

COMMITTEE REPORT

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

WENDESDAY, 2010 March 03

Committee Report to the Board 2010 March 22

The Committee met to discuss the following items:

1. Budget Briefing Report

R. Krowchuk, Assistant Secretary Treasurer-Finance, referred to a report dated 2010 February, *Background Information for the 2010/2011 Budget Process*. He summarized the following key points:

- the 2009/2010 preliminary operating budget expenditures for the Vancouver Board of Education (\$484.3 million);
- the projected 2010/2011 funding shortfall of \$17.6 million could increase to \$34.8 million if the Annual Facilities Grant funding is not restored and funding is not provided to fund the final salary increase for the teachers and the previously implemented labour market adjustments;
- three potential options to offset the projected funding shortfall (utilize remaining financial reserves and/or sell existing assets, increase VSB generated revenues, and decrease expenditures);
- given the district's limited funds derived from existing financial reserves and increasing revenue, most of the 2010/2011 projected funding shortfall will have to be offset through reductions in expenditures;
- as approximately 92% of expenditures represent salaries and benefits, most of the expenditure reductions will have to come from reductions in staff;
- significant reductions may be required in staffing areas that are not subject to legislative and collective agreement requirements;
- supplies and services expenditures represent \$40 million or approximately 8% of the operating budget for 2009/2010;
- building utility costs represent \$8.7 million of the \$40.0 million in supplies and services costs; and
- reductions in other supplies and services costs are expected to be minimal given that these budgets are already at minimal levels as a result of several years of budget cuts.

A parent representative requested that in regards to the CommunityLink program, during the budget process, the district should:

- ensure there is a transparent reflection of what the actual funding is for; and
- look at how services may be maintained.

This item was received for information.

2. 2010/2011 Stakeholder Budget Process

S. Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools, presented a memorandum dated 2010 February 26, *Stakeholder Input: 2010/2011 Budget Process*. He provided an overview of the process for the development of a budget survey for the district. The draft survey was developed as an example set of questions to solicit input from various stakeholders and community members in preparation for the 2010/2011 Preliminary Operating Budget. It was based on a similar survey used at a BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) meeting with Board Chairs, Secretary Treasurers, and Superintendents and subsequently planned to be used as an external survey of the community on the VSB website for input during the budget development process over the coming weeks.

2. 2010/2011 Stakeholder Budget Process (continued)

A letter from the International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 963 (IUOE) and Canadian Union of Public Employees (Local 15 and 407) dated 2010 March 02 was distributed to the Committee members. The letter outlined concerns regarding the approach taken by the district in formulating the budget survey questions. Some stakeholder representatives expressed their:

- concern that the questions in the draft budget survey were developed without input from stakeholder groups;
- concern that vulnerable groups within the community may not feel comfortable about completing the budget survey questions on the website; and
- acknowledgement that the draft budget survey will be presented to members of the District Parent Advisory Council for their views.

The Chairperson of the Board provided an update of the Board's advocacy efforts in regards to the 2010/2011 Budget Process.

Some Trustees suggested that:

- some of the questions in the survey are acceptable and others could be possibly reworded; and
- the questions could be revised to be more accessible and translated into several languages.

S. Cardwell acknowledged the comments received and expressed his desire to seek valued input from stakeholder groups.

It was agreed that input would be sought and that stakeholder groups would consider ways of providing input.

This item was received for information.

3. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Thursday, 2010 March 18 at 17:30 hours.

Meeting adjourned at 1833 hours.

{ signed by }

Sharon Gregson and Jane Bouey
Co-Chairpersons

Committee III/V Members Present:

Patti Bacchus, Al Blakey, 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, Gary Little, Val Overgaard,
Catherine Remedios, Paul Wlodarczak

Association Representatives Present: Anne Guthrie Warman, VSTA

Vic Choy, VSTA

Brin McIntyre, VSTA

Rod Ratzlaff, VESTA

Donna Brack, VESTA

Dan Graves, VESTA

Maria Taddei, VASSA

Rob Schindel, VASSA

Chris Gilmour-Lammerse, VEPVPA

Tim De Vivo, IUOE

Harjit Khangura, IUOE

Steve Baker, DPAC

Jennifer West, DPAC

Cathy Hasley, PASA

Paul Faoro, CUPE 15

Brent Boyd, CUPE 407