

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance and Legal Committee DATE: March 31, 2010

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

Attendees:

Trustee G. Given (Chairperson)
Trustee G. Scanlan (Committee Member)
Trustee J. Watson (Committee Member)
Trustee R. Cacchioni
Trustee W. Horning
Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley

Staff:
L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer
H. Gloster, Superintendent
D. Carmichael, Finance Manager
E. Sadlowski, Director of Finance (absent)
M. Essler, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Group Representation:

COPAC	Shelley Nicholl, President Shelley Kvamme-MacDonald, Treasurer
COTA	Michelle Davies, First Vice President
COPVPA	No representative – sent regrets
CUPE	Ryan Miller, Vice President
DSC	Teagan Welch, Executive Member

Report

Trustee Watson requested clarification on the indication in the Report of February 17, 2010 that the Investment Portfolio earned a 9.9% return as of January 31, 2010. The Director of Finance will provide further information in response to Trustee Watson's request at the next Public Finance and Legal Committee Meeting.

Presentation

1. Overview of Budget Allocation

Presenter: Larry Paul, Secretary-Treasurer

The Secretary-Treasurer provided a PowerPoint presentation which included an overview of the 2010/2011 Operating Budget, Budget Shortfalls, Funding Changes, External Cost Pressures, and Cost and Budget Pressures. Included within the Funding Changes is a new Ministry designation of "Transition" which has an effect of reducing funding by \$785,992. The Ministry made a number of formula changes and then negated them by implementing the Transition Grant. The Transition Grant is expected to be phased out over the next three years. The Secretary-Treasurer's PowerPoint presentation will be provided to all partner group representatives.

2. Budget Consultation Input Received

Presenter: Hugh Gloster, Superintendent

The Superintendent provided a PowerPoint presentation. A review of the budget consultation process was discussed including a review of the written responses received from partner groups, and online and written responses received from staff, parent and community members. The number of responses was as follows:

Partner Group Input	
Written responses -	5
Staff Input	
Written responses -	4
Online responses -	49
Parent Input	
Written responses -	1
Online responses	52
Community Member Input	
Online responses -	5

The common themes by each group in response to the questions within the Budget Consultation document were reviewed. Other input received included a focus on revenue generation and where to reduce costs.

The next steps of the Budget Planning Cycle were reviewed which included the Superintendent's Budget Recommendations being first presented to the public at the April 14, 2010 Board Meeting. The discussion and deliberation of the budget will then be conducted at the April 21, 2010 Public Finance and Legal Committee Meeting with the final approval by the Board at the April 28, 2010 Public Board Meeting. The Superintendent's PowerPoint presentation will be provided to all partner group representatives.

3. Public/Partner Group Budget Input

All partner groups and the public were granted an opportunity to provide further input.

Shelley Nicholl, President, COPAC

In summary, the input received from parents for consideration for the upcoming budget include: affordability of the transporting busing fee, increase in revenue generation including increasing targets for enrolment in International Education and opportunities for corporate sponsorship.

Discussions continued on the effects an increase in students in the International Education Department would have including the necessity to provide additional professional development to teachers on ESL, incurring of costs of infrastructure and class sizes.

The Committee also discussed the services that currently generate revenue in School District No. 23.

The Superintendent will be considering all input from the partner groups when preparing his budget recommendations.

Items for Future Finance and Legal Committee Meetings

April 7, 2010

- Clarification on Investment Portfolio earnings from Report of February 17, 2010

Future:

- Amending of Policy 115 – Inaugural and Annual Board Meetings regarding trustee indemnity

Meeting Schedule

Future Finance and Legal Committee Meetings:

Wednesday, April 7, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at School Board Office – **CANCELLED**

Wednesday, April 21, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at School Board Office

Wednesday, May 19, 2010 at 1:00 p.m. at School Board Office

Wednesday, June 16, 2010 at 6:30 p.m. at School Board Office

Questions – Please Contact:

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Gail Given, Chairperson