

## SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance and Legal Committee DATE: April 19, 2006

CHAIRPERSON: Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley STAFF CONTACT: L. Paul  
E. Sadlowski

### Attendees:

Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley (Chairperson)  
Trustee R. Cacchioni (Committee member)  
Trustee C. Wiebe (Committee member)  
Trustee M. Baxter

Staff:  
E. Sadlowski, Director of Finance  
L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer  
M. Roberts, Director of Instruction – Human Resources  
M. Essler, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

### Partner Group Representation:

COPAC	Valerie Broman, President	COTA	Bob Shanks, President
COPVPA	No Representative	CUPE	Robbie Borden (arrived at 6:42)
DSC	No Representative		

### Minutes

*Note: Detailed Minutes of the Committee meetings are available upon request. To obtain copies of Minutes of the Finance and Legal Services Committee Meetings, please phone the office of the Secretary-Treasurer at 470-3216.*

The Committee adopted the Minutes of the March 2, 2006 meeting.

### Presentation:

#### **Rob Mitchell – Upper Mission Elementary Community School**

Rob Mitchell made a presentation to the Committee respecting the position of Mission residents on the need for the construction of an elementary school in the upper Mission. Mr. Mitchell indicated the residents have three main goals: (1) to have the school approval announced, (2) to have the school as a community facility, and (3) to have the school built by 2008. The Committee discussed school property sites in the upper Mission area.

#### **Outcome:**

**THAT: The Committee receive with thanks the presentation of Rob Mitchell on the Upper Mission Elementary Community School, as presented at the April 19, 2006 Public Finance and Legal Committee Meeting.**

### Action Items:

#### **1. Superintendent's Expenditure Recommendation Overview**

Eileen Sadlowski, Director of Finance, provided the Committee with an overview of how the Operating Budget is calculated for the upcoming year.

All previously approved staffing levels and services are included in next year's budget unless the Board has specifically identified that they wish to review a budget allocation prior to rolling it forward. Previously approved programs and service costs are adjusted (up and down) for known changes (i.e. salary increments, benefit premium adjustments, inflationary costs, program changes). This determines the budget allocated for expenses.

The revenue side is determined primarily by the Ministry Operating Grant which provides 98% of School District No. 23's revenue. In 2006/2007 the Ministry Operating Grant allocation will provide an additional \$1,000,000.00 to the District. Those funds, together with surplus carry forwards, generate approximately \$4,900,000.00 that is available for distribution to new and reconsidered budget requests.

As the outcome of the Round Table discussions and the Vince Ready Recommendations may have a significant effect on the budget, the staff recommendation at this time is for the Board to approve only previously recommended staffing allocations along with an additional eight FTE Intermediate teachers which will cost \$600,000.00 leaving \$4,300,000.00 to be allocated on a later date. The committee recommended the following:

**Outcome:**

**THAT: The Annual Budget for 2006/2007 be developed including the recommended staffing allocations plus the addition of the eight FTE Intermediate teachers, and further that other recommended additions to the budget be delayed.**

**2. New School Facilities**

Trustee Wiebe made a recommendation that the Board correspond to the Ministry of Education with respect to the process used by the Ministry for the approval of new school facilities. The Committee recommended the following:

**Outcome:**

**THAT: The Board send a letter to the Ministry of Education indicating that the Board believes in neighbourhood schools;**

**AND FURTHER THAT: In order to get a new school, the Board believes that placing students in portables and in oversized classes provides a less than ideal learning environment;**

**AND FURTHER THAT: Should the Board have surplus sites in other neighbourhoods, that the Ministry grant latitude to house students in surplus sites without jeopardizing a new Capital School Project;**

**AND FURTHER THAT: In consideration of the above, that the Board request that the Ministry re-look at how funding for new schools in growing neighbourhoods takes place.**

**3. School Approval Process**

Trustee Baxter made a recommendation to request a meeting with MLAs to discuss the new school approval process and other related issues. The Committee recommended the following:

**Outcome:**

**THAT: The Board request a meeting with MLAs to discuss new school approval process and related issues.**

**Information Items:**

**1. Estimated Operating Grants for 2006/07**

Eileen Sadlowski, Director of Finance, provided a brief overview of the document from the Ministry of Education on Estimated Operating Grants for 2006/07.

**Items for Future Agenda**

Business Company Report (May 2006)

Review of Investment Policy

Next Committee Meeting Date: May 17/06 at 1:00 p.m. Location: School Board Office Board Room

Questions: Please Contact: Trustee Anna Hunt-Binkley Phone: (250) 766-5690