



**Budget Advisory Committee  
MINUTES  
Tuesday, January 18, 2022**

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**In Attendance:**

Board of Education:

Trustees Duncan (Committee Chair), Whiteaker, Paynter, Leonard and Painter

Staff:

Deb Whitten, Interim Superintendent

Kim Morris, Secretary-Treasurer

Colin Roberts, Interim Deputy Superintendent

Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent

Katrina Stride, Associate Secretary-Treasurer

Chuck Morris, Director of Facilities

Julie Lutner, Director of Finance – Budgets and Financial Reporting

Connor McCoy, President, Greater Victoria Principals Vice-Principals Association

Brenna O'Connor, Vice-President, Greater Victoria Principals Vice-Principals Association

Songhees Nation:

Ellie Dion, Education Liaison

Esquimalt Nation:

Kalie Dyer, Director of Education

Metis Nation Greater Victoria:

Caitlin Bird, President

Stakeholders:

Karin Kwan, VCPAC

Paula Marchese, VCPAC

Ilda Turcotte, GVTA

Jane Massy, CUPE 947

Taily Wills, CUPE 947

Darren Reed, CUPE 382

Katrina Legge, CUPE 382

Regrets:

Trustees McNally, Watters, Ferris, Hentze

Shelly Niemi, Director, Indigenous Education Department

Kristely Kelly, Songhees Nation

Winona Waldron, GVTA

Jeanette Alexander, ASA

The meeting was called to order at 5:03 pm

### Acknowledgement

Chair Duncan recognized and acknowledged the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and we do our work.

### Minutes

By consensus, the Committee approved the minutes of November 15, 2021 and December 7, 2021.

### Terms of Reference

The Committee received the final Terms of Reference with Appendix A attached for a definition of cultural safety provided by the Indigenous Education Department with thanks to the Department. The Terms of Reference will be placed on the January 24, 2022 Regular Board meeting agenda for approval by the Board.

### Work Plan: Infrastructure

District leaders in infrastructure departments oriented the Committee to the integral part they play in the organization, as follows:

Chuck Morris	Director	Overview of Facilities Services
Mark Baggott	Manager	Operations (Custodial) Cartage Community Rentals
Justin Taylor	Manager	Maintenance Grounds
Eric Fischer	Manager	Transportation
Marni Vistisen-Harwood	Associate Director	Capital
Mora Cunningham	Manager	Major Capital
Arch Fraser	Manager	Network Communication Infrastructure & Security
Brian Leslie	Manager	Energy Management
Tammy Sherstobitoff	District Principal	Human Resources
Andy Canty	Director	Information Technology for Learning
Katrina Stride	Associate Secretary-Treasurer	Financial Services Purchasing

Also relative to the Committees workplan, Harold Caldwell, Associate Superintendent, presented data on music in the District. Music will span two meeting agendas as per the workplan.

Given meeting time constraints and the depth of information presented the Committee agreed that a google doc should be created for Committee members to record their questions about the presentation for staff to answer before the next meeting.

The presentation can be found here: <https://www.sd61.bc.ca/our-district/financial/> under the January 18 heading.

**ACTION:**

- Secretary-Treasurer will create google doc, send to Committee members and monitor questions to work with staff to answer.

### **ThoughtExchange: Question Formulation for Student Voice**

Due to time the Committee agreed that a space for suggested questions be added to the google doc for Committee member input.

### **Operating Fund: Historical & Projected Revenue and Expense Update**

January's update was received for information.

### **Fully Funded Collective Agreement Increases**

Staff's memo was received for information.

### **Balancing the Budget: Next Steps**

The topic of what approach to take as a Committee to balance the budget was discussed briefly, including Committee members bringing options, Staff bringing options and co-creating options together in Committee. Again, due to time, the Committee agreed that a space for suggested approaches be added to the google doc for Committee member input.

### **Take Away**

Committee members were asked to provide one thing they would take away from the meeting and how representatives of groups were taking and bringing information from their associations/members. Responses were:

- Really appreciated all the various departments sharing their concerns and top priorities. Outdated equipment across a variety of areas and deferred maintenance were particularly interesting to hear about.
- So much information! A HUGE thank you to everyone who presented tonight (and those behind the scenes helping as well!). I have MANY questions - thankful that we will have an opportunity to pose those through a shared google doc :)
- Such a lot of information...concerning about the state of buildings ..seems like a common thought...appreciate the work everyone put in to bring us the information...thank you.
- The presentations were highly illuminating. All departments have legitimate 'asks' and yet we need to find cost saving measures. It does seem like some of our departments are working to capacity already.
- So many ideas and solutions to the many challenges we face...look forward to working on long term planning and setting our short and long range priorities.

Thoughts e-mailed after the chat closed included:

- We need to face the fact that the cumulative effect(s) of years of deferred maintenance have put a huge strain on our ability to maintain our infrastructure and the problems will only increase exponentially if we continue to 'kick the can down the road' without addressing the problem.
- An underlying issue in regard to the recruitment and retention of qualified staff is the ability to reasonably compensate them. I know that falls under the purview of BCPSEA, but it's something we're going to need to consider when we talk about hiring. Gone are the days when the 'Golden

Handshake' of public sector employment can guarantee a stack of resumes and applications in Human Resources.

- As a Committee we will need to balance trying to implement new 'wants' programs at the expense of our actual 'needs'.

**Next Meeting: February 8, 2022 5 pm Zoom**

**Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:03 pm.

DRAFT