

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, APRIL 7, 2015

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE - 8:30 A.M.

Present: S. Donahue (in the Chair); J. Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer; C. Kennedy, Superintendent of Schools; K. Johnson, Assistant Secretary Treasurer

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

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

1. 2015/16 Preliminary Budget Revenues

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the revenues for the 2015/16 preliminary budget, breaking them down by the Ministry-funded operating grant (FTE driven) and locally-generated revenues (such as the international program, academies etc.)

It was reported that while the Ministry is fully-funding the increased costs associated with the labour settlement in 2015/16, there is less transparency around this support as it has now been rolled into the operating grant block funding.

Accordingly, while per pupil funding has been increased to \$7158/FTE from \$6,900/FTE for 2015/16, the increase is due to the inclusion of the labour settlement funding, rather than a general increase to support cost pressures in the education sector. As a result, locally-generated revenue remains critically important.

There is a planned adjustment in international enrollment for 2015/16, bringing numbers down to 540 from 590 students. Academies and programs of choice continue to be strong, though it was noted that the hockey academy is facing increased pressure from clubs providing a wider range of options for individual and specialized training than they had in the past.

The net effect is a \$441,000 increase in overall funding for 2015/16.

2. 2015/16 Annual Facilities Grant Funding

The Secretary Treasurer reported that the total annual facilities grant (AFG) for 2015/16 is approximately \$1.3 million, a figure that has essentially remained unchanged for the last 10 years. The two portions of the AFG – operating and capital - were explained, noting that there are capital bylaws associated with the capital portion. It was also noted that there is concern regarding the possibility of high long-term maintenance/operating costs associated with the Next Generation Network (NGN) infrastructure, which replaced PLNet and for which West Vancouver School District was fast-tracked earlier this school year.

The Secretary Treasurer and the General Manager of Facilities are currently working on the AFG plan for 2015/16, which will be a mixture of maintenance projects across the district, concentrating mainly on those facilities which have not had any significant upgrades in the last few years. They will report to the Board on April 28.

Committee members: Dave Stevenson, Sheelah Donahue

3. Administrative Savings Mandate

Further to the recent Ministry announcement, school districts have been asked to find administrative savings within their budgets and those savings should follow three criteria: measurable and real savings; incremental to the budget; and no decrease in service to the public (classrooms).

WVSD must find \$333, 668 in administrative savings for 2015/16, which amounts to approximately 11.98% of our administration budget. The Secretary Treasurer reported that though the numbers are daunting, we are doing well by finding most savings in infrastructure costs and are not looking at any job cuts.

The required savings for 2016/17 and 2017/18 of \$621, 313, or 22.3% of the administration budget, is more concerning, especially as the Secretary Treasurer notes that we are already running a lean administrative structure and she feels all further cuts will eventually trickle down to the classroom in one way or another.

An historical summary of ongoing savings required by the Ministry of Education since 2008/09 was also reviewed, totalling \$2,365,757 by the end of 2017/18, with an observation that the government keeps coming back to the same pool to find savings. WVSD has got through it thus far, but it has been extremely challenging.

4. Adjourn

8:55

Julia Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer