

COMMITTEE REPORT

**PLENARY COMMITTEE III/V - EDUCATION AND STUDENT SERVICES/
FINANCE & LEGAL COMMITTEES**

WEDNESDAY, 2010 APRIL 07

Committee Report to the Board, 2010 April 19

The Committee met to discuss the following items:

1. 2010/2011 Preliminary Operating Budget Proposals

The meeting was chaired by Trustee Gregson.

S. Cardwell, Superintendent of Schools, presented the 2010/2011 Preliminary Budget Proposals. Information materials were provided at the meeting. In his presentation, the Superintendent of Schools summarized the following key points:

- VSB Budget Challenge
- Guiding Principles (Success for All Students)
- Budget Guidelines
- 2009/2010 Preliminary Operating Budget (revenues and funding sources and expenses)
- 2009/2010 Amended Operating Budget
- 2010/2011 Projected Funding Shortfall (\$18.12 million)
- Local Capital Reserve fund balance (\$2.66 million)
- History of Operating Budget Surplus / Shortfalls
- Three Year Operating Budget Projection
- 2010/2011 Preliminary Budget Proposals
- 2010/2011 CommunityLink Preliminary Budget Proposals
- 2010/2011 budget public consultation process.

S. Cardwell noted that the 2010/2011 Preliminary Operating Budget proposals:

- will result in a reduction of 190.63 FTE; and
- will be open for discussion and revision through the consultative process before presentation to the Board for approval on 2010 April 29.

Some stakeholder groups expressed their concerns regarding the 2010/2011 Preliminary Budget Proposals and noted that:

- the district's budget shortfall is a result of underfunding by the Provincial Government;
- the budget cuts should be made as far away as possible from classrooms;
- the budget proposals remove support directly from the classrooms; and
- the budget proposals remove support for vulnerable students.

Some trustees expressed:

- non-support for the 2010/2011 Preliminary Budget proposals;
- that the Board needs to explore other options to balance the budget; and
- the importance of continuing to advocate for public education.

The Chairperson of the Committee outlined the public consultation process for the 2010/2011 Preliminary Budget proposals.

This item was received for information.

2. Mandarin Immersion

V. Overgaard, Associate Superintendent-District Learning Services, presented a report dated 2010 April 01 entitled *Mandarin Bilingual Program Planning*. She noted that:

- the cost for materials and resources for the first year would amount to \$17,500;
- the curriculum development costs are projected to be an additional \$17,000;
- the district may proceed with program implementation if there is sufficient funding to do so;
- the projected cost for staffing (two teachers) is \$135,400;
- Norquay Elementary is the recommended location for the start up of the program;
- the projected costs for facilities is up to \$20,000; and
- the total cost of start-up (in September 2010) for the program is \$189,900.

A Trustee stated that this item should be considered in the budget process.

This item was received for information.

3. Roberts Elementary / Annex Unique Challenges

S. Hutson, Associate Superintendent-Centre Area, presented a report dated 2010 April 01 entitled *Roberts Elementary / Annex Unique Challenges*. She noted:

- the background in respect of the recommendation approved by the Board that the Inner City status for Roberts Elementary be discontinued as of 2010 June 30;
- the Board's direction that District Management Team report back during the budget process with a recommendation; and
- the outcome of discussions at meeting held between Trustee Wong, Trustee Blakey, S. Hutson, parents and staff of Roberts Elementary School.

A Trustee stated that this item should be considered in the budget process.

This item was received for information.

4. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting of this Committee is scheduled for Wednesday, 2010 April 21st at 1600 hours.

{ signed by }

Sharon Gregson, Chairperson

Committee III/V Members Present: Patti Bacchus, Al Blakey, Jane Bouey, Ken Denike
Carol Gibson, Ken Clement, Mike Lombardi
Allan Wong

District Management Present: Steve Cardwell, Brenda Ng, Laurie Anderson,
Mark Dale, Lynn Green, Sonia Hutson,
Rick Krowchuk, Stephen Lamb, Gary Little,
Val Overgaard, Catherine Remedios,
Paul Wlodarczak

Association Representatives Present: Debbie Pawluk, VSTA
Anne Guthrie-Warman, VSTA
Donna Brack, VESTA
Rod Ratzlaff, VESTA
Dan Graves, VESTA
Chris Harris, VESTA
Lisa Holman-Fyffe, VESTA
Maria Taddei, VASSA
Rob Schindel, VASSA
Magdalena Kassis, VEPVPA
Chris Gilmour-Lammerse, VEPVPA
Harjit Khangura, IUOE
Steve Baker, DPAC
Gwen Giesbrecht, DPAC
Tony Doyle, PASA
Cathy Hasley, PASA
Kenny Brett, CUPE Loc 15
Paul Faoro, CUPE 15
Tina Meadows, CUPE National
John Malcolmson, CUPE National
Rachel Ha, VDSC