

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance and Legal Committee DATE: January 18, 2012

CHAIRPERSON: Trustee M. Pendharkar

STAFF CONTACT: L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer
E. Sadlowski, Director of Finance

Attendees:

Board of Education:

Trustee M. Pendharkar (Acting Chairperson)

Trustee J. Fraser (Committee Member)

Trustee C. Gorman (Committee Member) (*via teleconference*)

Trustee J. Brinkerhoff

Trustee D. Butler

Staff:

H. Gloster, Superintendent

T. Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent

L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer

E. Sadlowski, Director of Finance

B. Bertram, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Group Representation:

COPAC	No representative
COTA	Susan Bauhart, 1 st Vice-President
COPVPA	No representative - regrets sent
CUPE	No representative
District Student Council	No representative

Agenda - Additions/Amendments/Deletions

January 18, 2012 Committee Agenda - approved as presented.

Reports/Matters Arising

November 16, 2011 Committee Report - Received.

Recognition/Presentations/Delegations

1. Introduction to the School District No. 23 Budget and Its Development Process

The Director of Finance provided an overview of the demographics of the district as a whole as well as the financial functions of the Board of Education, which include budgeting (a financial reflection of the district's educational mission and goals), accounting (fiscal accountability) and auditing (both internal and external to ensure accuracy). Funding was reviewed for unique student needs categories, including English as a Second Language, Aboriginal Education, Special Education, French Immersion and International Education. The annual budget cycle was reviewed. Budget consultation for the 2012/2013 school year will take place from February - April. Staffing decisions are finalized in April and are based on projected enrolment for the coming school year. The Ministry funding for next year will be announced in mid-March.

The district is anticipating that 330 (approximately 200 F.T.E.) International Education students will attend School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) during the 2011/2012 school year. Tuition costs vary depending on the length of stay and program offered; however, for those students who are full-time, tuition costs are approximately \$11,500 per student. School District No. 23 has placed a cap on international student enrolment at 1% of the total student F.T.E. population. Trustees requested information regarding classroom space availability with over 300 additional International Education students. The Secretary-Treasurer advised that the Ministry of Education requires that space analysis must be provided without the inclusion of International Education student population numbers.

Committee members discussed the district's declaration of surplus funding which includes designated funding areas, e.g. Aboriginal Education, which carries forward each year if not spent, and can only be used for that particular program.

The Director of Finance provided information on school-based management of funds which provides schools with a funding formula based on enrolment at individual schools. School administrators then decide how they wish to spend their funding allotment each year. Committee members requested further clarification on the funding difference between schools with a smaller enrolment versus schools with a larger student population, who may be able to provide their students with more advantages due to increased enrolment funding. The Director of Finance advised that all facility and district overhead costs are carried at the district level and are not passed on to the school; therefore, funding is equalized per student enrolment. Smaller school enrolment has an adjusted formula which recognizes the minimum amount required to operate a school. The district also has a technology refresh four-year cycle for all schools that is funded at the district level.

The Director of Finance reviewed revisions to the Ministry funding formula which include new funding for vulnerable students, as well as a student location grant which will replace the transportation grant. Also, for declining districts, funding protection will change from a maximum of 100% of the previous year's funding to a maximum of 98.5% of the previous year's funding. Short-term enrolment projections are stable in the short term; however, by 2020 it is anticipated that student enrolment will have increased by over 2,000 students. The district is also anticipating that Kindergarten enrolment will increase, while middle and senior secondary enrolment will decrease over the next few years.

Committee members thanked the Director of Finance for the budget overview.

Meeting Schedule

February 15, 2012	April 4, 2012	April 18, 2012	May 16, 2012	June 20, 2012
September 19, 2012	October 17, 2012	November 21, 2012		

Questions – Please Contact:

Trustee Murli Pendharkar, Acting Chairperson	Phone: (250) 765-2842	email: mpendhar@sd23.bc.ca
Larry Paul, Secretary-Treasurer	Phone: (250) 470-3216	email: lpaul@sd23.bc.ca
Eileen Sadlowski, Director of Finance	Phone: (250) 470-3224	email: esadlows@sd23.bc.ca

M. Pendharkar, Acting Chairperson