

## SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance and Legal Committee DATE: February 21, 2007

CHAIRPERSON: Trustee A. Hunt-Binkley STAFF CONTACT: L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer  
E. Sadlowski, Director of Finance

### Attendees:

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

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

### Partner Group Representation:

COPAC Vicki Keller, Treasurer  
COTA Tom Potts, President  
COPVPA Scott McLean, Past President  
CUPE Bill Zeman, President  
DSC No Representative

### 1. Public Question/Comment Period

Bill Zeman, President of CUPE, provided the Committee with information on pay scales from various organizations. The President of CUPE made reference to the difference in salaries for various support positions which may be the cause of the challenge the District has in the hiring and retaining of support staff.

### 2. Amended Annual Budget 2006/2007

Eileen Sadlowski, Director of Finance, reviewed the 2006/2007 Amended Annual Budget Executive Summary. The budget is set in April with minor adjustments made afterwards due to staffing requirements or changes in operations. The Ministry of Education funding based on FTE is based on the FTE as of September 30th. The Director of Finance confirmed that the 6.5% increase in salary levels for teachers does not include the funding for the new category 5+ for teachers. An estimate of the cost of category 5+ teachers is between \$700,000.00 and \$900,000.00. The challenge facing the District in the estimation of this figure is the uncertainty of how many current teachers will qualify for category 5+ status.

### Outcome:

**That the Amended Annual Budget 2006/2007, as presented at the February 21, 2007 Public Finance and Legal Committee Meeting, be forwarded to the Board for approval.**

### 3. Review of Budget Input Responses

Eileen Sadlowski, Director of Finance, reviewed the graphs prepared indicating the information received from the budget input responses. The first two graphs indicate the 36 responses from parents provided through the brochure process. The third graph indicates the 37 responses from parents through the on-line process. The Committee discussed the method of distribution of the brochure to parents and the informing of parents of the on-line process.

The Director of Finance reviewed all written responses including those from the District Student Council, Central Okanagan Teachers' Association, Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 3523, George Elliot Secondary School Planning Council, Parent Advisory Council Executive and Quigley Elementary School Planning Council.

**Outcome:**

**The Committee to write a letter to all who responded to the budget input process thanking them for their responses.**

**All Budget Input Responses will be forwarded to the Superintendent for consideration.**

**4. Review of Partner Representation on Committee**

The Chairperson of the Finance and Legal Committee requested feedback from the representatives of the partner groups in attendance as to the format of the new committee structure. All representatives provided positive feedback of the new structure.

**Information Items**

**1. Throne Speech Announcement**

Eileen Sadlowski, Director of Finance, confirmed that the recent Throne Speech Announcement regarding school fees will have an impact on the budget if legislated. The Ministry of Education also announced the budget for the upcoming year. At this time not a lot of details are available although it appears there will be a 2.3% increase. It is unknown how this will affect our District until the District allocations are announced. The Superintendent advised that the 2.3% increase is funding already committed primarily through increased costs for pension and benefits.

**Outcome:**

**That the Finance and Legal Committee recommend to the Board that:**

**The Board send a letter to Premier Gordon Campbell, with a copy to the Ministry of Education and local MLAs, asking the legislative assembly to set a high priority on the legislation respecting school fees for the purpose of aiding Boards of Trustees and Superintendents in their 2007/2008 budget deliberations.**

**2. Committee Correspondence**

On January 11, 2007 Trustee Cacchioni, as Vice-Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, forwarded a letter to The Honourable Shirley Bond with regard to school fees. On February 19, 2007 a reply was received from Minister Bond.

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

Purchasing Policy Draft

Review of Budget presentation Information Gathering Process for January of 2008 (*October 2008*)

**4. Meeting Schedule**

Wednesday, April 18, 2007 – 6:30 p.m. at School Board Office

Wednesday, May 16, 2007 – 6:30 p.m. at School Board Office

Wednesday, June 20, 2007 – 6:30 p.m. at School Board Office

**Questions – Please Contact:**

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**Eileen Sadlowski, Director of Finance**

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