

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance and Legal Committee DATE: January 21, 2015
CHAIRPERSON: Trustee L. Mossman STAFF CONTACT: E. Sadlowski, Director of Finance

Attendees:

Board of Education:

Trustee L. Mossman (Chairperson)

Trustee R. Cacchioni (Committee Member)

Trustee J. Fraser (Committee Member)

Trustee M. Baxter

Staff:

E. Sadlowski, Director of Finance

L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer (*absent*)

H. Gloster, Superintendent

T. Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent

B. Bertram, Executive Assistant (*Recorder*)

Partner Group Representation:

COTA Susan Bauhart, President

COPAC Vivian Evans, President

COPVPA No representative

CUPE Wendy Johnson, President

District Student Council No representative

Agenda/Additions/Amendments/Deletions

The agenda was amended as follows:

Item 7.1 – Ministry Recalculation Allocation – School District No. 23 and Provincial, and Item 7.2 – District Strike Savings Calculation to be addressed prior to Item 6.1 – Amended Annual Budget Fiscal Year 2014/2015.

January 21, 2015 Agenda – approved as amended.

Reports/Matters Arising

November 19, 2014 Committee Report – received as presented.

Information Items

1. Ministry Recalculation Allocation – School District No. 23 and Provincial

The Director of Finance reviewed the interim operating grants following the September enrolment count for the 2014/2015 school year. The District's student FTE enrolment is down slightly from projections. Level 1, 2 and 3 Special Needs funding is targeted for Special Education needs and the District provides additional funding over and above what is received from the Ministry to support these students. The holdback allocation received to date is slightly over \$1.6 million. Once the February and May recalculations are completed, additional distributions may be received, however the majority will be for Distributed Learning funds which are specifically targeted. There will be some small recalculation funds still to come (approximately \$400,000).

2. District Strike Savings Calculation

The Director of Finance provided information on the strike savings calculation for September 2014. The Ministry did not provide reimbursement to school districts for additional strike costs identified in September. This resulted in these costs being absorbed in the District's operating budget.

Outcome

The Committee recommended that the Board of Education write a letter to the Ministry expressing disappointment regarding the lack of reimbursement by the Ministry for strike costs incurred by school districts, and stating that it would have been more beneficial to have the provincial strike savings reinvested into the education system rather than being used to provide the \$40/day fund for parents during the strike.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Amended Annual Budget Fiscal Year 2014/2015

The Director of Finance reviewed the information contained in the Amended Annual Budget Fiscal Year 2014/2015. Committee members discussed future costs which will be associated with the BCTF contract settlement, and Ministry funding for the life of the agreement. Year one of the CUPE settlement was funded through Cooperative Gains monies, however funding will be required for the remaining years of the contract.

This year's projected surplus is anticipated to be approximately \$2.9 million which includes the holdback allocation received. This will be used in budget planning for the 2015/2016 school year.

During budget planning, the Director of Finance will review the need for additional outside equipment/resources for students once the grade reconfiguration has been approved for the Rutland zone.

The COTA President thanked the Superintendent for the decisions made regarding staff reporting for work during the recent “snow days” where schools were closed for two days due to the challenging winter conditions.

Outcome

The Committee recommended that the Board of Education approve the Amended Annual Budget Fiscal Year 2014/2015, as attached to the agenda and as presented at the January 21, 2015 Finance and Legal Committee Meeting.

2. ThoughtExchange – Approval of Timeline and Proposed Questions

In order to enhance the District’s existing budget process, the ThoughtExchange online survey program will be used this year to gather feedback to assist in budget planning. As in the past, budget requests/presentations may be made to the Finance and Legal Committee during the Spring committee meetings. Should committee members have suggestions regarding the three ThoughtExchange proposed questions, they are asked to advise the Superintendent.

Outcome

The Committee recommended that the Board of Education approve the ThoughtExchange timeline and proposed questions, as attached to the agenda and as presented at the January 21, 2015 Finance and Legal Committee Meeting.

Information Items (continued)

3. 2012 and 2014 Deloitte Reports – Ministry of Education

Committee members discussed the contents of the Deloitte Reports which were commissioned by the Ministry of Education to research potential savings through shared services for school districts, e.g. a centralized Human Resources Department or payroll system. The Ministry has established a department which will oversee the shared services, and a number of committees are involved in gathering information and receiving input. It was agreed that the Deloitte Reports would be added to a future agenda of the Finance and Legal Committee with a report included from the Secretary-Treasurer regarding which services have been shared and what the savings have been.

Items Requiring Special Mention

- Public Budget Presentation, Monday, February 2, 7:00 pm, following the COPAC Meeting at Hollywood Road Education Services

Meeting Schedule

February 18, 2015 at 1:00 pm	April 1, 2015 at 1:00 pm	April 15, 2015 at 6:30 pm
May 20, 2015 at 1:00 pm	June 17, 2015 at 6:30 pm	September 16, 2015 at 1:00 pm
October 21, 2015 at 6:30 pm	November 18, 2015 at 1:00 pm	

Recommendations/Referrals To the Board/Coordinating Committee/Other Committees

Future Public Board Meeting Action Items:

- District Strike Savings Calculation – Sending a Letter to the Ministry of Education Regarding the Lack of Reimbursement of Strike Savings Costs by the Ministry, and the \$40/day Fund for Parents During the Strike
- Amended Annual Budget Fiscal Year 2014/2015
- ThoughtExchange – Approval of Timeline and Proposed Questions (*January 28, 2015 Public Board Meeting*)

Future Public Board Meeting Information Items:

- Ministry Recalculation Allocation – School District No. 23 and Provincial

Items for Future Finance and Legal Committee Meetings

- Report on Nominal Roll Audit (*No report has been received on the Nominal Roll Audit conducted last year. This item will be removed as a future agenda item.*)
- Report on Mock Aboriginal Education Audit
- Update - Ministry of Education Deloitte Report

Questions – Please Contact:

Trustee Lee Mossman, Chairperson
Eileen Sadlowski, Director of Finance

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