



**Budget Advisory Committee
MINUTES
Thursday, February 9, 2023
Via ZOOM**

In Attendance:

Board of Education:

Trustees Nicole Duncan (Committee Chair), Karin Kwan, Natalie Baillaut, Angela Carmichael, Diane McNally

Staff:

Deb Whitten, Superintendent

Harold Caldwell, Deputy Superintendent

Tom Aerts, Associate Superintendent

Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer

Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer

Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services

Andy Canty, Director of Information Technology for Learning

Hervinder Parmar, Director of Finance, Budgets and Financial Reporting

Jim Vair, Director of Human Resource Services

Dr. Jeff Davis, Director of International Education

Lisa McPhail, Manager of Communications and Community Engagement

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

Gautam Khosla, Executive Member, Greater Victoria Principals Vice-Principals Association

Mark Baggott, Manager, Building Operations

Justin Taylor, Manager, Building Maintenance

Eric Fischer, Manager, Transportation, Fleet and Grounds

Mora Cunningham, Manager, Major Capital Projects

Mark Peaty, Manager, Minor Capital

Archie Fraser, Manager, Network and Communications

Stakeholders:

Paula Marchese, VCPAC

Rachel McLellan, VCPAC

Ezekiel Gow, GVTA

Cindy Romphf, GVTA

Jane Massy, CUPE 947

Trina Legge, CUPE 382

Darren Reed, CUPE 382

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm.

Acknowledgement

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

Approval of Minutes

By consensus, the Committee approved the minutes from the January 19, 2023 meeting with one amendment. The name of the GVTA representative in attendance was Ezekiel Gow.

Student Participation

a. Representative Advisory Council of Students Meeting – January 9, 2023

Secretary-Treasurer Stride provided the Committee with the report from the Representative Advisory Council of Students meeting held on January 9, 2023. There were 5 students from Secondary schools in attendance. Students were presented with three topics related to budget and notes taken during their discussion were included in the report.

b. Student Symposium Event – January 13, 2023

Associate Superintendent Aerts provided the Committee with the report from the Student Symposium Event held on January 13, 2023. There were 66 students from Middle and Secondary schools in attendance. Included in the report was the agenda package, worksheet with budget simulation outcome for each table, and notes from students for each topic.

A question was asked by the Committee about the redaction of student and school names in the Student Symposium Report. It was explained that the report is not intended to highlight issues at specific schools, but to highlight the priority issues for students at all schools.

Music

Secretary-Treasurer Stride presented the Committee with an overview of music in the District. Topics included Elementary Strings and Middle School Music historical staffing since 2007-2008; Elementary Strings FTE allocation and cost for the past 3 years; Elementary schools offering music in prep; Middle School Music FTE allocation for the past 3 years; Middle School budget allocation for 2022-2023 by funding source; Middle schools offering music in exploratory; and the District ukulele, drumming and instrument repairs FTE allocation and cost for 2022-2023. Secretary-Treasurer Stride, Deputy Superintendent Caldwell, Associate Secretary-Treasurer Lutner, and GVTA representative Cindy Romphf responded to questions from the Committee regarding the presentation.

Questions and comments following the presentation included:

- What has been the effect of cuts to music? Have we been able to measure?
 - Each school community has made their own decision as to how to allocate music FTE
- Tell me more about the District Ukulele program
 - Based out of Oak Bay High School and run by GVTA member, Tina Horwood. It is one block held at 5pm and is offered to Elementary, Middle and Secondary students.
- If strings were added into prep, what would that look like?
- Grade 7-8 band had to merge and numbers went up
- Would be good to know the impacts at each Middle school

- Where does the money for music come from if not in exploratory?
 - Exploratory is part of classroom teachers' prep; schools not offering music in exploratory have chosen to offer something other than music; the music FTE allocation and music in exploratory are separate programs; music in exploratory is music on top of regular staffing
- What other information would be required?
- There is lower participation at some schools
- Offering within schedule; some Principals are not interested; brings up equity issues of offered outside school hours
- How would offering music in prep time work?
- Answer the questions that have been asked in the letter from the GVTA outlining the challenges of offering music in prep time
- Mandatory program if offered in prep vs. program of choice if offered as line item in budget
- Schools where numbers dropped when music moved to outside school day:
 - Strawberry Vale: 30 to 4
 - Hillcrest: 40 to 24
 - Cloverdale: 53 to 27
 - Willows: 87 to 60
 - Marigold: 36 to 18
- Explore options of what Middle School music would look like with budget added back in
- Bands are bigger now; cuts happened during COVID; previously 60-70 at grade 6 and now 110
- Could we look at options, such as status quo, recover to prior year, and half way between current year and prior year?
- Three schools not participating in Strings; need more information on why not participating; is there another program that might meet needs?
 - Sundance-Bank doesn't have grade 5 yet; so only 2 schools; will ask the schools
 - Could they do something other than strings, such as reading music, other another item included in curriculum, to make it equitable across all Elementary schools?
- Needs to be a collective/collaborative process, e.g. staff committee, if using prep time
- There was a 20% reduction in Middle music at each school in 2022-2023
- Strings in prep as a trial for one year is an example of something we could do

Department Profile Discussion

Each of the following departments presented a brief overview of their area(s) of responsibility and responded to questions from the Committee regarding their presentation and department profiles.

- Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director, Facilities Services
- Lisa McPhail, Manager, Communications and Community Engagement
- Dr. Jeff Davis, Director, International Education

Consensus – What is it?

The Committee was provided with information regarding consensus decision making, as the Committee is required to use consensus building in making recommendations to the Board. If the Committee is not able to reach consensus, differing viewpoints will be shared.

Work Plan

The Committee reviewed the draft work plan for upcoming meetings including topics of interest, department reviews, and consensus building towards making recommendations to the Board.

Take Away and Questions

The following comments were received in response to the question if the March 2, 2023 BAC meeting

should be held online or in person:

- In person is always my choice. Have a good night!
- Able to do both online and in person
- Always happy to meet in person
- Prefer to alternate, if possible
- Happy to work toward consensus via Zoom
- Happy to meet in person
- Either via Zoom or in person would work for me
- Happy to meet in person or Zoom

There were no responses to the question of what is your biggest takeaway from this meeting.
There were no questions from the Committee.

Next Meeting: February 23, 2023 6pm-8pm in person

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:02 p.m.