

## SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance and Legal Committee DATE: April 1, 2009

CHAIRPERSON: Trustee G. Given STAFF CONTACT: L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer  
E. Sadlowski, Director of Finance

### **Attendees:**

Trustee G. Given (Chairperson)	Staff:
Trustee G. Scanlan (Committee Member)	M. Roberts, Superintendent
Trustee J. Watson (Committee Member)	L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer
Trustee R. Cacchioni	E. Sadlowski, Director of Finance
Trustee W. Horning	M. Essler, Executive Assistant (Recorder)
Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley	

### **Partner Group Representation:**

COPAC	Shelley Nicholl, Vice-President
COTA	Tom Potts, President
COPVPA	Scott Sieben, Executive Member (arrived at 1:40)
CUPE	Bill Zeman, President
DSC	No representative

### **Information Items**

#### **1. Superintendent's 2009/2010 District Budget Recommendations**

(attachment)

The Superintendent reviewed his 2009/2010 District Budget Recommendations. Although School District No. 23 will be receiving an additional \$5,000,000 in operating grant funding, the cost to maintain the current programs, personnel, resources and materials will be approximately \$8,000,000. Therefore, in order to obtain a balanced budget for 2009/2010, as required by law, School District No. 23 will have to scale back or eliminate a number of programs, resources, positions and purchases totalling \$3,000,000. The Superintendent's budget recommendations are based on the premise that the core education services to students comes first.

The Superintendent reviewed the recommended expense reductions in specified areas:

##### 1. Reduction in allocation of HRES/District technology - \$400,000

The budget for HRES/District technology is currently \$7,000,000+, which includes the technology refresh program, curriculum resource center and various positions at HRES. This budget does not include Student Support Services, Career Prep or the educational coordinators at HRES. The reduction in technology could include the replacement of laptops every four years rather than every three years which is the current practice.

##### 2. Reduction in allocation to District busing - \$1,000,000

- *establishment of broad-based user pay busing for all students*

The District is currently operating transportation at a \$1,200,000 shortfall. With 6,000 students, including courtesy riders, currently registered for transportation, a fee of \$20.00 per month per student would provide \$1,200,000 in revenue to cover the current shortfall. Only \$1,000,000 is indicated in the budget recommendations to provide \$200,000 for unrecoverable fees and/or administration expenses. In the event Trustees do not approve the \$1,000,000 recommendation for user pay busing, the \$1,000,000 would have to be applied towards the reduction of expenses in another area. If the user pay busing is approved, there would be no more buses or routes added. The recommendation is only to maintain the current bus routes. Parents would be advised via letter by the end of May, or early June, of the changes to the busing system. If approved, staff will prepare a draft Policy for User Pay Busing.

3. Reduction of allocation to School Based Funding – Secondary Schools - \$600,000  
Secondary Schools are currently funded according to their student enrolment as of September 30. At the secondary school level, throughout the school year the student enrolment continues to decline. An average of the decline in the number of students at each school over a five year period has been determined. There can only be a reduction in School Based Funding at the Secondary level as the class size averages at the elementary and middle school level are very close to the provincial maximums allowed.
4. Elimination of TOC coverage for non-enrolling teachers - \$200,000  
Non-enrolling teachers include career prep, counselors, learning assistance and teacher-librarians. If approved, the coverage provided would be reviewed on an individual teacher basis.
5. Reduction of allocation to District Career Programs - \$100,000  
At the District level, these positions include staff at Hollywood Road Education Services and the accounts provided for field trips, equipment, services, and support for career prep program projects. At the school level, this would include the career prep allocations to schools. The Director of Instruction supervising the District Career Programs, has indicated this amount could possibly be achieved through not providing a replacement for a staff member who will be going off on leave midway through the year (\$50,000), and reduction in funds available for equipment/supplies (\$50,000).
6. Reduction of non-enrolling teacher staffing to schools – all levels - \$300,000  
The average cost of a teacher is approximately \$85,000. A reduction of \$300,000 would be the total of three and one-half teaching positions over the entire District. Each school will receive a small reduction in the non-enrolling teacher staffing to their school, to a total of one teaching position at the elementary level, one teaching position at the middle level, and one and a half teaching positions at the secondary level.
7. Reduction of all general budget allocations by up to 1% - \$400,000 to \$1,700,000  
If any of the above recommendations for reduction are not approved by the Board, further reductions would likely be included within this recommendation.

The Superintendent further reviewed the Reductions for Possible Consideration in Future Budget Years and the Operational Changes for 2009/2012.

Tom Potts, President of the Central Okanagan Teachers' Association, provided clarification on their partner group request. COTA's request is to maintain the funding previously provided by the Board for social justice initiatives and teacher mentorship programs. The request for \$9,000 for Vitality Workshop is being requested as the BCTF has offered to cost share this program with 5 school districts in the Province, with School District No. 23 being one of them.

**Outcome:**

The Superintendent's 2009/2010 District Budget Recommendations be forwarded to the Public Board Meeting of April 8, 2009 as an Information Item.

**2. 2009/2010 Ministry Funding Allocation**

(attachment)

The FTE funding level for 2009/2010 remains unchanged from last year at \$5,851 per pupil. The total enrolment based Ministry Funding for 2009/2010 is \$125,301,781 and the total supplementary funding is \$37,943,780, for a total of \$163,245,561.

**Outcome:**

The 2009/2010 Ministry Funding Allocation be forwarded to a Public Board Meeting as an information item.

**3. 2009/2010 School Charges**

(attachment)

The 2009/2010 School Charges are prepared in accordance with Policy 425: Student Fees which requires a presentation to the Board of a standardized schedule of fees for goods, services, deposits and rentals for all students. Staff are recommending no increase in the Optional Activity and Cultural fees for the 2009/2010 school year.

**Outcome:**

The 2009/2010 School Charges be forwarded to a Public Board Meeting as an information item.

**Recommendations/Referrals to the Board/Coordinating Committee/Other Committees**

Public Board Meeting – April 8, 2009

Superintendent's 2009/2010 District Budget Recommendations

2009/2010 Ministry Funding Allocation

2009/2010 School Charges

**Items for Future Finance and Legal Committee Meetings**

- Draft New Policy 208 – Confidential Disclosure: Reporting and Investigating Allegations of Financial Irregularity – *May 2009*
- District Credit Cards – *May 2009*

**Meeting Schedule**

Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

Wednesday, May 20, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.

Wednesday, June 17, 2009 at 6:30 p.m.

**Questions – Please Contact:**

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Gail Given, Chairperson