

SCHOOL DISTRICT No. 23 – BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE: Finance and Legal Committee DATE: October 15, 2014

CHAIRPERSON: Trustee R. Cacchioni STAFF CONTACT: E. Sadlowski, Director of Finance

Attendees:

Board of Education:

Trustee R. Cacchioni (Chairperson) *Absent*
Trustee C. Gorman (Committee Member) *Acting Chair*
Trustee M. Pendharkar (Committee Member)
Trustee J. Brinkerhoff *Acting Committee Member*
Trustee M. Baxter
Trustee D. Butler

Staff:

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

Partner Group Representation:

COTA	Susan Bauhart, President
COPAC	No representative
COPVPA	No representative
CUPE	No representative
District Student Council	No representative

Agenda/Additions/Amendments/Deletions

Add: Action Item 6.3 – Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services – Request for Budget Input.

September 22, 2014 Agenda – approved as amended.

Reports/Matters Arising

September 22, 2014 Committee Report – received as presented.

Discussion/Action Items

1. Appointment of Auditors

Trustee Gorman, Acting Chair, provided background information on the Tender Evaluation Committee's process and recommendation for the appointment of the Central Okanagan School District's auditors. Tender bids were received from the following five companies: Grant Thornton, KPMG, BDO Canada, KNV, and MNP.

The Committee discussed the "option to renew" portion of the recommendation which was included in the Request for Proposal that was sent out by staff, and provides the Board with the option to either continue with the same auditors for a further five years, or to not renew the option and send out a Request for Proposals for auditing services after the initial five years. The "option to renew" clause was included in sample Requests for Proposals for audit tenders gathered from a number of school districts.

Outcome

The Committee recommended that the Board of Education appoint Grant Thornton as the Auditors for the Central Okanagan School District for a period of five years, with an option to renew a further five years beginning with the audit of the 2014-2015 fiscal year.

2. Trustee Indemnity for the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year

The Director of Finance reviewed the Weighted Average Calculations table which outlines 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 wage increases for CUPE Local 3523 support staff, the Central Okanagan Teachers' Association, and the Central Okanagan Principals' and Vice-Principals' Association and Exempt Management Staff, and provides information on the weighted average increase for each year. The Trustee Indemnity has not been increased since July 1, 2010. Principals and Vice-Principals and Exempt Management Staff last received an increase of 2% in 2009.

MOVED By Trustee Brinkerhoff,

THAT: The Trustee Indemnity not be increased for the 2014/2015 school year and a policy review be conducted on the establishment of the Trustee Indemnity.

FAILED

OPPOSED: Trustee Gorman, Trustee Pendharkar

Outcome

The Committee recommended that the Board of Education set the Trustee Indemnity using the weighted average increase of all employee groups for the period effective July 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015, with the understanding that calculations be made after the exempt employee group have reached a settlement.

3. Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services – Request for Budget Input

The Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services has requested input regarding the 2015 provincial budget. The deadline for input to be received is Friday, October 17th. Committee members discussed the information to be contained in a letter to the Select Standing Committee, which would include the need for sustainable, stable funding for K-12 education, refunding for increased cost pressures that are not sustained through existing funding, the budget pressures faced by the Central Okanagan School District for the 2014/2015 school year, the difficulty in supporting specialized programs without adequate funding, the lack of sufficient funding to support students with special needs, and aging facilities requiring replacement and/or major upgrades.

Outcome

The Committee agreed that a letter from the Board Chair would be sent to the Select Standing Committee on Finance and Government Services referencing previous Board correspondence to the Government regarding funding shortfalls, and reiterating the financial needs of this School District.

Information Items

1. Strike Savings Reported

The Director of Finance reviewed the information contained in the Strike Savings Report which outlines strike savings and costs from May 2014 to September 2014. The Ministry of Education recovered 80% of the School District's strike savings for the months of May and June. For the month of September, the Ministry has indicated that they will recover 100% of strike savings. The Ministry has requested detailed strike costs for each School District; however, has not committed to reimbursing these strike costs at this time.

Committee members discussed the information provided. The COTA President requested clarification of several strike cost items and questioned the District's intended use of the net savings, which may include the Ministry's reimbursement of a portion of the additional strike costs outlined in the report, and requested that the funds be put back into schools.

Meeting Schedule

November 19, 2014 at 1:00 pm

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

Future Public Board Meeting Action Items:

- Appointment of Auditors
- Trustee Indemnity for the 2014/2015 Fiscal Year

Future Public Board Meeting Information Items:

- Strike Savings Reported

Items for Future Finance and Legal Committee Meetings

- Report on Nominal Roll Audit
- Report on Mock Aboriginal Education Audit
- Review of Policy 190 - Trustee Expenses

Questions – Please Contact:

Trustee Christopher Gorman, Acting Chairperson
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