

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

February 4, 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
Assistant Secretary Treasurer, Derek Welsh
Director of Student Services Carolynn Schmor
Acting District Principal of Aboriginal Education, Vivian Searwar
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.

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

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

3. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

3.1 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

MOVED and Seconded that the Board direct Staff to prepare the Amended Budget Bylaw to include the identified cost savings items less the salary of AB ED PVP;

and include the savings amounts for Uncommitted Local Capital, Substitute Costs, SOGI, and ELL Program.

CARRIED

The Secretary Treasurer mentioned that since the last meeting (January 28, 2020) additional information was requested regarding the Indigenous Education Program and the International Education Program. This information is included in the agenda package. An additional handout was distributed regarding 2019-20 Aboriginal Education Program Costs vs Budget.

A separate request was provided by CUPE requesting a list of contracted services. The School District has many small contracts and this information will take some time to collect.

The International Program Contribution vs Budget is dated fiscal year to December 2019. A question was asked about the position of the International Department in June/ July 2020. Staff will have to prepare a schedule for a future meeting.

A discussion ensued regarding the salary of AB ED PVP positions coming out of targeted funding. The School District moved away from using targeted funding for these positions. If the funds came out of targeted funding it would negatively impact AB ED students. The Secretary Treasurer advised that this was only a suggestion and the amount can be removed off the cost savings list. In doing that, the remaining balance would come from Local Capital.

This item will be discussed at the next Aboriginal Advisory Council Gathering.

A comment was provided regarding exempt staff positions/ hours. The Secretary Treasurer is working on a formula to determine what needs to be considered for admin supports. This mechanism will demonstrate where some changes can be considered.

A question was asked about the SD purchasing or leasing photocopiers. All photocopiers are currently owned. For the renewal, the SD would need to lease.

A discussion ensued regarding MTU's Report on School District #75 Deficit and how some of the suggestions can assist with cost savings. For

example, eliminating colour photocopies, adjusting the mileage reimbursement, and considering in-house arbitration and investigations at the School level.

A question was asked about the Cost Savings listed for Supplies/ Services for Summit & Riverside. For Summit, the savings are related to the Arts Smarts Program. For Riverside, there will be a reduction in the School's Supplies Budget by 15%.

The School District needs to control spending between now and June 2020. The Budget By-law needs to be adopted for February 28, 2020. Decisions and direction need to be provided to meet the needs of the amended budget by-law.

Another motion can be prepared for the Public meeting for cost savings and further reduction on SD spending.

Moving forward updates will be provided at upcoming meetings regarding the financial position of the budget. Another meeting has been scheduled for February 11, 2020 at 4:00 pm to review the Budget Bylaw.

4. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

4.1 Special Committee of the Whole Meeting Minutes, January 28, 2020

An amendment was requested to revise the statement provided by Trustee Renkema regarding her budget concerns. The statement captured in the minutes didn't reflect the essence of what was stated.

Amended statement to read, "Trustee Renkema stated that the concerns she expressed over the last year about the weakening financial state of the School District have been mostly ignored. She requested that, going forward, the Board and Senior Staff work more closely together to find a way out of this downward trend and take ongoing steps to monitor the financial health of the School District."

The January 28, 2020 minutes are to be amended and returned to the Board for approval on February 11, 2020.

Trustee Cairns commented on the original statement outlined on page 14 of the agenda package regarding the January 28th minutes, "Not sure what is meant by the statement. In my view the Board works closely with Staff. The Board requests information and Staff are proactive in providing information of any issues we should have concerns about."

5. ADJOURNMENT

MOVED and Seconded that the Board adjourn the meeting.

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 2:37 pm.

Original signed by T. Loffler

Original signed by C. Becker

Chair, Board of Education

Secretary Treasurer

The minutes were approved on April 7, 2020 at the Regular Committee of the Whole meeting.