

CENTRAL OKANAGAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS - BOARD COMMITTEE REPORT

**Finance and Audit Committee Meeting
Public Meeting**

**Wednesday, April 20, 2022, 4:00 pm
School Board Office
1040 Hollywood Road S
Kelowna, BC**

Board of Education: Trustee J. Fraser, Chair
Trustee W. Broughton, Committee Member
Trustee C. Desrosiers, Committee Member
Trustee M. Baxter

Staff: Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO
Val Dougans, Finance Manager
Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO
Terry Beaudry, Deputy Superintendent of Schools
Michelle DesRochers, Executive Assistant (recorder)

Partner Groups: Susan Bauhart, COTA President
Deannie Zahara, COPAC Member-at-Large (*arrived at 4:11 pm*)
Kieran Fahy, CUPE Secretary-Treasurer
Mike Dornian, COPVPA Treasurer
Danielle Nelson, DSC - Grade 12 at GESS

**The Central Okanagan Board of Education acknowledged that this meeting was being held
the unceded, Traditional Territory of the Okanagan People.**

AGENDA

April 20, 2022 Committee Agenda - approved as presented.

REPORTS/MATTERS ARISING

Finance and Audit Committee Public Meeting Report - February 16, 2022

February 16, 2022 Committee Report - received as distributed.

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

There were no public questions/comments.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS QUERIES/COMMENTS

In response to a Committee member query regarding Committee member queries/comments being part of the Committee Report, the Board Chair clarified that questions/comments during debate are not recorded in Board Standing Committee Reports or Board Minutes.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS

Trustee Indemnity for the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year

The Committee Chair stated that the Trustee Indemnity for the following fiscal year comes forward annually and is based on the BC Consumer Price Index.

The Committee discussed the difference in trustee indemnities for boards of education across the province. The Committee believes that the Central Okanagan Board of Education's process of approving the Trustee Indemnity each year is a transparent process and provides continuity.

4:11 pm: The COPAC Representative joined the meeting.

Outcome:

The Finance and Audit Committee recommended to the Board:

THAT: The Board of Education set the Trustee Indemnity, in accordance with the most recent BC Consumer Price Index of 3.1% for the period July 1, 2022 to June 30, 2023 thereby setting the stipend at: Trustee - \$22,478, Vice Chair - \$23,740, Chair - \$25,657.

Indigenous Education Preliminary Budget (2022/2023 Fiscal Year)

The Committee Chair stated that each year the Indigenous Education Preliminary Budget is presented to the Indigenous Education Council for feedback prior to coming forward to the Finance and Audit Committee.

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO shared that the per pupil funding for targeted Indigenous students did not increase for the 2022/2023 school year and remains at \$1,565 per Full-Time Equivalent (FTE). It is projected that the Indigenous student FTE will increase by 40 students for a total of 3,062 students. An estimated surplus from the 2021/2022 school year is approximately \$498,843. The Indigenous Education Department is proposing to reduce the Okanagan Language Instructor budget line to 1 FTE, add 1.3 FTE to middle school support, and add 1.0 FTE to Advocates. There is also a multi-year Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Grant added to the budget with any unspent funds being carried forward.

The Deputy Superintendent of Schools shared that the estimated surplus is substantial due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the inability to host cultural gatherings and other events. The Indigenous Education Department is hopeful that the monies will be spent appropriately next year.

The Deputy Superintendent of Schools responded to Committee questions.

Outcome:

The Finance and Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Education:

THAT: The Board of Education approve staff's proposed 2022/2023 Indigenous Education Program Preliminary Budget, as attached to the Agenda, and as presented at the April 20, 2022 Finance and Audit Committee Meeting.

DISCUSSION/INFORMATION ITEMS

2022-2023 Estimated Ministry of Education Funding

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO stated that each year in March the Ministry of Education announces the expected Operating Grant funding for the following fiscal year. This past March, the Ministry of Education announced that there will be no changes to the per pupil funding model for the 2022/2023 year. The 2022/2023 estimated Operating Grants, based on the 2021/2022 enrolment plus growth, were outlined.

COVID-19 Response Funding Update

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO stated that in September the District received restart funding in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Funding included \$557,683 for enhanced cleaning, hand hygiene, personal protective equipment, etc., \$65,395 for mental health support, and \$355,574 for ventilation and utility costs. The District anticipates to spend these funds; however will await Ministry of Education and Child Care direction if unspent dollars can be carried forward into next year.

Central Okanagan Public Schools Superintendent of Schools/CEO 2022-2023 Budget Proposal Report

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO shared the 2022/2023 budget pressures due to the Ministry of Education not increasing the per pupil funding rates to cover inflationary cost increases. The province will allow districts to budget 100% of the current year's Classroom Enhancement Fund (CEF) funding for the 2022/2023 school year; however, any additional CEF funding requests will not be announced until December 2022. This creates a financial risk as the District has to prepare a balanced budget by the end of June. The anticipated 2022/2023 budget pressure is \$3,332,956.

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO suggested that budget reductions be shared across the District in order to reduce the impact on student learning. The District will continue to maximize the Classroom Enhancement Fund to add enrolling and non-enrolling support to schools to address complexity (both composition and class size) and the District's capacity challenges (currently 104% District wide capacity). Considerations for potential revenue generating and expense saving options were presented.

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO and the Secretary-Treasurer/CFO responded to questions from the Committee.

The Committee expressed concerns with the Ministry of Education and Child Care not providing an inflationary increase to the per pupil funding rates and provided their feedback on the considerations for potential revenue generating and expense saving options.

2022/2023 Public Budget Survey Results

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO stated that a survey was shared mid-February with partner groups, parents, and staff to garner feedback on the development of the 2022/2023 Annual Budget Bylaw. The results were themed and provided as part of the agenda package.

2022/2023 Budget Requests - Central Okanagan Teachers' Association

The Committee reviewed the information provided.

RECOMMENDATIONS/REFERRALS TO THE BOARD/COORDINATING COMMITTEE/OTHER COMMITTEES

Public Board Meeting - May 11, 2022

- Trustee Indemnity for the 2022/2023 Fiscal Year
- Indigenous Education Preliminary Budget (2022/2023 Fiscal Year)

ITEMS FOR FUTURE FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

May 4, 2022

- Central Okanagan School District Preliminary Budget Proposal – Superintendent's Budget Recommendations
- Financial Report at March 31st

May 18, 2022

- Auditor's Report to the Finance and Audit Committee – Initial Communication on Audit Planning for the Year
- Community Rental Program Fee Review
- Annual CommunityLINK Allocations
- Financial Update - International Education Program

June 15, 2022

- School District No. 23 (Central Okanagan) Annual Budget for the Fiscal Year

FUTURE FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETINGS

All meetings start at 4:00 pm.

May 4, 2022, May 18, 2022, June 15, 2022

September 21, 2022, October 19, 2022, November 16, 2022

PUBLIC QUESTION/COMMENT PERIOD

The Committee Chair added an additional public question/comment period.

The CUPE President queried if the *Pay Equity Grant* of \$1,238,323 was for the Joint Job Evaluation Committee.

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO confirmed that the Pay Equity Grant of \$1,238,323 is for the Joint Job Evaluation Committee.

The CUPE President expressed concerns with using the *Learning Improvement Fund - Support Staff* towards cost pressures as well as losing jobs due to attrition.

MEDIA QUESTIONS

There were no media questions.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 5:43 pm.

Questions - Please Contact:

Trustee Fraser, Chair at 250-718-8613 or Julia.Fraser@sd23.bc.ca

Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO at 250-470-3224 or Delta.Carmichael@sd23.bc.ca

Julia Fraser, Chair