



## COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, BUDGET REPORT

**Monday, May 27, 2024**

**7:00 pm**

**Board Room**

**Administration Building**

**133 Greenbank Road**

**Ottawa, Ontario**

Trustees Present: Alysha Aziz (electronic communication), Justine Bell, Donna Dickson (electronic communication), Lyra Evans, Jennifer Jennekens (electronic communication), Matthew Lee (electronic communication), Cathryne Milburn (electronic communication), Suzanne Nash, Amanda Presley (electronic communication), Lynn Scott, Emma Hong (Student Trustee)

Staff Present: Pino Buffone (Director of Education), Randy Gerrior (Associate Director of Business Operations), James Proulx (Executive Officer of Information Technology and Digital Transformation), Teri Adamthwaite (General Manager, Finance), Stacey Kay (General Manager, Learning Support Services), Sandy Owens (General Manager, Business & Learning Technology), Diane Pernari (General Manager, Communications & Public Relations), Nicole Guthrie (General Manager, Board Services), Michael Guilbault (Multimedia Coordinator, Communications), Susan Baker (Acting Committee Coordinator)

Non-Voting Representatives Present: Anthony Wong (SEAC), Susan Rab (OSSTF OTs), Monique Manatch (IEC), Jennifer Capitani (OCEOC), Tracy Shapiro (OSSAN), Natasha Baines (OSSTF-SSP), Susan Gardner (OCETF), Bronwyn Funicello (ACE), Melodie Gondek (OSSTF-ESP), Stephanie Kirkey (OSSTF-TBU)

1. Call to Order - Chair of Committee of the Whole, Budget

Chair Lyra Evans called the public session to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Acknowledgement of Territorial Lands

Chair Lyra Evans acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Homelands and thanked the Algonquin people for their stewardship of these lands since time immemorial.

3. Declarations of Interest

No declarations of interest were filed.

4. Approval of Agenda

**Moved by Trustee Nash,**

**THAT the agenda be approved.**

**Carried**

5. Delegations

There were no delegations.

6. Discussion Items

6.1 New Funding Model, Oral Update (R. Gerrior)

Associate Director Gerrior presented a summary of the new Ministry of Education funding model. During discussion and in response to queries, the following points were noted:

- The Ministry invited feedback from stakeholders in the Fall of 2023 on the Grants for Special Needs (GSNs), Priorities and Partnership Funding (PPF), and the Capital funding model. It was noted that neither the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF) nor the the District were invited to provide input during the consultation;
- The new funding model has been restructured and streamlined to make it easier to understand and improve school board accountability, transparency, and communication;
- Core Education Funding (Core Ed) (former GSNs) has six pillars: Classroom Staffing, Learning Resources Fund, Special Education Fund, School Facilities Fund, Student Transportation Fund, and School Board Administration Fund;
- Responsive Education Programs (REP) (former PPF) has nine key priorities: Literacy, STEM, Supporting Vulnerable Students, French Language Education, Mental Health, Student Readiness, Operations, and Indigenous Education;
- Building and Renewing Schools funding (BERS) (former Capital funding) has 10 categories: School Renewal, School Condition Assessment Program, Capital Planning Capacity, Land Priorities, Temporary Accommodation Allocation, Capital Priorities Program, Debt Servicing for Capital Programs, Education Capital Information System, Education Capital Policies and Programs Manual, and Communications Protocol for Capital Projects;

- REP funding is used for the Ministry's priority areas and it could be for one year or several years, depending on the project it is funding. Some examples included funding for COVID and vaping initiatives;
- The new model has no impact on funding revenues. For example, there has been no change in the amount, protection, or security of funding for Indigenous education. Indigenous education funding is provided in Core Ed under classroom staffing and learning resources as well as in REP grants;
- The Ministry's technical papers provides details of the funds and funding formulas;
- The same restrictions or "enveloping" remain in effect with respect to the movement of funds between categories;
- The Ministry made some changes to the funding formula to stabilize student transportation. As a result, the OCDSB will no longer require transitional funding and funding will be in line with previous years;
- Wherever possible, staffing budgets are included in Core Ed rather than REP funding to ensure it is received annually;
- Some REP funding is provided upon successful application and other REP funding is provided without application. The Ministry advises the District if REP funding will be removed in a particular area;
- Some Indigenous education, French immersion, and mental health initiatives are funded in both Core Ed and REP;
- Grants for well-being and math continue to be provided and are included under new categories, i.e., well-being is under Mental Health, and math is under STEM;
- There has been no change in the funding for Grade 11 Indigenous education courses with a minimum of eight students;

Trustee Bell assumed the Chair.

- Staffing for French Immersion classes is based on the number of students in French Immersion and is provided in Core Ed under classroom staffing and learning resources;

Trustee Lyra Evans resumed the Chair.

- Financial Services staff have re-mapped the budgets for the current year as well as for two previous years for comparison and analysis of budget increases or decreases;

- The reorganization of Ministry funding did not result in additional funding to meet all of the District's needs, particularly in the areas of replacement costs, transportation funding, special needs, cyber security, mental health, and capital investments;
- The budget landscape for 2024-2025 will not reflect reductions when implementing the Elementary Program Review, and there are still some pressures and/or investments to be addressed;
- The bulk of new funding for 2024-2025 is directed to collective bargaining obligations and implementation of the repeal of Bill 124 which capped public sector compensation increases at 1% per year for three years;
- The District does not have a surplus to supplement grant revenues;
- Some members expressed a need for clearer definitions for the grant categories;
- In response to a query with respect to Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics (STEAM) with the inclusion of Arts) versus Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM), staff advised that there is a move towards including Arts in STEM, for example engineering designs inspired by Indigenous art, and staff will take the comments forward;
- The staff-recommended budget will be presented to the Committee of the Whole Budget on 3 June 2024;
- It is anticipated that the new funding model will make it easier to identify funding shortfalls and continue advocacy efforts to improve funding; and
- Committee members expressed appreciation to staff for their work on re-mapping the budget and implementing the Bill 124 compensation payments.

Trustee Bell assumed the Chair.

- Chair Lyra Evans requested that the Ministry's technical paper be shared with the Committee.

Trustee Lyra Evans resumed the Chair.

7. New Business - Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

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Lyra Evans, Chair