



## BUDGET ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

Thursday, April 29, 2021

3:00 pm, MS Teams

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### In Attendance:

Victoria Martin, Chair  
Elsie McMurphy, Trustee  
Teri VanWell, Trustee  
Dave Eberwein, Superintendent of Schools  
Paul McKenzie, Assistant Superintendent  
Monica Braniff, Director of Instruction  
James Taylor, COPACS

Jason Reid, Secretary Treasurer  
Megan Cimaglia, Director of Finance  
Don Peterson/Jeff Bishop, STA  
Dean Coates/Nola Welsh, CUPE  
Karen Fello/Sean Hayes, SAA  
Carly Hunter, Director of Instruction

**Other Attendees:** Chair Tim Dunford, Trustee Sheila Stelck, Trustee Alicia Holman, Trustee Nola Silzer, Liz Keating

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## Meeting Notes

- Chair Martin welcomed committee members and acknowledged the territory of the WSANEC people since time immemorial.
- The committee reviewed the meeting notes from the April 8<sup>th</sup> BAC meeting.
- ST Reid reported on the results of the community consultation process as outlined in the [April 29<sup>th</sup> BAC Agenda package](#).
- ST Reid reported that the 2021/22 preliminary budget could be balanced by appropriating forecasted available accumulated operating surplus, but that fiscal sustainability was a concern longer term.
- The committee reviewed the results of the community consultation process and the discussed following themes reflected in the feedback:
  - o Overall support for the four identified priorities, with most survey respondents identifying daytime custodial support in elementary schools as the first priority.
  - o Other key priority areas included mental health/wellness, early education/literacy intervention, vulnerable learners, and inclusive education. The theme of mental health/wellness, in particular, was strongly reflected in the consultation meetings and survey results.
  - o Committee members noted the value of engaging directly with students, and discussed the value of continuing and building upon this initiative.
- It was noted that recently the SD62 (Sooke) Board passed a motion to write to the Ministers of Education and Finance requesting that government fully fund all collective agreement wage increases and inflationary increases. It was noted that a motion for the BCSTA to urge the Ministry of Education to fully fund the costs associated with collective agreements was also passed at the recent BCSTA AGM.

- Trustees and partner groups represented on the committee agreed that staff be requested to assess what funds could be made available to fund educational priorities. Committee members noted this assessment should include information on historical versus present staffing levels, and teacher staffing levels in relation to the collective agreement.
- The next steps are to report to the May 5<sup>th</sup> Special Budget Meeting:
  - o the results of this BAC meeting; and
  - o the assessment of funds available to fund educational priorities.