

Budget Advisory Committee

Date: March 2, 2023
Presented to: Budget Advisory Committee Meeting 6
Presented by: Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer

Territorial Acknowledgement

The Greater Victoria School District wishes to recognize and acknowledge the Esquimalt and Songhees Nations on whose traditional territories we live, we learn, and we do our work.

Approval of Minutes

Minutes from February 23, 2023 meeting (pages 2-7 of agenda package)

- To be approved by consensus

Approval of Minutes

Three (3) questions received after February 23, 2023 meeting:

- I see that the information about the March 7 open budget meeting has gone out. Can you speak on Thursday about what the BAC's role is at this meeting? Will we be at tables as moderators or participants? Do we need to RSVP to Caroline?
- I would like to propose that the terms of reference or guiding principles be amended to possibly include something along these lines: "That when considering recommendations for cuts (or savings), the Budget Advisory Committee members receive detailed information about the expected impacts that such reductions would have on students, staff, and infrastructure at SD61 schools."

Approval of Minutes

Three (3) questions received after February 23, 2023 meeting (Cont'd):

- Can the budget committee receive information about the \$600,000 that was cut from the EA on call budget that may not get added back to this year's budget? (It is my understanding that this is in addition to the \$1.2 million from EA and school assistant positions that have not been filled this year - please correct me if this info is not accurate.) We've heard from VCPAC members that they would like to see a substantial amount of this money reinvested in EA recruitment and retention. It is a big concern of ours that without being able to staff our schools adequately with qualified EAs, we are not meeting the needs of disabled students in our district and are therefore violating their human rights. VCPAC is hearing from parents that their number one issue about the budget issue this year is student support, especially in the areas of EAs and counselling.

Music Options

- Presented by Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer
- Presentation and questions (30 mins)
- Later in agenda: Building Consensus – Small Group Discussion (40 mins)

Elementary Strings Options

Option	Cost
1. 28 Elementary Schools with Strings	\$258,485
2. Hub Model – 5 Sites	\$91,675
3. Hub Model – 10 Sites	\$183,350
4. Strings Prep	\$0

Middle School Music Options

Option	Cost
1. Maintain Current FTE: 8.822	\$1,132,251
2. Reduce FTE by 20%: 7.058	\$905,801
3. School Population: Base FTE 7.000	\$898,408
4. Base FTE + Participation Rate FTE: 10.000	\$1,283,440
5. Band as an Exploratory/Elective	\$272,312 (Cost of Choir and Strings)

BAC Priorities and Savings

- In small groups, choose a note taker and someone to report out
- Discuss the following questions for 10 minutes:
 - Identify three budget items that are of the highest priority to the Committee
 - Are there any areas of savings that should be explored in more detail for the next meeting? Be specific.
- There are 10 minutes for small groups to report out to the larger group

Building Consensus

Operating Surplus and Operating Reserve

- In small groups, choose a note taker and someone to report out
- Discuss the following questions for 5 minutes:
 - The current operating reserve is \$1.1M, which is .5% of the prior year operating revenue. District Policy states that the operating reserve should be at 2-4%. Would you increase the reserve for 2023-2024? Or would you plan to use some, or all, of this reserve to offset the 2023-2024 budget deficit? Provide rationale.
 - If there was an operating surplus projected for 2022-2023, would you use that surplus to help offset the 2023-2024 budget deficit? Provide rationale.
- There are 5 minutes for small groups to report out to the larger group

Building Consensus

Operating Capital Reserves

- In small groups, choose a note taker and someone to report out
- Discuss the following questions for 10 minutes:
 - Outdated staff and student devices need to be replaced to support learning outcomes for students. Technology costs have increased significantly. There isn't enough budget to maintain student ratios or refresh devices in a timely manner. What should we add to the operating budget in 2023-2024 to address this issue?
 - The District has invested \$900K in the first two years of a five-year network infrastructure plan. Year 3 of the plan costs \$618K. If we do not proceed, we will lose Wi-Fi access in areas of schools. Should year 3 of this plan be added to the operating budget?
- There are 5 minutes for small groups to report out to the larger group

Building Consensus

Music Options – Elementary Strings

- In small groups, choose a note taker and someone to report out
- Discuss the music options specific to Elementary Strings for 15 minutes:
 - Which is your preferred option? Provide rationale.
 - Elementary Strings is not currently included in the 2023-2024 budget and you will need to make reductions equal to the cost of the option chosen. Would you reconsider your preferred option? Provide rationale.
 - Is there a variation of these options or a new option the Committee should consider? Provide details.
- There are 5 minutes for all of the groups to report out to the larger group

Building Consensus

Music Options – Middle School Music

- In small groups, choose a note taker and someone to report out
- Discuss the music options specific to Middle School Music for 15 minutes:
 - Which is your preferred option? Provide rationale.
 - Middle School Music is currently included in the 2023-2024 budget as Option 1. Given the projected deficit, if you had to choose an option that provides a budget reduction, which option would you choose? Provide rationale.
 - Is there a variation of these options or a new option the Committee should consider? Provide details.
- There are 5 minutes for all of the groups to report out to the larger group

Work Plan

- March 9, 2023 Budget Advisory Committee Meeting (In-person):
 - March 7, 2023 Public Meeting Feedback
 - BAC Priorities and Savings
 - District Staff Priorities and Savings
 - Reach consensus and finalize recommendations to Board prior to public presentation on March 14, 2023

Work Plan

- March 14, 2023 Special Open Board Meeting:
 - Public presentation of Budget Advisory Committee recommendations to Board

Questions

- Are there any questions from Committee members?

Next Meeting

- March 9, 2023 from 6:00-8:00pm
- In-person

Adjournment