
Facilities Equipment	15,000
White Fleet	60,000
Temporary Recruiting	40,000

The Budget Bylaw will be presented at the June 13th Committee of the Whole meeting.

6. New Business

6.1 Riverside Electrical Program

Concerns were raised regarding the site for the program.

The Superintendent reported on discussions held with the Director of Facilities. It is easier to last forever at Hatzic Middle. Estimated costs incurred to move equipment at the Hatzic Middle School site back to an automotive shop from the electrical program, would be \$100K.

Discussion ensued on Riverside Electrical and facilities costs/expenses and efficiencies. Staff is waiting for details of a potential move to Hatzic Middle and how it will be funded. Potentially a \$50K lease debt.

6.2 French Immersion Balance and Cross Boundary

Concerned that families are finding loopholes to enter either schools. The School District has sibling clauses. Discussion ensued around past and current policy and each school's culture and the need for equalization.

6.3 Trustee Public Communications

All parents, students, staff have the ability to speak with Trustees at any time with no negative consequences.

7. Minutes of Previous Meetings

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes dated May 23, 2017 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

MOVED and Seconded that the Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes dated May 30, 2017 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

8. Information Items

Reminder of the Special Committee of the Whole meeting scheduled for this evening at Fraserview Learning Centre at 6:00 pm.

9. Adjournment

Minutes



**Moved and Seconded to adjourn the meeting.
CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 3:45 pm.

Chairperson

Secretary Treasurer