

COMMITTEE REPORT

COMMITTEE III/V – EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES / FINANCE & LEGAL

MONDAY, 2010 JUNE 14

Joint Committee Report to the Board on 2010 June 23

The Joint Committee met to discuss the following items:

A1. Delegation: Parent Advisory Council (PAC), Lord Elementary School

S. Harrison, on behalf of the Lord Elementary School Parent Advisory Council (Lord PAC), referred to her written brief and provided a Powerpoint presentation regarding proposed closure of Lord Elementary's primary building. She outlined the PAC's concerns and proposed solutions. She requested the Board to consider the ideas of the PAC towards a workable and positive solution.

The Chairperson thanked the delegate for her presentation.

B1. 2010/2011 Preliminary Budget Update

R. Krowchuk Assistant Secretary Treasurer, referred to a report dated 2010 June 11, *2010/2011 Preliminary Budget*. The report provided an update regarding the 2010/2011 Revised Preliminary Budget Proposals. Key points included:

- updated projected surplus for 2009/2010 (\$1.9 million);
- updated 2010/2011 projected funding shortfall (\$17.23 million);
- remaining net funding shortfall (\$1.50 million);
- the net funding shortfall could be funded from further expenditure and staff reductions and/or transfer from the Local Capital Reserve;

It was noted that the 2010/2011 projected funding shortfall of \$17.23 million is a result of the estimated impact of the Distributed Learning audit and other budget changes identified since 2010 April.

It is recommended that at their meeting on 2010 June 23, the Board of Trustees:

1. Approve the 2010/2011 Revised Budget Proposals, with the exception of the proposed reduction for the Band and Strings Program;
2. Approve a transfer of \$1.50 million from the Local Capital Reserve to the Operating Fund for 2010/2011;
3. Approve a 2010/2011 Preliminary Budget Bylaw; and
4. Request that District Management bring forward a budget proposal as part of the 2011/2012 budget process to replenish the balance in the Local Capital Reserve to a level between \$2.5 - \$5.0 million.

B2. Implementation Status of 2010/2011 Revised Preliminary Budget Proposals

B. Ng, Secretary Treasurer, referred to a memorandum dated 2010 June 11, *Implementation Status of 2010/2011 Revised Preliminary Budget Proposals*. The report highlighted the budget proposals in which action has been taken to proceed with the proposals due to their time sensitive nature.

In response to a Trustee inquiry, the Secretary Treasurer clarified that the total proposed reductions in which action has been taken due to their time sensitive nature is \$13.4 million with respect to the Operating Fund and \$166,000 with respect to CommunityLink.

This item was received for information.

B3. Special Advisor's Report – VSB Projections

R. Krowchuk, Assistant Secretary Treasurer-Finance, referred to a report dated 2010 June 11, *Special Advisor's Report – Comments on VSB Projections*. He provided the following information:

- a comparative analysis of the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 projections prepared by the district and those proposed in the Special Advisor's report;
- the district's projected surplus for 2010/2011 is \$17.23 million;
- the Special Advisor's report projected a revised funding shortfall of \$11.79 million for the district for 2010/2011;
- District Management Team's concerns with the Special Advisor's projections; and
- a summary of projected surpluses / shortfalls over the last three years

It was noted that based on this analysis, District Management Team does not believe any adjustments are required with respect to the Vancouver Board of Education's 2009/2010 projected surplus or the 2010/2011 projected base budget shortfall.

Some Trustees suggested that the Board seek clarification from the Minister of Education, prior to the Board's adoption of the 2010/2011 budget, regarding what projected budget shortfall amount the 2010/2011 budget should be based on.

This item was received for information.

C1. New Business / Enquiries**a) Ministerial Directive Order Regarding the 2010/2011 Budget**

B. Ng, Secretary Treasurer, referred to a report dated 2010 June 11, *Ministerial Directive Order Regarding the 2010/2011 Budget*. She reviewed the following items on the report:

- the Ministerial Directive Order to the Vancouver Board of School Trustees with respect to the 2010/2011 budget;
- a letter dated 2010 June 10 from the Board Chair to the Minister of Education in response to the Ministerial Directive Order; and
- a summary of the Special Advisor's recommendations, together with the Board's preliminary comments in response to the recommendations, plus a draft, for each recommendation, of the implications with respect to the 2010/2011 Revised Budget Proposals.

C1. New Business / Enquiries

a) Ministerial Directive Order Regarding the 2010/2011 Budget (continued)

In response to the Chairperson's inquiries, the Secretary Treasurer confirmed that:

- staff is not aware of any items from the report indicating cost saving measures the Board could have taken to reduce the immediate impact of budget cuts to the district before the budget process began; however, the report recommended consideration be given to long term strategic planning; and
- if the Board were to consider the items from the Special Advisor's recommendations, which are not included in the 2010/2011 Revised Preliminary Budget proposals, some of these would increase the amount of the district's projected shortfall due to additional costs to the district.

D. Graves, on behalf of the Vancouver Elementary School Teachers Association (VESTA), expressed concerns regarding the impact of the 2010/2011 budget proposals on direct support for students.

D. Pawluk, on behalf of the Vancouver Secondary Teachers Association (VSTA), presented VSTA's priorities in respect of the 2010/2011 budget, which include the need to:

- address class size and composition concerns;
- maintain non-enrolling support, resource teachers, counsellors, and teacher-librarians in schools;
- maintain funding for current resources; and
- look at further reduction of district administration.

Some Trustees suggested that the Board seek clarification from the Minister of Education:

- on the definition of core and non-core services; and
- if she expects the district to close schools in 2010/2011.

Trustees discussed the following recommendation and agreed to proceed to a Special Board Meeting for its approval:

It is recommended that the Board of Education of School District #39:

- 1) Direct the District Management Team to develop a balanced budget that:
 - (a) takes full consideration of the recommendations directed to the Vancouver Board of Education set out in the Office of the Comptroller General's June 2010 "Report on The Vancouver School Board (School District 39)"; and
 - (b) is drafted with the best interests of students, student achievement and parents as the paramount considerations; and
- 2) On or before June 18, 2010, submit the draft budget to the Minister for her review prior to that budget being voted on by the Vancouver Board of Education.

Date and Time of Next Meetings

The Chairperson noted upcoming budget meetings as follows:

- Committee-of-the-Whole, Thursday, 2010 June 17, 7 pm at Mount Pleasant Elementary (public consultation meeting regarding the 2010/2011 Budget Proposals)
- Special Board Meeting, Wednesday, 2010 June 23, 7 pm at the VSB Education Centre (to adopt the budget)

Meeting adjourned at 1915 hours.

Jane Bouey, Co-Chairperson

Committee III/V Members Present:

Patti Bacchus, Al Blakey, Ken Denike,
Carol Gibson, Sharon Gregson,
Mike Lombardi, Allan Wong

District Management Team Present:

Steve Cardwell, Brenda Ng,
Laurie Anderson, Mark Dale, Lynn Green,
Sonia Hutson, Rick Krowchuk,
Stephen Lamb, Val Overgaard,
Catherine Remedios, Paul Wlodarczak

Union/Association Representatives Present:

Vic Choy, VSTA
Debbie Pawluk, VSTA
Donna Brack, VESTA
Dan Graves, VESTA
Rob Schindel, VASSA
Magdalena Kassis, VEPVPA
Chris Gilmour-Lammerse, VEPVPA
Steve Baker, DPAC
Gwen Giesbrecht, DPAC
Ron Bergeron, PASA
Harjit Khangura, IUOE
Tim De Vivo, IUOE
Paul Faoro, CUPE 15
Brent Boyd, CUPE 407