

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Planning and Facilities Committee Meeting DATE: February 20, 2019
CHAIRPERSON: Trustee Julia Fraser STAFF CONTACT: Mitch Van Aller, Director of Operations

*The Committee Chairperson acknowledged that the meeting was being held
on the Traditional Territory of the Okanagan People.*

In Attendance:

Board Attendees:

Trustee J. Fraser, Chairperson
Trustee R. Cacchioni, Committee Member
Trustee C. Desrosiers, Committee Member
Trustee M. Baxter
Trustee N. Bowman

In Attendance:

Staff:

K. Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
E. Sadlowski, Secretary-Treasurer
M. Van Aller, Director of Operations
S. Kamstra, Assistant Director of Operations
D. Widdis, Planning Manager
T. Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent
M. DesRochers, Executive Assistant (*Recorder*)

Partner Group Representation:

COPAC Sarah Shakespeare, President
COPVPA Ryan Ward, Members Liaison: Middle/Secondary
COTA Susan Bauhart, President (*arrived at 6:12 pm*)
CUPE David Tether, President
DSC Theresa Schwab, Grade 12, Rutland Senior Secondary School

Agenda - Additions/Amendments/Deletions

Add: 8.1 - Committee Correspondence Received.

February 20, 2019 Committee Agenda – approved as amended.

Reports/Matters Arising

January 23, 2019 Committee Report – received as distributed.

Presentation

1. École Dorothea Walker Elementary Parent Advisory Council – Transportation Concerns

Simon Adams, Vice-President of the École Dorothea Walker Elementary Parent Advisory Council, presented parent concerns regarding transportation, specifically the potential elimination of existing bus services. He outlined four main reasons for continuing existing bus routes. These reasons include the following key points for consideration:

- The increasing safety concerns;
- The provincial government's public school policy that mandates districts to maintain, strengthen, and promote an established French Immersion Program;
- The students enrolled in the French Immersion Program take pressure off the other elementary schools in the area that are full; and,
- The District's and provincial government's mandates to reduce fewer Greenhouse Gas emissions.

On behalf of the École Dorothea Walker Elementary PAC, Mr. Adams' requested that the Planning and Facilities Committee maintain existing bus services and accommodate students living along existing bus routes.

6:12 pm: The COTA President joined the meeting.

The Committee Chair thanked Mr. Adams for his presentation.

Public Questions/Comments

The following individuals spoke about their transportation concerns:

- Martha Sirdevan
- Phil Bischoff
- Kendra Dixon
- Lindsay Pendray
- Vera Goudie
- Amy Habicht
- Jared Huber
- Laura Bowers
- Kendall Pew
- Darlene Atkinson

Cheryl Browne: Ms. Browne invited Trustees and District Staff to attend a meeting that the Kettle Valley Neighbourhood Association is hosting at Chute Lake Elementary School on Tuesday, April 2nd at 7:00 pm. The subject of the meeting is to discuss morning traffic concerns along the lakeshore road area. Mayor Colin Basran and the City of Kelowna's Transportation Manager have also been invited to attend.

Trustee Desrosiers stated that all bus riders pay, not just courtesy riders.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Plan for 2019/2020 through 2023/2024

The Director of Operations outlined the proposed Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Plan for 2019/2020 through 2023/2024. A broad consultation process was undertaken to ensure that the funds are utilized in a way that maximizes the long-term benefit to Central Okanagan Public Schools. The five year AFG Plan is prepared yearly and provided to the Board of Education for approval. Upon Board of Education approval, the Operations Department will assign staff to projects pending a future announcement of an Annual Facility Grant from the Ministry of Education.

The Committee recommended that the Rutland Middle School washroom renovation and re-roofing projects be moved up to priority one and two, respectively on the listing of projects. The Director of Operations agreed to this recommendation.

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO reminded the Committee that the Board of Education accepted the Planning and Facilities Committee's previous recommendation that the Board give priority to Rutland Middle School Minor Capital Projects for washroom additions, roofing improvements and mechanical upgrades when developing the 2019-2020 Annual Facilities Grant Submission.

Outcomes

The Committee recommended that the Board of Education approve the Annual Facility Grant Plan for 2019/2020 through 2023/2024 as amended at the February 20, 2019 Planning and Facilities Committee Meeting.

The Committee also recommended that the Board of Education request, from the Ministry of Education, an expansion to Rutland Middle School in the next capital plan, in order to eliminate the portables on site and to plan for future growth.

Trustee Baxter and the Superintendent of Schools/CEO discussed whether or not staff should explore if the Quigley Plan is still a viable option, whether the rebuild on the current site was possible and to clarify what the Minister meant by 'expansion' of the school in his February 15, 2019 letter.

The Director of Operations and the Superintendent of Schools/CEO stated that further discussion with the Ministry of Education is required to clarify what Minister Fleming meant by an expansion project for Rutland Middle School, in his letter dated February 15, 2019. The Superintendent of Schools/CEO recommended that this topic be referred to the Coordinating Committee to provide direction.

Outcome

The Committee recommended that the Coordinating Committee provide direction on next steps for Rutland Middle School.

7:05 pm: The Superintendent of Schools/CEO left the meeting.

Discussion/Information Items

1. Transportation Department – Overview of Services Provided

Trustee Baxter stated that the Board has made several difficult decisions over the years regarding transportation and has a history of accommodating as many students as possible. In some school districts, they have decided to cut their entire bus service. Central Okanagan Public Schools needs to discuss a number of transportation concerns, including busing French Immersion students. The costs associated with adding a bus route also need to be understood in order to assist in the decision making process.

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO advised that it costs \$65,000 to run a bus route, \$130,000 to buy a bus and if the District was seeking to recover all costs to run bus transportation, it would cost each rider approximately \$1,000 per year. She also stated that busing French Immersion students is only one issue among various challenges the District is facing for the upcoming school year.

7:14 pm: Trustee Baxter left the meeting.

The Transportation Manager presented an overview of services that the Transportation Department provides. Central Okanagan Public Schools transports approximately 5,000 students each day, has the largest bus fleet in the province, and is the only District with buses fueled by natural gas. The Transportation Department is continually reviewing bus routes, which may result in either adding or removing routes and/or services. Most bus routes do an elementary, middle, and secondary school run. The Transportation Manager outlined the number of students transported by catchment area, the eligibility requirements, and the school bus registration process. She also shared that a new 'School Bus Stop' initiative is being developed to provide parents/students with updates on their bus routes; the expected launch date is March 1, 2019.

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO explained how transportation funding has changed over the years. Currently, transportation is funded primarily through the operating grant with less than a third of funding coming from a transportation grant and fees collected.

The Transportation Manager stated that planning for the 2019/2020 school has started and the District is facing the following significant challenges:

- The opening of Canyon Falls Middle School
- The Expansion of French Immersion programs to Hudson Road Elementary School and Glenrosa Middle School
- The fact that most bus routes are at full capacity
- The increased demand from courtesy riders
- The transportation of students who were directed from a capped school

The Transportation Manager requested that an ad hoc committee be formed to review the bus routes in the District.

Outcome

The Committee recommended that the Board of Education strike a Transportation Task Force, to include out of district representation, to review the District's transportation service and bring back recommendations for implementation in the 2019-2020 school year.

Committee Correspondence

The Committee received the following correspondence:

R. Fleming, February 15, 2019, Re Rutland Middle School Replacement Project

M. McQuaig, February 17, 2019, Re Busing for Dorothea Walker Elementary French Immersion Students

Recommendations to the Board

February 27, 2019 Public Board Meeting

- *Transportation Task Force (Action Item)*

Future Public Board Meetings

- *Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Plan for 2019/2020 through 2023/2024 (Action Item)*

Recommendations to the Coordinating Committee

- *Next Steps for Rutland Middle School*

Items for Future Planning and Facilities Committee Meetings

- *School Bus Safety Including: Seat Belts*

September	October	November
- Summer Projects Update	- Annual Integrated Pest Management Report - Final recommendations for naming of Lake Country Middle School - Review of the Long-Term Facility Plan (<i>Info Item</i>)	
January	February	April
- Annual review of Committee's Mandate, Purpose and Function	- Annual Facility Grant (AFG) Plan	- Capital Project Bylaw for AFG
May	June	August
- Transportation Update - Capital Plan Submission	- Energy & Sustainability Presentation	- To be determined

Meeting Schedule

April 17, 2019 at 6:00 pm
May 15, 2019 at 6:00 pm
June 19, 2019 at 6:00 pm

August 21, 2019 at 4:00 pm (TBC)
September 18, 2019 at 6:00 pm

October 16, 2019 at 6:00 pm
November 20, 2019 at 6:00 pm

Questions - Please Contact:

Julia Fraser, Chairperson

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Julia Fraser, Chairperson