

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

TUESDAY, MAY 12, 2015

SCHOOL BOARD OFFICE - 8:30 A.M.

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

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

1. Seismic Program

The Secretary Treasurer reported that the District has had a 'Rapid Assessment' done on Sentinel Secondary, to address concerns reported by facilities regarding the interior dividing walls of the school. The assessment report was forwarded to the Ministry and qualifies as a 'High 3' seismic project in the future, but is not approved for funding currently. There are currently 200+ more serious projects across the province that are currently approved, funded and waiting for commencement. The General Manager of Facilities clarified that the external structure of the school, including columns and roof, are safe and the building would not collapse in the event of an earthquake. The interior walls are unreinforced, however, and will require upgrading or replacement eventually. It was also noted that as the West Vancouver area is primarily bedrock, the damage is unlikely to be as severe as other areas in Metro Vancouver.

2. WVSS Track update

The Secretary Treasurer reported that there has been lots of progress on this project recently. West Vancouver Council voted unanimously to support the project and while no monies have been committed, they have been lending their expertise and have paid for consultants to conduct lighting and traffic studies. The West Vancouver Foundation continues to provide support and expertise as well, and the West Vancouver Soccer Club has committed \$100,000 to the project.

On June 3, a second public information session will be held in the Atrium of the West Vancouver Community Centre and the municipality is handling all the communications and promotion for that event. Ways to address the specific concerns of the immediate neighbours are also being discussed. The project is contingent upon fundraising and, to that end, the various sports user groups are creating a formal fundraising committee. Geoff Jopson of the West Vancouver Foundation has offered to chair the committee in the short term, until the committee is formed and roles assigned. Fundraising events are expected to begin in the fall of 2015 and it is anticipated that there may be naming opportunities for the field and for the track. If fundraising is successful, the project may break ground in the summer of 2016.

3. Next Generation Network cost (NGN)

It was reported that the implementation cost of the replacement for PLNet is not covered by the government. In addition to the cost clawed back annually from the AFG (\$123,930 in 2015/16), it has been announced that a further setup cost, allocated on a per FTE student rate of \$33.60, will come out of 2015/16 holdback funds. For West Vancouver School District, the cost will be approximately \$224,000. Holdback funds will be announced in September of this year, rather than December, so that districts know costs earlier. There has still been no information about ongoing maintenance costs, which is a concern, though it is anticipated that they will be less than implementation.

4. 2015/16 Preliminary Budget

The Secretary Treasurer presented the recommendations from the District Leadership Team for the 2015/16 Annual Preliminary Budget. The budget process was reviewed and it was reported that input identified two key priorities from school and partner groups: support for new curriculum and to maintain structures that support innovation and modernization; and two key priorities from DLT: to provide stability and certainty for parents, students and staff, and to maintain and grow innovation.

The total Ministry Operating Grant for 2015/16 will be \$54,605,907.

That figure does not include holdback, special purpose or capital funds. Increases in the operating fund include an increase of \$250 per FTE student to support the teacher salary lift, an increase in ELL funding, based on an enrollment increase of +54 FTE students, and the reinstatement of the summer learning program. Decreases in the operating fund include an anticipated decrease in student enrollment of -129 FTE, a planned reduction in the number of international students over 2014/15 and the costs associated with the administrative savings mandate. The result is a net increase in MOE funding of \$949,618.

Total operating revenues of \$65,292,268 will be offset by baseline costs of \$67,235,296. As a result, approximately \$1.9 million of surplus will be required to balance the budget. An unappropriated surplus of \$1,213,188 is estimated to be available for future years.

For 2015/16, this status quo budget will allow the district to maintain previously established staffing and service levels. Once again, the budget shows a structural deficit and without the continued 16% of locally-generated revenue, we would not be able to continue to support all the programs that make our district unique.

The complete budget presentation is available at www.sd45.bc.ca

RECOMMENDATION: That the 2015/16 Preliminary Annual Budget be forwarded to the Board of Education for approval at the regular meeting on May 19, 2015.

5. Annual Facilities Grant

The Secretary Treasurer reported that the Annual Facilities Grant for 2015/16 remains the same as it has in previous years: \$1,234,693

AFG monies can only be spent on buildings and grounds for structural repairs, adjustments based on district program changes, and large maintenance items. The Secretary Treasurer and General Manager of Facilities set priorities based on safety; sustainability; preservation, maintenance and upgrade of aging facilities; and school requests based on configuration and programming.

For 2015/16, the focus will be on maintenance at numerous sites, as well as enhancements to Ecole Cedardale, Chartwell and Gleneagles Ch'axáy.

RECOMMENDATION: That the specified allocations of the 2015/16 Annual Facilities Grant be forwarded to the Board of Education for approval at the regular meeting on May 19, 2015.

6. **Adjourn**

9:27

Julia Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer