

Vancouver Board of Education
Public Meeting – Budget 2010
Kitsilano Secondary School
March 25, 2010

Meeting convened at 7:05 pm

Attendance: 34 adults
2 students (secondary)

8 District Staff
1 Vice Principal
3 Trustees
2 student workers

Process: 30 minutes Q&A after Power Point Presentation
Break out to 4 discussion groups
Discussion time approximately 40 minutes
Group report-out approximately 15 minutes

Meeting adjourned at 8:55 pm

Questions following Power Point Presentation

Is the VSB obliged to submit a balanced budget?
How can VSB carry forward a 7M deficit from the previous year?
How does the Province develop their budget and allocation to schools?
Do part-time teachers get full benefits?
Does the VSB have control over salary and benefits?
Are other school districts in the same situation as VSB?
Where could staff budget cuts come from?
Does tax revenue go to the Province for distribution to school districts? Is it distributed evenly?
What is a “local capital reserve”?
What are the cost savings in closing an annex?
Consideration should be given to close small schools. The cost of education has to be greater in the small schools.
Who owns school buildings and property?
Would VSB need half the textbooks if schools were on a semester system?
How will the decision on what is to be cut be made?
What is the best way for parents and children to advocate?
Does the VSB have an analysis of cost savings per budget category?
Is there political will to close schools?
What is the BCSTA position on provincial funding of private schools?

Report out of four Discussion Groups

Group #1

Process has to be about kids first. Kids need a nurturing environment and school should be a place kids want to go.

Need safe play areas

Support for vulnerable students

Programs for diversity of learning needs (GOLD, Music & Drama programs)

Need Libraries, Inner City Programs, School Meals

Need creative learning classrooms

Recognition of exceptional contribution of non-enrolling staff

Flexibility of programming eg. taking grade 8 math on-line when in grade 7

Group #2

Need low student/teacher ratios

Need manageable integration ratios for Special Needs learners

Need SSW support, books, supplies, computers, administration

Everything in schools is essential!

Provincial Government needs to step up and support schools

Encourage advocacy

Group #3

Could not recommend any specific cuts

A healthy well-educated population is the only avenue to a great society

Support BCSTA resolution to reduce private school funding

Explore creative ways to develop VSB property – lease hold, multi purpose buildings

Consider charging school fees

Difficult to prioritize programs. How can you rank programs such as: cooking, library, music?

We need caring, professional staff that can meet the needs of students.

Group #4

Should not have to ask the question of “what is essential?”. Push back to the government and advocate for the needed funding for Special Education and non-enrolling staff.

Consider school closures and building consolidations.

Trustee Bacchus closed the meeting with thanks and reference to the VSB website and web addresses for advocacy information.

J.A.Cook
10/03/26
Area Office