



**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE FINANCE & FACILITIES COMMITTEE
TUESDAY, APRIL 8, 2014, AT THE BOARD OFFICE AT 8:30 A.M.**

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

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

1. Carbon Neutral Capital Program Grant

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the two pieces of the carbon neutral program: the carbon tax paid on all fuel, 100% of which the government reimburses; and the carbon offset, calculated on utilities and paper usage, to which all districts contribute funds. Carbon offset payments will be returned to Districts over a five year period through the Ministry's support of carbon neutral capital projects.

Since the inception of the carbon neutral program in 2010, West Vancouver School District has contributed approximately \$175,000. Through successful applications for funding-eligible projects such as boiler upgrades, the district has already received \$315,000 from the government. It is expected that we will not receive any more monies until our future contributions match the funds received.

The General Manager of Facilities reported that although boilers generally have a long pay-back period, they have a significant impact on our carbon footprint. It is anticipated that the new boilers planned for WVSS in 2014/15 will save 24% in our emissions footprint per year, or approximately \$16,500 in fuel.

2. 2014/15 Annual Facilities Grant

The Secretary Treasurer reported that the AFG is a "good news story" as, despite what was reported in the March Finance & Facilities meeting, the government will now fund the necessary upgrades to PLNet, though it was noted that the government will need to find a source for the upgrade monies sometime in the future. The AFG, accordingly, is being maintained at current levels.

SD45's 2014/15 AFG project list will be reported in the May F&F.

3. Capital Project Cost Sharing

The Secretary Treasurer referred to letters from Minister Fassbender and Deputy Minister Wood regarding public sector agencies holding excess cash/surplus and cost sharing capital projects. This initiative does not directly affect West Vancouver School District currently, as we do not expect to receive any capital funding under the five-year Capital Plan program at this time. It is anticipated that we will not receive such funds

Committee members: Dave Stevenson, Jane Kellett

until all seismic upgrades across the province are completed. Our own seismic upgrades were completed several years ago, and previously received funding is unaffected by the ministry's cost-sharing proposal.

4. 2014/15 Preliminary Budget Revenues

The Secretary Treasurer reviewed the preliminary revenue figures for the upcoming budget year, noting that the associated costs attached to each revenue figure will be reported when the 2014/15 Preliminary Budget is tabled on April 22. She also noted that ministry numbers are based on the enrolment estimates submitted in March, and will be adjusted in December to reflect actual September enrollment.

It was noted that enrollment is a conservative estimate, down 32.94 FTE from February 2014, and that ELL figures are a similar estimate, with a slight increase anticipated. While the ministry has indicated that the operating grant holdback will be released in December, due to lack of certainty it is not included in the preliminary budget calculations. Academies and programs of choice are doing well, with the Montessori program at Eagle Harbour of particular note.

The item of most interest is an increase in international students that will bring FTE enrolment to almost 600 for the coming school year. The return rate of international students is the highest that it has ever been, and because the number of new students has been maintained overall numbers are up. Our program continues to be one of the strongest in the country and the International Department draws a mix of nationalities, while still ensuring every in-district student is placed, even in an out-of-catchment school if desired. Increasing our international enrolment has been a suggestion on budget input and feedback forms for the last few years, so it is anticipated that this will be well-received.

Additional support will be put in place to support the increase in students. It's anticipated that net revenues will be up by at least \$500,000 after taking into account the additional costs. The result is a largely status quo budget for 2014/15.

5. Adjourn

9:25

Julia Leiterman, Secretary Treasurer