

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

**January 26, 2021, 3:30 pm
Zoom Meeting**

- Members Present:** Board Chair, Tracy Loffler
School Trustee, Randy Cairns
Trustee, Rick McKamey
Trustee, Julia Renkema
- Members Absent:** Vice-Chair, Shelley Carter
- Staff Present:** Secretary-Treasurer, Corien Becker
Superintendent of Schools, Angus Wilson
Executive Assistant, Aleksandra Crescenzo (Recorder)
Director of Student Services Carolynn Schmor
Assistant Superintendent, Karen Alvarez
District Principal of Indigenous Education, Vivian Searwar
District Principal of International Education, Collen Hannah
Executive Assistant, Ilona Schmidt (Recorder)
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Derek Welsh
- Others Present:** MTU President - Ryan McCarty, DPAC Representatives - Cheryl Blondin and Jacquelyn Wickham, MSS PAC- Dionne Hairsine, CUPE President - Faye Howell, Principal of Hillside Traditional - Linda Hamel, Teacher - Angie Bout, and Teacher, Janise Nikolic.

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'èwlets, Kwantlen, and Matsqui First Nations.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED and Seconded that the Agenda be adopted as presented.

CARRIED

The Chair shared regrets on behalf of Vice-Chair, Trustee Carter who was unable to attend tonight's meeting.

3. **STAFF DELEGATIONS/PRESENTATIONS**
4. **CURRICULUM**
5. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**
6. **STAFF REPORTS**

6.1 2020/2021 Amended Budget

The Secretary-Treasurer (S-T) and the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer (AS-T) provided preliminary graphs, information, and summaries for the amended budget. Enrolment Trends in Regular Schools, Indigenous Education, International, English Language Learning, Distributed Learning, and Special Needs were discussed.

A question was asked about the level of funding that generates the most funding? Level 1 is the highest level of funding.

The AS-T provided an overview of the 2020-21 Amended Budget and compared the budget to last year.

A question was asked about the Net Operating Deficit of \$745,748. \$452,158 was taken from restricted surplus.

A question was asked about the COVID Relief funds. The S-T indicated we received the provincial funding and one installment of the federal funding. Another \$1.2 million has not been received yet. The S-T is not comfortable finalizing the budget without confirmation that these funds will be received. We do not have much in reserves. If the funds do not come in, a new discussion will follow.

A question was asked if funding is not received are cuts to the day custodian postings foreseen? No, the extra funding would cover additional EAs, LSTs.

The S-T explained that the two funding buckets come with provincial restrictions. They are targeted to cover BSWs, cleaning costs, or technology. Federal funding is larger and less restrictive.

A question was asked about an increased amount per ELL student? This increase from enrollment was budgeted for. More ELL students come with a larger expense.

A question was asked about an adjustment on international tuition and if the planned 25 students in January arrived? The District Principal of International Education shared that 65 - 68 students arrived. Students are still trickling in. The SD is placing students one at a time. Revenue is only recognized between now and June 30, and the balance it recognized next year, as deferred revenue.

A question was asked about Clarke Theatre and a \$35,000 decrease in revenue. The District of Mission is now overseeing the operations of the theatre.

A question was asked about the tuition of an International Student if they abruptly go home. The school district keeps the tuition when students withdraw, as teacher's wages were already paid. The School District refunds the homestay amount only, as that is not part of the budget.

With the travel ban, will there be any consideration in reducing the International budget? There will be changes to the next version of the budget.

A comment was provided about the FTE change for Facilities of \$188,300. This is a decrease in operating expenses on the support line from reduced BSW costs. It's been a struggle to hire enough BSWs. The struggle still continues as we cannot get enough BSWs hired.

A comment was provided about holes in hiring and that the school district is down a carpenter and several secretaries. Clarification was provided that the budget reflects/ includes the costs for postings that are posted.

What is happening with the Special Language Pathologist posting? The school district has not been able to fill the position. The Director of Student Services is looking at different ways to fill the gap.

Has the school district received the funding for two new buses for the fleet? Yes, they are in use and paid for.

A question was asked about the photocopiers. 85-90% of the photocopiers have been purchased. There are a few more to purchase, but we can still use some of the RICOH machines while they still function.

A question was asked about the expense for Mt Cavalry Church. This is the school district's portion of repaving the parking lot. It is part of the original agreement for use of the shared parking lot.

A question was asked about families signing up at Summit and switching to homeschooling. There is not much change based on movement. Homeschoolers increased, but if they return to regular schools, the school district is expected to see a positive swing in funding next year.

The S-T requested input on how to proceed with the amended budget and recommended setting aside a contingency. Additionally, there are capital items on the list we cannot postpone any longer (grounds mower needs to be replaced).

Trustees agreed that the Board should not rely on surpluses and asked to locate and identify efficiencies in spending. Other items that were requested for the amended budget include:

- Increasing local capital to address the purchase of items like the grounds mower,
- setting aside a contingency,
- funding for replacing student furniture, and
- the possibility of increasing the number of grounds positions.

The Board requested that partner groups send an email to the Board with a list of immediate needs to be considered for the amended budget.

Another Special Committee of the Whole Meeting is scheduled for February 23, 2021, to discuss the amended budget. A special Board Meeting is required before February 26th to pass the Bylaw.

A question was posted in the chat asking about increasing the Teacher-Librarian support. The Secretary-Treasurer confirmed this is already being discussed for next year's budget.

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 5:06 pm.

Signed by T. Loffler

Chair, Board of Education

Signed by C. Becker

Secretary-Treasurer

The minutes were approved on
March 2, 2021 at the Public
Committee of the Whole meeting.