

COMMITTEE REPORT

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

THURSDAY, 2010 March 18

Committee Report to the Board 2010 March 22

The Committee met to discuss the following items:

1. 2010/2011 Preliminary Base Budget Projected Shortfall Update

R. Krowchuk, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer - Finance, referred to a report dated 2010 March 18 entitled *Updated 2010/2011 Projected Operating Budget Funding Shortfall*. On 2010 March 03, a preliminary projection was presented to the Committee in advance of the provincial funding announcement anticipated for 2010 March 15. Based on the 2010 March 15 announcement, the Vancouver Board of Education (VBE) will receive \$447.8 million for 2010/11 (\$4.3 million less than anticipated). He noted that:

- the grant reflects: funding for summer school, projected February and May Distributed Learning enrolment, estimated labour settlement costs for 2010/11 and enrolment changes for 2009/2010 and 2010/2011;
- although the VBE will receive more in per student funding owing to the increased rates and more in salary differential under the new formula, this additional funding is not sufficient to offset the reallocated labour settlement funding; and
- the district has expressed its concern regarding the funding shortfall to the Ministry of Education, who acknowledged the district's concern and request for further information regarding the Ministry of Education's grant estimate calculations.

In addition to changes in the 2010 March 15 provincial grant announcement, the following additional updates have been made to the projected operating budget shortfall for 2010/2011:

- the Board agreed to appropriate the projected 2009/2010 operating budget surplus of \$2.9 million to help fund the 2010/2011 projected funding shortfall;
- a reduction in investment and interest income of \$0.95 million has been made based on the understanding that the Province will make changes in the timing of payments of grants to school districts;
- a change (\$0.42 million) in the net impact of a projected enrolment decline for 2010/2011;
- inclusion of the net impact of the partial implementation of All Day Kindergarten for 2010/2011 (\$0.57 million);
- other minor changes to the 2009/2010 ongoing shortfall and other cost factors; and
- recognition that the VBE will receive the AFG funding for 2010/2011.

Based on the above updates, the revised projected operating budget shortfall for 2010/2011 is \$18.12 million.

In response to questions from Committee representatives, staff clarified:

- the 2010/11 budget consultation process; and
- that the status of funding for CommunityLink is unknown at this time and awaiting confirmation from the Ministry of Education.

R. Krowchuk noted that the Ministry of Education has expressed the possibility that they may issue expenditure targets for school districts. The Ministry of Education's final decision on this matter may impact:

- the use of the district's 2009/10 operating budget surplus to offset the 2010/11 budget shortfall; and
- the use of funds for expenses recognized in 2009/2010 but not incurred until 2010/11. These relate to committed purchase orders made in 2009/2010 for goods and/or services to be delivered in 2010/2011.

This item was received for information.

2. New Business

a) Budget Public Meetings, 2010 March 24th and 25th

The Chairperson of the Board provided an overview of the budget public consultation meetings on 2010 March 24th and 25th. The purpose of the meetings is to allow the general public the opportunity to provide their input regarding the 2010/11 budget process. The Chairperson reviewed:

- the format for the meetings;
- Trustees' suggestion to ask the following question at the meetings: What is essential in a school?; and
- Trustees suggestion to provide the public a general sample of what the various services in a school may cost.

The Vice-Chairperson indicated that since there is no expression of opposition from Committee members and representatives regarding the suggested question, the Board will proceed to use this question for the public meetings.

3. Date and Time of Next Meeting

In response to a question raised by the Vice-Chairperson, the Committee agreed to cancel the Plenary Education & Student Services / Finance and Legal Committee meeting on 2010 March 23rd. The next meeting is scheduled for 2010 April 7th at 1900 hours.

A union representative suggested that the Minister of Education be invited to attend the 2010 April 7th meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 18:00 hours.

{ signed by }

Jane Bouey, Vice-Chairperson

Committee V Members Present:

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

District Management Team Present:

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

Association Representatives Present:

Debbie, Pawluk, VSTA
Anne Guthrie-Warman, VSTA
Donna Brack, VESTA
Rod Ratzlaff, VESTA
Maria Taddei, VASSA
Iona Wishaw, VASSA
Magdalena Kassis, VEPVPA
Harjit Khangura, IUOE
Steve Baker, DPAC
Gwen Geisbrecht, DPAC
Cathy Hasley, PASA
Brent Boyd, CUPE 407
Kenny Brett, CUPE 15
Paul Faoro, CUPE 15