

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 10, 2013, AT THE BOARD OFFICE AT 8:30 A.M.**

Present: D. Stevenson (in the Chair); J. Kellett; C. Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools; J. Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer; G. Cords, General Manager, Facilities

Stakeholder Representation: V. Brady (WVAA); B. Scott (WVMEA); R. Millard (WVTA); S. Donahue (DPAC)

1. BCASBO Fall Pro-D

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed information provided by the Ministry of Education: The provincial capital fund will remain at \$450 million for 2013/14. AFG funding will remain at \$110 million, with the balance allocated to seismic and new projects. The Treasury Board has indicated however, that priority will be given to maintenance projects if additional funds become available.

The Ministry is in the process of taking over administration of the carbon neutral capital program. Over the next five years, each district can expect to have the funds they've paid in returned to them. Districts must continue to submit annual carbon neutral project applications, and projects will be reviewed to insure emission reductions and cost-savings prior to funds being released.

The General Manager of Facilities reported that three target projects have been identified for submission in 2013/14: boiler replacement at WVSS, Ecole Sentinel and Cypress Park Primary.

A small portion of carbon funds will also be distributed to those districts lacking an energy manager; SD45 received approximately \$10 000 of these funds in 2012/13, and will likely receive a similar amount in 2013/14.

2. WVSS Track Project Update

A public information meeting will take place on January 22, 2014 in the atrium of the West Vancouver Recreation Centre. The event is being advertised by SD45 and the Municipality. There will be no funding from the Municipality for this project in their 2014 budget.

3. Facilities Project Update

The General Manager of Facilities reported on the last two summer projects not yet complete: the ACE-IT structure at WVSS and the Ecole Pauline Johnson building envelope project.

Colder temperatures have delayed the building envelope project, and work will resume when warmer weather returns. The new windows and insulation now in place have made classrooms measurably warmer for students and staff. Expected completion is late January/early February 2014. Concerns were raised about the impact of the project on the functioning of the school and the Superintendent confirmed that there were no major disruptions, simply the introduction of new routines. The General Manager commended both the administration at Pauline Johnson and the contractor for working with parents and students to make the process run as smoothly as possible.

Committee members: Dave Stevenson, Jane Kellett

The ACE-IT Carpentry facility at WVSS is almost complete and students will be able to work on-site starting January 6, 2014. Power for the building will be run off a generator until BC Hydro completes their hookup in early February 2014.

4. BC Hydro Rate Increase

The Secretary Treasurer reported that increases in BC Hydro rates will take effect on April 1, 2014 and April 1, 2015. There will be a 9% hike the first year and a further 6% the second year. The impact on WVSD's budget for the next three years will be \$7000 for 2013/2014, \$33 000 in 2014-2015 and \$48 000 for 2015/2016. There will be no increase in Ministry of Education funding related to the increase.

Trustee Kellett raised concerns about the impact of the increase at BICS and Lions Bay Community School, which are both heated by electricity, and what possible solutions might be. The General Manager of Facilities noted that any alternative solutions to electrical heating at those sites would be costly, though there may be some funding from BC Hydro for energy efficient retrofits. It was noted that the building upgrades recently completed at BICS will mitigate some of the effects, but that the design at Lions Bay is not particularly efficient for heating.

5. WorkSafeBC Rate Increase

The Secretary Treasurer reported that WorkSafeBC base rates will be increasing to \$.60 per \$100 from \$.55 in 2014, resulting in SD45's discount being reduced to 23.5% from 31.5%. The cost effect is \$12 000, with total costs rising to \$72 000 from \$60 000. The district's discount remains in the top five of the province, and it was noted that this is due to employees and management being conscientious in terms of awareness and training.

6. SD45 Playground Grant

The Secretary Treasurer reported that Ecole Pauline Johnson was the only applicant for the Playground Grant this year. The grant consists of \$5000 in funding and \$5000 of facilities labour. The Secretary Treasurer noted that she had applied on the school's behalf to DWV for a grant, but was turned down due to budget constraints. Of the \$75,000 budget for the project, the fundraising committee still needs to raise \$40,000. Projects include equipment that will incorporate and encourage the principles of cooperation, self-regulation and personalized learning within a natural environment. It also includes plans for a community garden, and Pauline Johnson hopes to arrange seniors' participation via the WV Seniors' Centre.

Recommendation: THAT THE 2013/2014 DISTRICT PLAYGROUND GRANT BE AWARDED TO ECOLE PAULINE JOHNSON.

7. Other

Sheelah Donahue (DPAC) reported that Ecole Pauline Johnson is concerned about the lack of storage space for tables at the school. The General Manager of Facilities will arrange a walk around with administrators to identify possible storage solutions and/or repurposing of space.

8. Adjourn

9:16

Julia Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer

Committee members: Dave Stevenson, Jane Kellett