

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, JANUARY 6th 2015

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE - 8:30 A.M.

Present: C. Broady (in the Chair); S. Donahue, Trustee; J. Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer; C. Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools; G. Cords, General Manager of Facilities

Stakeholder Representation: J. Duncan (WVAA); R. Millard (WVTA)

Regrets: D. Stevenson, Vice Chair; B. Scott (WVMEA); A. Milavsky (DPAC)

1. Summer Camps 2015/16

The Secretary Treasurer reported that the climate for summer camps and programs has changed over recent years, with providers and competition increasing each year. The school district's plan for this summer is the final stage in the paring down of our program, to better align with our two core mandates: to provide quality education for our students; and to serve our larger community, including allowing access to our facilities.

For the summer of 2015, gyms at WVSS, and possibly Ridgeview, will be made available for rental by sports camp providers, but there will no longer be any classroom rentals for other camps. This allows the district to focus on the growth of the summer learning program, particularly at the elementary level. While ultimately cancelled due to job action, enrollment in summer learning was very strong last year and it is anticipated that the enrollment levels will be the same or better this summer.

2. 2014/15 Playground Grant

There were no playground grant applications for the 2014/15 school year, an indicator that our playgrounds are in good shape across the district. The grant money allocated will roll forward, and two grants will be available for 2015/16.

3. Donation of Financial Instruments

Initiated by an expression of interest regarding the donation of shares to a secondary school PAC, there is now a process in place to allow the donation of shares and similar financial instruments. Such donations will now be deposited into a brokerage account for immediate disposal at market value, subject to a small commission fee. Shares will not be held, as the school district has neither the staff nor the expertise to effectively monitor and judge market activity.

PACs will be advised of this new opportunity, which has proven to be an easy process.

4. 2014 SOFI Report

The Secretary Treasurer reported that the Statement of Financial Information was filed with the Ministry before the December 31, 2014 deadline. Producing this report is a complex and labour-intensive process and the end result has little internal value. The report is posted online at www.sd45.bc.ca

5. WVSS Track Update

The discussion around replacing the running track at WVSS has been occurring over the last couple of years. Driven by the school district's mandate to serve both students and the community at large, the discussion has grown to involve the District of West Vancouver and local sports groups, including track and field, soccer, and field hockey. Regular meetings have been held to determine the possible scope of the project and the group is now close to a final definition, which would include an artificial turf infield. The next steps include defining a potential fundraising structure and taking steps to address neighbourhood concerns raised at the public information meeting last spring, including traffic patterns, lighting etc.

6. AFG 2015/16 Planning Process

The Secretary Treasurer reported that the approach to allocating AFG funds this year will focus on maintenance. In recent years, funds were used as much as possible on classroom improvements supporting our educational initiatives but now maintenance projects need to be addressed.

The General Manager of Facilities reported that there are some common issues, such as washroom upgrades and carpeting, but that as part of refocussing resources, facilities would be asking schools for feedback and trying to address at least one top priority at every site. Feedback from principals thus far has been positive and realistic.

The Secretary Treasurer noted that the AFG has not increased in many years and increased monies for maintenance and capital funding are sorely needed. The General Manager of Facilities noted that this is an issue for districts around the province, who are dealing with trying to maintain many buildings from the 1950s and 60s.

7. Operating Grant Job Action Clawback

The school district has not yet had confirmation of the exact amount of the operating grant clawback related to salary cost reductions due to job action, but it is anticipated that the amount is likely to be \$1.679 million. 50% of the clawback will be taken on January 14th.

8. 2014/15 Amended Revenue

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the breakdown of the amended revenue for the 2014/15 amended budget, noting that the items discussed were all gross revenues, and the associated costs would be discussed in the February Finance and Facilities meeting. The total revenue is now expected to be approximately \$1 million higher than originally estimated, giving the school district a buffer when dealing with associated costs. An increase in overall student FTE, in ELL numbers, in programs of choice and the release of \$517,950 in holdback funds have all contributed to this increase.

The budget process for 2015/16 will begin later this month.

9. Adjourn

9:14

Julia Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer

Committee members: Dave Stevenson, Sheelah Donahue