

COMMITTEE REPORT

PLENARY COMMITTEE V - FINANCE & LEGAL

TUESDAY, 2009 October 20

Committee Report to the Board 2009 November 02

The Committee met to discuss the following items:

1. Proposed 2010/2011 Program/Services Review and Budget Process

The Committee met to receive feedback from Stakeholder groups regarding the *Proposed 2010/2011 Program/Services Review and Budget Process*. Some stakeholders provided the following comments:

- Key priorities that the Board wishes to focus on for review should be identified;
- An overlap may exist on some of the proposed areas (i.e. Learning Services overlaps with Aboriginal Education);
- There is concern in suggesting 15% reduction in all without having to first identify key priorities;
- The full divisional budget should be reviewed;
- Delivery of educational systems to students should remain a top priority during the review process;
- The organizing principle behind the program / services review should be on the positive delivery of services to students;
- There is significant concern as to how the government will view the proposed program / services review;
- A similar review process was conducted by the City of Vancouver which has caused enormous negative effects on staff; and
- The Board needs to proceed cautiously with this review process and allow ample time for discussion/deliberation.

Some Trustees commented that:

- The Board needs to identify the “non-negotiable(s)” and look at not only within each area but across areas;
- The district is long overdue for a proper financial review to ensure that students are provided the best service in relation to district expenditures ;
- There is a concern as to the kind of signal this proposal will send to the provincial government;
- The educational impact should be primarily considered for any proposed changes in programs and services;
- The Board should first determine key educational priorities;
- The proposal that total expenditures must be within total projected funding is not supported;
- The manner in which District management team members are represented in the program/services review is not the best way of obtaining an objective evaluation of the program areas;
- The process should support a needs budget;
- The district’s goal should be to identify its educational priorities and core services;
- The program review is an analytical process to identify priorities and associated costs;
- The intent of the program / services review is to provide ample time for analysis; and
- The district could look at this process as an educational services review.

B. Ng, Secretary-Treasurer, commented that:

- the proposed program/services review was developed based on past input from Stakeholders and Trustees to review key areas;
- it was seen to be essential to commence the review process early given the magnitude of possible budget shortfall for the upcoming year;
- the review process was tied to the budget process;
- given the feedback received from this meeting, and prior to proceeding further with a new recommended process, clarity would be required as to what Trustees and Stakeholders would like to achieve from a program/services review; and
- Trustees will need to identify key educational priorities.

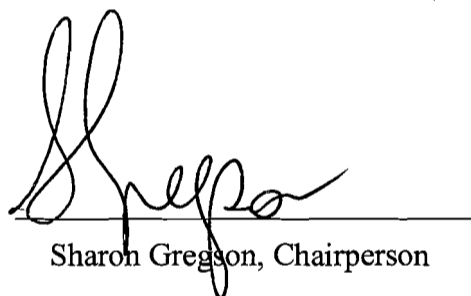
After further discussion, it was agreed that:

- there needs to be further discussion on the Board's key educational priorities;
- the review is to focus on educational programs and services;
- the educational programs/services review is to be separated from the budget process and be referred from the Finance and Legal Committee to the Management and Coordinating/Education and Student Services Committees for discussion; and
- Stakeholders be asked to provide their input on the 2010/2011 budget process at the next Finance and Legal Committee meeting.

2. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Monday, 2009 November 09 at 17:30 hours.

Meeting adjourned at 1725 hours.



Sharon Gregson, Chairperson

Committee V Members Present:

Patti Bacchus, Mike Lombardi

Other Trustees Present:

Allen Blakey, Ken Denike, Carol Gibson, Allan Wong

District Management Team Present:

Laurie Anderson, Brenda Ng, John Crowe, Mark Dale, Lynn Green, Rick Krowchuk, Stephen Lamb, Gary Little, Valerie Overgaard, Paul Wlodarczak

Association Representatives Present:

Anne Guthrie Warman, VSTA
Rod Ratzlaff, VESTA
Rob Schindel, VASSA
Iona Wishaw, VASSA
Rosemary Love, VEPVPA
Chris Gilmour-Lammerse, VEPVPA
Tim DeVivo, IUOE
Harjit Khangura, IUOE
Walter Adolf, PASA
Paul Faoro, CUPE 15
Charleen Derzak, CUPE 407