



## BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, May 2 2024 3:00 pm, Board Room

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### Committee Members:

Keven Elder, Chair  
Susan Hickman, Trustee  
Elsie McMurphy, Trustee,  
regrets  
Dave Eberwein, Superintendent of Schools  
Paul McKenzie, Assistant Superintendent  
Peter Westhaver, Director of Instruction  
Carly Hunter, Director of Instruction  
Jason Reid, Secretary Treasurer  
Megan Cimaglia, Director of Finance

Don Peterson, STA  
Elaine Ting, STA  
Candace Whitney, CUPE  
Laura Mackie, CUPE  
Mel Paas, SAA  
Tassie Harris, SAA  
Spencer Gray, SISP  
Megan Misovic, COPACS, regrets

Other Attendees: Chair Dunford, Vice Chair Silzer, Trustee Vandall, Trustee VanWell

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## Meeting Notes

- Trustee Hickman acknowledged the meeting was being held on the territory of the WSÁNEĆ people and welcomed committee members and guests. Trustee Hickman reported she would be chairing today's meeting, as Committee Chair Elder was participating remotely by videoconference.
- The committee reviewed the meeting notes from the April 11, 2024 BAC committee meeting.
- The committee reviewed the results of Community Budget Consultation.
- Secretary Treasurer Reid reported that the fiscal forecast in May overall was very close to what had been forecasted in April. Therefore, the estimated budgeted pressure in fiscal 2024/25 of \$922,967 remained unchanged.
- The committee discussed options for balancing budget 2024/25, considering:
  - themes from survey and feedback sessions
  - reduction options and the extent to which any are palatable
  - the extent to which the contingency should be used to address the structural shortfall (some, none, all)
  - committee advice to the board on any additional advocacy for funding enhancements
- Committee members formed consensus on the following 4 items:
  1. There were no potential 2024/25 budget reductions that were considered advisable or necessarily even palatable. When considering potential reductions, the committee discussed the implications of not funding or delaying funding for the technology plan.
  2. There may be options for revenue enhancements including potential for further online learning enrolment growth, and by increasing fees for the transportation system. The following were considerations:
    - That changes to transportation fees logistically could not be implemented earlier than the 2025/26 school year.
    - There may be opportunities to save money working with BC transit (improved service or possibly free service).
    - That consideration of revenue generation needed to be balanced with the risk of transferring government's obligation to adequately fund education onto parents and students through increased fees.

3. That the 2024/25 budget should be balanced through allocation of \$922,967 from the contingency reserve (see attached budget pressure schedule). It was acknowledged that allocating this amount from contingency reserve would increase the structural budget deficit to \$1.5 million (\$582,976 + \$922,967), and the Board would then need to develop a plan to re-establish budget sustainability.
  4. The importance of continued advocacy for adequate funding for inflationary cost pressures, with continued initiative at all levels, from all who are willing to reach out to government.
- The committee agreed to move the following recommendation forward for Board consideration: *“That the 2024/25 Budget be balanced by allocating contingency reserve as required and that staff be directed to develop a plan to address the structural budget shortfall”.*



**Operating Fund Budget Pressure  
For the 2024/25 Fiscal Year**

**May 2, 2024  
Estimated Budget  
Pressure**

**Decrease (Increase) in Revenues:**

Continuing expenses funded by accumulated surplus	582,976
Deficit (Surplus) emerging from forecast	(600,000)
Operating grant increase	(4,434,786)
23/24 labour settlement funding rolled into 24/25 operating grant	1,460,706
Estimated compensation funding outside operating grant	(902,520)
International program enrolment and fee increase	(292,188)
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	(4,185,811)

**Increase (Decrease) in Expenses:**

CUPE wage inflation (3% plus local table allocations)	637,841
Teacher wage inflation (3.0% plus additional 0.11% at top step)	1,578,492
Exempt Staff salary inflation (3%)	270,358
Medical/Dental plan premium escalation	585,168
CPP enhancement	141,023
Forecasted increase to average Teacher wage (step placement)	300,000
Enrolling Teacher change (5.5 FTE for projected student FTE)	670,895
Inclusion Support budget (for projected unique needs)	265,000
Service and supply inflation (unavoidable)	160,000
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	4,608,778

**Net Budget Pressure before proposed changes**

**422,967**

**Proposed Budget Changes:**

Allocation of contingency reserve	(922,967)
Fund technology plan inflation	500,000
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	(422,967)

**Total Operating Fund Pressure**

**(0)**