

**BOARD OF EDUCATION
SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 78 (FRASER-CASCADE)
MINUTES OF THE BUDGET ADVISORY
COMMITTEE MEETING
April 12, 2021
Via Zoom Conference Call**

PRESENT:

Board - Committee Members:

Linda Kerr	Trustee	Chair
Cathy Speth	Trustee	
Ron Johnstone	Trustee	

Representatives:

Bruce Becker	Principal	FCPVPA
Greg Lawley	Principal	FCPVPA
Aaron Poulin	Teacher	FCTA
Lynne Marvell	President	FCTA

Staff:

Balan Moorthy	Superintendent
Natalie Lowe	Secretary-Treasurer
Renge Bailie	Assistant Superintendent
Jenny Veenbaas	Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Laurie Bjorge	Recording Secretary

Regrets:

Cheryl Davidson	Representative	IEC
Vacant	Representative	IEC
Vacant	Representative	DPAC
Vacant	Representative	DPAC
Vacant	Representative	CMAWBC
Vacant	Representative	CMAWBC
Vacant	Representative	Student

1. Call to Order and Acknowledgement

Trustee Kerr called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. via Zoom conference call and acknowledged that the meeting was being held on the traditional ancestral and unceded shared territories of the Cheam, Sts'ailes, Sq'ewlets, Seabird Island, Nlaka'pamux, and the Chawathil people.

2. Approval of Agenda – April 12, 2021

BECKER/JOHNSTONE

THAT the Agenda be approved as presented.

Carried

3. Approval of Minutes – January 11, 2021

BECKER/MARVELL

THAT the Minutes of the Budget Advisory Committee meeting held on January 11, 2021 be approved as presented.

Carried

4. Preliminary 2021-2022 Budget

The Secretary-Treasurer reviewed the budget cycle dates. The approved budget is due to the Ministry June 30, 2021.

The BC government is providing an additional \$260 million in operating grants over the December 2020 announcement. This increase in funding is due to the anticipated increase of 2000 students as well as labour settlement costs. The MOE is increasing the basic student allocation for standard, alternate and continuing education by 4.3%; \$37.3 million is being added for Inclusive Education (previously known as Special Education); \$4.26 million is in Indigenous Education supplement; and \$4.48 million is added for ELL and FLL.

The MOE operating budget has increased primarily to cover the additional enrolment and meet existing class size and composition requirements. The government has been making an historical investment in capital which has increased the capital budget to \$2.43 billion to date. Our district is hoping to see a portion of that money in way of a new school.

Budget cost pressures include the carbon tax increase of \$15 per ton since April 2019 to \$50 per ton in April 2021. This will cost the district an anticipated additional \$10,000 per year.

The district has been diligent in using school enhancement and carbon neutral funds to reduce the utility and operating costs which means that this increase may be offset somewhat by a reduced carbon footprint and reduced utility costs. All district facilities have had LED lighting and boiler upgrades. The district has not had to increase the utility budget in years and have not gone over budget even with increasing costs for gas and electricity.

Enrolment projections for the district are conservative. Although the district anticipated increase, this past year was not a good indicator because of Covid. Next year the district expects more of an increase than projected; it is easier to build into the budget in the fall, than to take away.

School District No.78
Enrolment Report - Sept 30
1701 - FTE

School Name	Anticipated				
	2021/22	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19	2017/18
Agassiz Centre for Education	8	8	18	16	20
Agassiz Elem Secondary	324.19	314.75	311.25	328.375	305.625
Boston Bar Elem Secondary	60.875	58.875	49.75	56	55.375
Continuing Education	0.25	0.25	1.25	2.125	5.63
Coquihalla Elementary	311	305	340	363	355
Harrison Hot Springs Elementary	108	103	104	101	103
Hope Secondary	363.01	352.875	370.9375	372.4375	359.875
Kent Elementary	265	297	283	293	279
Q'aLaTKu7eM	10	11	8	11	
Silver Creek Elementary	136	137	141	148	137
Two Rivers Education Centre	61	51	53	50	49.76
	1647.325	1638.75	1680.1875	1740.9375	1670.26

For the first time, the IEC will receive just over a \$1 million budget. This means that the expectation from the Ministry is to spend a million dollars in that targeted funding on indigenous support that would be outside of the regular kind of education costs that would normally be supplied to these students.

Fortunately some of the maintenance labour costs were built into the capital budget as they were responsible for quite a bit of the annual facility grant work and capital projects. This will assist the district with trying to stay within the budget for this year and hope to see similar ways of achieving some savings in the future

Inflation continues to be a factor in budgeting as we see increasing costs across the board. Government is charging more in carbon tax and MSP employer tax is a larger burden than just the premium costs were. The new funding formula is not as responsive to changes in enrolment as there is a larger fixed component in the formula than used to exist.

To ensure equity across all schools and students are properly resourced, this year the district is beginning the process of centralizing the inclusive education teachers to better be able to manage staff and ensure that the staff are deployed where required. The district is hiring 15.3 CEF staff, including librarians and counsellor.

The District has a full complement of trades people now including an electrician, carpenter, plumber and HVAC trades person. A portion of their salary will be covered by the in-house capital work we will be able to undertake using our capital project funding.

The District continues to be conservative in budget approach to try to ensure that the impact of the changes in funding and costs do not mean any major cuts. The district maintains a reserve of approximately \$4.6 million, which is used to balance the budget. The district has approved a surplus policy to help guide the Board in their future decision making. The district will also put

some rules in place regarding the budget committee's role as an audit committee. KPMG remain as the district's auditors for another year.

There is intention to have Summer School this year. The enrolment will be submitted through the July 1701, and the MOE will fund based on those numbers.

SPETH/MARVELL

THAT the proposed preliminary 2021/2022 budget be forwarded to the Board of Education for first reading as presented.

Carried

Adjournment

/SPETH

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 5:45 p.m.

Carried

Notice of Next Meeting:

May 10, 2021

Via Zoom Conference Call