SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance and Legal Committee DATE: April 18, 2012

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

Attendees:

Board of Education:
Trustee C. Gorman (Chairperson)
Trustee J. Fraser (Committee Member)
Trustee M. Pendharkar (Committee Member)
Trustee M. Baxter
Trustee J. Brinkerhoff
Trustee D. Butler

Staff:
L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer
E. Sadlowski, Director of Finance
H. Gloster, Superintendent
T. Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent
B. Bertram, Executive Assistant (Recorder)

Partner Group Representation:

COPAC	No representative
COTA	Alice Rees – President, Susan Bauhart, 1st Vice-President and April Smith, 2nd Vice-President
COPVPA	No representative
CUPE	Bill Zeman, President
District Student Council	No representative

Agenda - Additions/Amendments/Deletions

Add: Discussion/Action Item 6.1.1 - Notice of Motion Received From Trustee Pendharkar (New Item)

April 18, 2012 Committee Agenda - approved as amended.

Reports/Matters Arising

April 4, 2012 Committee Report - received.

Recognition/Presentations/Delegations

1. **Partner Group Presentations/Comments**
   None.

2. **CUPE Response to the Two Week Spring Break**
   The CUPE President provided a brief background on the financial hardship posed to some CUPE members with the two week spring break. CUPE would support the two week break if financial assistance could be provided to those CUPE members who lose the extra week's pay. A suggested solution could be to provide 10 month CUPE employees with the ability to bank the requisite number of minutes a day in order to provide them with one week's pay during the two week layoff. Committee members discussed the information provided. Should the Board approve the banking of minutes each day for 10 month CUPE members, the budget cost would be approximately $300,000.

Public Question/Comment Period

The COTA 1st Vice-President requested clarification on the partner group budget submission deadline of March 15th. The Director of Finance advised that the March 15th deadline is set in order to begin the staffing process by the end of April. Once the staffing budget has been finalized, there is room to work with additional budget requests prior to the June 30th final budget submission to the Ministry.

The COTA President requested that, should the Board consider providing 10 month CUPE members with the ability to bank time towards one week of the spring break, the Board also consider providing the same opportunity for Teachers on Call in the District.

Discussion/Action Items

1. **Superintendent's 2012/2013 District Budget Recommendations**
   Committee members discussed the budget recommendations as presented and requested further information on targeted funding. The Superintendent advised that a substantial amount of allocated funds will be applied to sustain the infrastructure and staffing currently in place. The recommended expenditures in the Superintendent's report deal with funds not being used to sustain the infrastructure. The Secretary-Treasurer circulated a Historical Summary of Budget Adjustments for the past three years. (This handout is attached to and forms a part of this report). Committee members agreed to review each recommendation separately.

Recommendation 1.1 – Learning Enhancement to Schools - $1,305,000
- CARRIED.
- ABSTAINED: Trustee Pendharkar.

Recommendation 1.2 – Aboriginal Learning Enhancement Fund - $40,000
- CARRIED.
- ABSTAINED: Trustee Pendharkar.

Recommendation 1.3 – District Vulnerability Support - $1,500,000
- CARRIED.
- ABSTAINED: Trustee Pendharkar.

Recommendation 2 – Innovation Fund - $500,000
The Superintendent provided further clarification on the recommendation which comes from a portion of new funding allocation and requires reporting out to the Ministry of Education. Committee members discussed the information provided.
- CARRIED.

Recommendation 3.1 – Instructional Leadership Team - $200,000
Committee members requested further clarification on the proposed funding allocation.
- CARRIED.
- OPPOSED: Trustee Pendharkar.

Recommendation 3.2 – Collaborative Time - $150,000
- CARRIED.
- OPPOSED: Trustee Pendharkar.

Recommendation 3.3 – Support for Inquiry Projects - $30,000
- CARRIED.

Recommendation 3.4 – Instructional Leadership and Mentorship - $115,000
Committee members requested further clarification on the proposed funding allocation.
- CARRIED.

Recommendation 4 – Leadership Development – Expand Vice-Principal Complement - $66,000
- This item has already been approved by the Board of Education in order to meet the staffing timeline.

Recommendation 5.1 – Employee Wellness - $25,000
- CARRIED.

Recommendation 5.2 – Family Life - $46,000
- CARRIED.

Recommendation 5.3 – Facilities Management - $240,000
Committee members requested further clarification on the proposed funding allocation.

Trustee Pendharkar recommended that the amount by halved to $120,000.
- DEFEATED.
- OPPOSED: Trustee Gorman, Trustee Fraser.

The Committee voted on the initial recommendation of $240,000.
- CARRIED.

Recommendation 5.4 – Technology Support - $70,000
- CARRIED.

The Committee discussed the feasibility of adding the position of a Communications Officer for 2013/2014 budget considerations. (This position was eliminated several years previously due to budget cuts.)

<u>Outcome</u>
The Committee recommended that the Board of Education adopt the specific budget allocations and decisions, pertaining to the 2012/2013 Preliminary School District Budget, as attached and as presented.
OPPOSED: Trustee Pendharkar

2. Notice of Motion:
THAT: The Board eliminate the fees levied on parents for transporting students to attend regular classes, which fees were introduced to make up for the shortfall resulting from the difference between the Ministry of Education funding for transportation and the Board's cost for the services.

Committee members discussed the Notice of Motion. The Secretary-Treasurer provided the information that the District is expecting $2.9 million in Ministry funding for transportation (for Ministry purposes, this is now called "Student Location" – which is one of the supplements under "Unique Geographic Factors"); however, budgeted expenses for 2012/2013 will be $3.6 million. The anticipated shortfall is $700,000. The District has a subsidy plan in place for families unable to pay the transportation charge. Committee members discussed the information provided.
- **DEFEATED**
- **OPPOSED: Trustee Gorman, Trustee Fraser.**

3. Trustee Indemnity for the 2012/2013 Fiscal Year
The Director of Finance provided a brief history on the Trustee Indemnity, which is allocated as a part of the governance budget. Trustees requested that they be provided with an outline of previous year's indemnity increases. The Director of Finance will send this information to Trustees.

<u>Outcome</u>
The Committee recommended that the Board of Education set the Trustee Indemnity using the weighted average of all employee groups, which results in a net zero increase, for the period effective July 1, 2012 to June 30, 2013.
OPPOSED: Trustee Pendharkar.

4. 2012/2013 CommunityLINK Allocations
The Director of Finance provided a review of CommunityLINK funds which are targeted funds and not a part of the operating grant. Committee members discussed the recommended allocation of funds.

<u>Outcome</u>
The Committee recommended that the Board of Education approve the recommended CommunityLINK Allocations for 2012/2013.
ABSTAINED: Trustee Pendharkar.

Information Items

1. Aboriginal Education Program 2012/2013 Budget
The Assistant Superintendent reviewed the Aboriginal Education Program 2012/2013 Budget which received unanimous support from the Aboriginal Education Council at its March 28, 2012 meeting. Committee members discussed the information provided.

Meeting Schedule

May 16, 2012 (1:00 pm)	June 20, 2012 (6:30 pm)	
September 19, 2012 (1:00 pm)	October 17, 2012 (6:30 pm)	November 21, 2012 (1:00 pm)

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

Future Public Board Meeting Action Items:
- Superintendent's 2012/2013 District Budget Recommendations
- Trustee Indemnity for the 2012/2013 Fiscal Year
- 2012/2013 CommunityLINK Allocations

Questions – Please Contact:

Trustee Chris Gorman, Chairperson	Phone: (250) 575-1664	email: Christopher.Gorman@sd23.bc.ca
Larry Paul, Secretary-Treasurer	Phone: (250) 470-3216	email: Larry.Paul@sd23.bc.ca
Eileen Sadlowski, Director of Finance	Phone: (250) 470-3224	email: Eileen.Sadlowski@sd23.bc.ca

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Christopher L. Gorman, Chairperson