



## International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 963

### Re: VSB Operating Budget 2020/2021

June 22, 2020

Dear School Trustees and Senior Board Staff:

Please accept this submission as an addendum to the union's February 11, 2020 document with respect to the VSB's 2020/2021 Operating Budget. Our submission will include items previously submitted to the Board on February 11, 2020.

### **International Association of Public Participation ("IAP2") Not Limited to "Consult" and "Inform"**

The first matter we would like to review is the statement contained in Item 2.1 of the June 17, 2020 Finance Committee meeting documents which state, "engagement for the 2020-2021 budget development **rested within both the consult area and the inform area** of the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) spectrum." (emphasis added)

In fact, there are **five** elements in the spectrum: Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate & Empower:

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.



Surely, this is not an omission and is intentional. We would like to know why the Board has not adopted the full IAP2 Public Participation Spectrum?

**Board Not Entitled to Unjust Enrichment**

Given the surplus in the 2019/20 Operating Budget due to the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic we assert that the VSB is not entitled to be “unjustly enriched.” The Union has asked, and have been advised by VSB Staff, that the Ministry of Education has not clawed back Board funds. We urge Trustees to ensure the District is not using funds intended for other purposes, such as labour costs, to add to the Board’s surplus without regard for this legal principle that, we say, could be the subject of arbitration.

**Additional Staffing May Be Required**

Given the uncertainty surrounding the COVID 19 pandemic and the impact on school re-openings in the fall there may be a need for additional staffing, particularly for the Operations Department who are responsible for sanitizing of the schools. We note that over \$1 million has been spent so far on COVID-19 Related Spending (Additional Custodial and Maintenance \$606,390 & Cleaning & Safety Supplies \$476,093) and this will likely continue well into the start of the 2020/2021 school year.

## **Cafeteria Equipment & Infrastructure (Repeat from Feb 11/20):**

In budget year 2018/19 the district identified a required investment of between \$500,000 to \$800,000 per high school cafeteria, a total of between \$8.5 million and \$13.6 million dollars.

An “equipment maintenance program” was suggested in the absence of retrofitting complete new kitchens. The 2018/19 Operating Budget allotted only \$200,000, a mere fraction of what has been identified as needing repair or replacement in the district.

Given the *10 Year Food Vision* that the district is currently contemplating there are a number of measures that can be undertaken while that visioning process is underway. What we know so far is that the cafeteria file needs attention.

The elements of the 10 Year Vision motion, carried by the Board September 23, 2019 include,

- Food Programs, including Breakfast and Lunch
- Food Growing
- Food Production
- Distribution
- Nutrition
- Food Waste
- Security
- Donations
- Education
- Funding & Lobbying
- Identifying Capital and Operating Costs

### **STEPS THAT CAN BE TAKEN NOW**

**Bulk Purchasing (Repeat from Feb 11/20):** Economies of scale can be realized by teaming up with other civic partners, specifically, the City of Vancouver and Vancouver Parks Board to bulk purchase food edibles and supplies. We understand this is done with the VSB Operations Department with respect to supplies and has been successful. Given that the City and Parks Board operate various food outlets and concessions there are surely opportunities to save through bulk purchasing.

## **Communicate to Cafeteria Workers that their jobs are not on the chopping block**

**(Repeat from Feb 11/20):** The release of consultant reports and internal *VSB Food Working Group* documents in October 2019 shocked and upset the cafeteria members we represent, many of whom have been loyal employees for decades. The reports suggested privatization and closing many school cafeterias and should not have been rolled out in what can only be characterized as floating a trial balloon.

These reports were released publicly prior to upcoming *10 Year Food Vision* consultations. Further, these matters were not raised with the union in recent collective bargaining and we will have further comment on that particularly matter through the *Student Learning and Well-Being Committee*.

**Catering (Repeat from Feb 11/20):** In a 2016 report to the Board authored by Kathleen Ponsart it was noted “Catering is a necessary part of the Curriculum for both the Culinary Arts and Ace It Programs.” What followed, however, was a directive from VSB Food Services telling staff in a November 27, 2017 bulletin to stop catering:

**“Catering- No Catering**

.....

*It is understandable that “Saying No” to catering requests is awkward with Principals and staff. I will provide assistance in sharing the catering message if required. The Catering Guidelines were approved for use by the District and communicated by the Senior Management Team, so it is important that we follow the guidance we have been given.*

*You have been directed by me to follow the 2017/18 Catering Guidelines. If you have any questions, let me know.”*

The tables at the end of this report represent catering revenue in years 2005/06 and 2006/07. This revenue was generated by VSB-run cafeterias and in 2019 dollars was about \$450,000 per year, not an insignificant amount. In 2019, catering revenues from ALL Secondary sites (17) was only \$134,162. The “no-Catering” policy had a clear impact on cafeteria revenues.

**One (1) Additional Supervision Aide per Elementary School (Repeat from Feb**

**11/20):** Given the reasonable cost (about \$12,000 per year/employee) of this human resource, add one (1) additional Supervision Aide at each Elementary School to help restore confidence in parents who are concerned about playground supervision of their children. We understood the Board was going to be reviewing Supervision Aide allotments after a close-call incident at Sexsmith Elementary that brought the concern to light. Assuming 90 sites, the approximate annual cost would be \$1,080,000.

**Protect VSB Properties when Leased Out (Repeat from Feb 11/20):** In the event school properties are leased out to external user groups the VSB should ensure its capital assets are not put in material jeopardy through a lack of robust building maintenance (including grounds, roofing, etc.) Building these costs into any lease ensures VSB staff will maintain these sites in good working condition, such that they can be relatively quickly converted back to VSB use without the need for major renovations or repairs.

**The Big Picture- More Managerial Staff Than Ever:**

The growth in VSB excluded staff has been occurring for many years at the VSB. Figure 1 at the end of this report is the VSB’s organizational chart in the year 2000 and figure 2 is the chart updated in 2019. These charts graphically illustrate this growth. To quote from the VSB’s *Long Range Facility Plan* documents “allocating more funding than necessary to any one of these components results in less funding being available for others.”<sup>1</sup>

At the same time, support staff positions have been cut. For this bargaining unit, this means staffing buildings to the bare minimum in the collective agreement. And certainly IUOE is not alone. Our support staff colleagues affiliated with CUPE and other trade unions have been deeply cut at the VSB.

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<sup>1</sup> Administrative Report: Schools Considered for Potential Closure.

Even with this growth in this classification of employees, there is the constant complaint that there isn't the "capacity" to take on a variety of tasks. As a result, consultants do very well at the VSB.

### **Board Financial Challenges Are Not New**

Recently our Local began reviewing and archiving a series of meeting minutes from 1915 to 1930, prior to joining the International Union of Operating Engineers. Minutes from a meeting of the *Public School Janitors & Engineers* held **April 8, 1918** at *Central School* sound eerily familiar to today:

Central School. 8<sup>th</sup> April 1914

The meeting was called to order by President Warwick 22 answered The Roll call

The secretary read the minutes of the previous regular & special meetings, which were duly confirmed

a letter was read from Mr Upton, in which was embodied, a motion, passed at a previous meeting of the Board, asking this assoc. to take up the question of Janitors Employing their own help, and to report back to the Board their findings in the matter, moved by Croston. Sec. by Dunlop, that the communication be laid on the table

Trustee Dr J. P. Hall then addressed the meeting taking as his subject "Ventilation" at the conclusion of which he was extended a hearty vote of thanks from the chair a motion was read, from Mr Sacret, & sec. by Mr Croston, to the effect, that this assoc. is very much in favour of the present system of Janitors employing their own help, being continued and are prepared to remain so until such time as the Board is in a suitable position

financially to reward us with increased remuneration, passed unanimous.

A discussion followed re. "How many children of School age are employed to assist Janitors in the duties?" & "How many women have to bring their babies into the dust, & atmosphere of the school while assisting Janitors in their duties?" the secretary being instructed to give the Board all information placed at his disposal

A discussion arose over the question of Oct. sprays. the secretary being instructed to get into communication with Mr Barrs, regarding a previous letter on this matter.

E. J. Warwick, Pres. Richard A. School Secretary

"until such time as the Board is in a suitable position financially..."

**Tables & Figures:**

Table 1. Catering Revenue- Historical Data Catering Revenue 2005/2006 by Site

School	Catering Revenue 2005/2006	Adjusted to 2019 Dollars
Gladstone Secondary	\$ 11,288	\$ 14,146
Vancouver Technical Secondary	\$ 20,854	\$ 26,134
Templeton Secondary	\$ 4,240	\$ 5,314
David Thompson Secondary	\$ 23,154	\$ 29,017
Charles Tupper Secondary	\$ 26,204	\$ 32,839
Windermere Secondary	\$ 14,318	\$ 17,943
Britannia Secondary	\$ 2,261	\$ 2,834
John Oliver Secondary	\$ 52,011	\$ 65,181
Education Centre	*\$ 195,105	*See Non-Teaching Total
Non-Teaching Cafeterias (Killarney, Education Centre)	\$ 220,148	\$ 275,892
<b>Catering Revenue 2005/2006:</b>	<b>\$ 374,478</b>	<b>\$ 469,300</b>

Table 2. Catering Revenue- Historical Data Catering Revenue 2006/2007 by Site

School	Catering Revenue 2006/2007	Adjusted to 2019 Dollars
Gladstone Secondary	\$ 13,818	\$ 17,317
Vancouver Technical Secondary	\$ 21,762	\$ 27,272
Templeton Secondary	\$ 4,693	\$ 5,881
David Thompson Secondary	\$ 6,156	\$ 7,715
Charles Tupper Secondary	\$ 22,280	\$ 27,922
Windermere Secondary	\$ 21,360	\$ 26,769
Britannia Secondary	\$ 1,822	\$ 2,283
John Oliver Secondary	\$ 40,415	\$ 50,649
Education Centre	*\$ 197,618	*See Non-Teaching Total
Non-Teaching Cafeterias (Killarney, Churchill, Education Centre)	\$ 226,230	\$ 283,514
<b>Catering Revenue 2006/2007:</b>	<b>\$ 358,536</b>	<b>\$ 449,321</b>





VSB Vancouver School Board  
**ORGANIZATION CHART**  
2000 SEPTEMBER

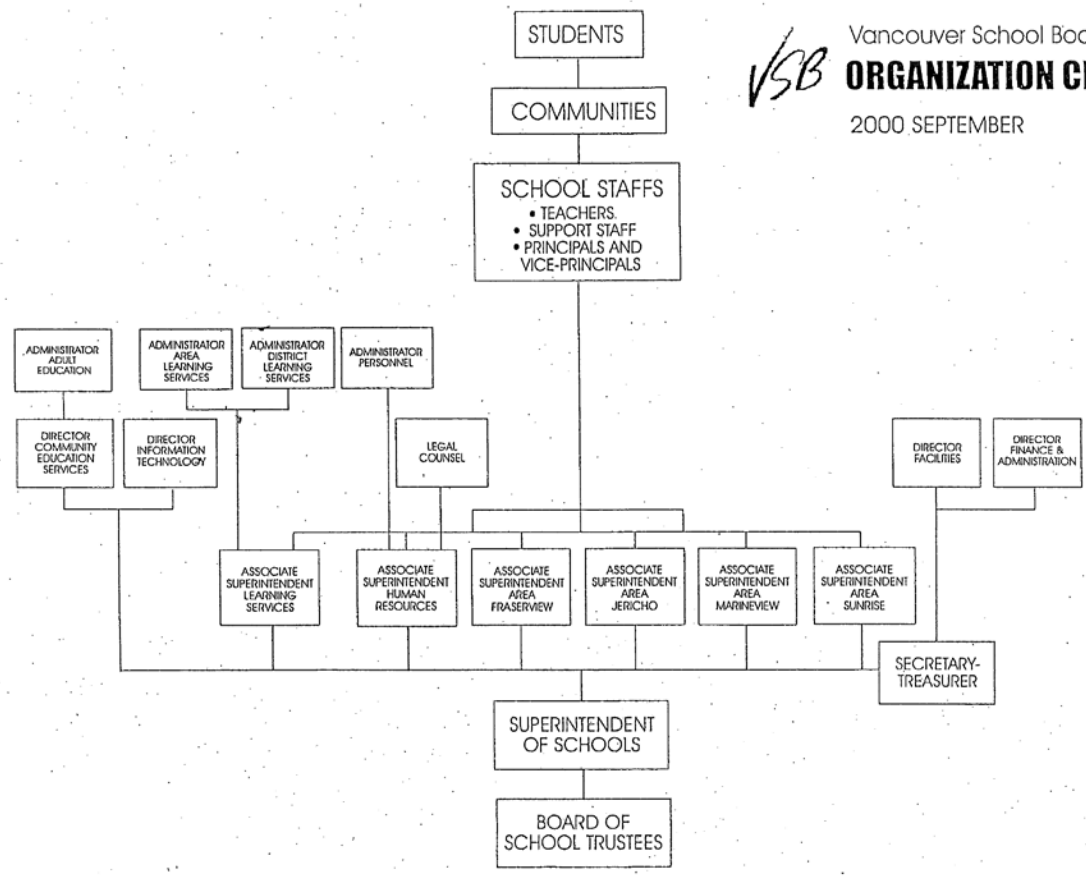


Figure 2: VSB Organizational Chart, 2000.