



MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

School Board Office - 8:30 a.m.

Present: D. Stevenson (in the Chair); L. Block, S. Donahue, Trustees; J. Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer; C. Kennedy, Superintendent; K. Johnson, Assistant Secretary Treasurer; J. Ross, Acting General Manager of Facilities; D. Eliasov, Manager of Facilities; J. Carpino, Manager of Purchasing and Transportation; J. Brown, Manager of Finance

Stakeholder Representation: C. Ratz, (WVAA); R. Willock, S. Capier (WVTA); Danielle Katerberg (DPAC)

Absent: S. Rauh (WVAA); B. Scott (WVMEA)

1. 2018/19 Carbon Reporting

The Secretary Treasurer began by reviewing the history of the provincial carbon neutral program, which began in 2007 with the Climate Change Accountability Act. The goal was to reduce emission by 40% by 2030, 60% by 2040, and 80% by 2050. The public sector accountability program was initiated in 2010, at which point we began paying into the program. Initially, there was no money coming back to the district, but after three years, we did begin to receive funding under the program. Historical emissions were reviewed, comparing 2010 baseline data to 2017 data. While West Vancouver Schools has reduced emissions by 2.9%, we are still below the total public sector reduction of 3.4%. It was noted, however, that things that have been done during the 2018/19 school year, including the district-wide conversion to LED lighting, should start to demonstrate a difference on next year's report.

District emission data trends from 2012-2018 were reviewed, broken down into four categories: mobile combustion (fleet vehicles); stationary combustion (natural gas); purchased energy (BC Hydro); and paper. It was noted that as fleet vehicles are replaced, we are going with more fuel efficient and, if possible, smaller vehicles. Natural gas usage over the time period mirrors the weather, with usage decreasing during warmer winters. With the changes introduced to the time settings of school furnaces last fall, usage has been reduced by about an hour each day, so this should have an impact upon next year's report as well. Hydro use is static and two of our schools, Lions Bay and BICS, are still heated by electricity. As mentioned, the conversion to LED lighting across the district should be reflected next year. The area where we have most control is paper usage and while it has dropped, as a district, we still consume a lot of paper. With the new Ricoh copiers, the facility is there to track individual usage. Moving forward, we will start to try to identify average usage amounts per district role and will look for outliers. AOs will be notified if a staff member is showing high paper usage rates. This is not a punitive measure, rather a way to increase awareness and look for efficiencies.

Every year, West Vancouver Schools pays an average of \$40-45,000 in carbon offsets, with a total of \$392,374 paid into the program so far. We have received carbon funding

Committee members: Dave Stevenson, Lynne Block

for two projects – the West Bay boiler in 2012 (\$96,130) and the WVSS boiler in 2015 (\$200,000). With the net amount sitting at \$96,244, the Ministry advised that we should submit a plan, so we are requesting \$155,324 in funding under the 2020/21 Capital Plan to address issues at Sentinel, WVSS, and Westcot.

Moving forward, the Board has renewed the district's commitment to environmentally sustainable practices in the 2019-2022 Strategic Plan, and we will continue to monitor paper usage use green products wherever possible for custodial supplies and paper. When making fleet vehicle replacements, we will consider electric or hybrid vehicles, though there are not many available in larger sizes at this time. It is anticipated this will change in the future. As well, we may consider installation of electrical vehicle charging stations. This prompted a general discussion about the subject of charging stations, and Renee Willock, WVTA president, reported that some of her members have expressed an interest in perhaps purchasing an electric or hybrid vehicle if charging stations were available in the school district. The Secretary Treasurer asked the Manager of Purchasing to begin to explore the issue of vehicle charging stations.

2. 2020/21 Five-Year Capital Plan

The Secretary Treasurer reminded the committee that the Capital Plan for the following year must be submitted by June 30 of the current school year, with any funding announcements coming the following March. If approved, work will begin the school year after that. The plan now includes both major and minor projects, and encompasses school enhancements, carbon neutral, building envelope, seismic, and playground enhancement funding programs. The minor project funding is particularly valuable to districts. It addresses projects costing between \$100,000 and \$2 million. If a project is not approved, it is included on the plan for the following year to demonstrate ongoing need.

The 2020/21 plan was then reviewed. School Enhancement Projects within the minor project categories include phase two of the Ridgeview heating and ventilation project started this year, roof replacement at WVSS and Sentinel, and building enclosure renewal at Ridgeview and West Bay. The Carbon Neutral Capital Projects referred to earlier are for building envelope passive air leak remediation at Sentinel, WVSS, and Westcot. Less expensive than building envelope replacement projects, this work includes inspecting, cleaning, and resealing roof top exhausts, sealing vents, and installing window and exterior door weather-stripping. We have applied for \$155,324 in funding under this program. Under the Playground Enhancement Program now in its third year, we have prioritized universally accessible playground equipment for Chartwell, BICS, and Hollyburn, in that order. In the first year of the program, we received funding for Gleneagles Ch'axáy.

The major capital project continues to be seismic upgrades at Sentinel and it will appear on the capital plan every year until approval. While the exterior walls and roof are fine, seismic work to upgrade unrestrained concrete interior walls is required throughout the entire building. We do not qualify for expansion funds, but the cost to upgrade the building continues to increase and we are slowly moving towards a point where remediation cost and replacement costs are comparable. We are not there yet however. If the project is approved, the next step would be the completion of a project development report (PDR). This comprehensive report involves architects and strategic plans for keeping the school functioning as work is completed. It is an expensive report to commission, but the cost would be recouped once funding is received.

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Total funding applied for on the 2020/21 Five Year Capital Plan is \$47,756,466. Of that, approximately \$41 million is for the Sentinel project.

The Committee Chair thanked the Secretary Treasurer and her staff for their work on these reports.

RECOMMENDATION: That the 2020/21 Five Year Capital Plan be forwarded to the Board for approval and filing with the Ministry.

3. Adjourn

9:03 a.m.

Julia Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer