

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance and Legal Committee DATE: February 18, 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) (*absent*)

Trustee D. Butler (*Acting Committee Member*)

Staff:

E. Sadlowski, Director of Finance

L. Paul, Secretary-Treasurer

H. Gloster, Superintendent

T. Beaudry, Assistant Superintendent

D. Carmichael, Finance Manager

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

Trustee Butler was appointed Acting Committee Member in the absence of Trustee Fraser.

Add: Information Item 7.3 - BCSTA Media Release re the Provincial Budget Announcement

February 18, 2015 Agenda – approved as amended.

Reports/Matters Arising

January 21, 2015 Committee Report – received as presented.

Recognition/Presentations/Delegations

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

Discussion/Action Items

1. Revenue and Expense Summary at January 31, 2015

The Director of Finance provided a review of the Revenue and Expense Summary at January 31, 2015, which included a comparison between revenue accumulated as of January 31, 2015 and January 31, 2014. Factors affecting the decreased revenue income this year include the late start to the school year as a result of the labour dispute, and the fact that the Ministry has adjusted cash flows to be paid out later in the school year. Revenue received from the International Education Program has increased and will meet District projections. Committee members discussed funding for Special Education and the varied roles of Certified Education Assistants which could be either school-based (multiple students) or assignment-based (individual student).

Outcome

The Committee received the Revenue and Expense Summary at January 31, 2015 and recommended that the Summary be forwarded to the Board of Education as an Information Item.

2. Review of the Finance and Legal Committee Budget Meeting Schedule and Annual Work Plan

Committee members discussed the meeting times for the Finance and Legal Committee.

Outcome

It was agreed that the Finance and Legal Committee meeting times would remain as listed on the agenda.

Committee members reviewed the Annual Work Plan as listed on the agenda.

Outcome

It was agreed that Annual Work Plan as outlined on the agenda would be accepted as the Plan for the Finance and Legal Committee with the understanding that the Plan is fluid depending on emergent items.

Information Items

1. Update – Internal Aboriginal Education Audit

The Director of Finance provided information on the internal Aboriginal Education audit which was conducted last spring in a sampling of elementary, middle and secondary schools. The audit reviewed the delivery of services per program requirements, with several recommendations made for improvements or alternatives that would meet Ministry requirements.

The COTA President commended the Central Okanagan School District on its Aboriginal Education Program which has been acknowledged by BCTF members across the province.

2. Update on Budget Development Process

In the first stage of the ThoughtExchange online survey process requesting budget input, more than 1,400 participants engaged in the survey, providing over 5,200 comments. Feedback will be collated and sent out again for prioritization by participants. The final report will be received by mid-March 2015. Budget feedback, including Partner Group submissions, will be reviewed at the April 1st meeting of the Finance and Legal Committee.

3. BCSTA Media Release re the Provincial Budget Announcement

The Provincial budget announcement has indicated that Boards of Education will be required to reduce spending on administration and related services by a total of \$29 million in the 2015-2016 school year, and a further \$25 million in the 2016-2017 school year. Clarification has not yet been received regarding what areas will be considered to be “administration and related services”, and whether the cuts will be distributed equally between school districts.

Outcome

Should a late motion regarding the Provincial budget announcement be added to the agenda of the February 20th BCSTA Provincial Council Meeting, Committee members requested that Trustee Fraser, as the Board’s Provincial Councillor, encourage BCSTA opposition to the funding reduction for public education.

Meeting Schedule

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 Information Items:

- Revenue and Expense Summary at January 31, 2015

Items for Future Finance and Legal Committee Meetings

- Update - Ministry of Education Deloitte Report

April 1	April 15	May 20
- Overview of Budget Allocation - Budget Consultation Input Received	- Central Okanagan School District Preliminary Budget Proposal – Superintendent’s Budget Recommendations - Trustee Indemnity for the Fiscal Year	- Auditor’s Report to the Finance Committee – Initial Communication on Audit Planning for the Year - Annual CommunityLINK Allocations - Trustee Travel Expenses - Financial Update – International Education Program
June 17		
- School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year		

Questions – Please Contact:

Trustee Lee Mossman, Chairperson
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