



COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, BUDGET REPORT

Board Room

Tuesday, November 26, 2019

8:30 pm

Board Room

Administration Building

133 Greenbank Road

Ottawa, Ontario

- Trustees Present: Donna Blackburn, Christine Boothby, Erica Braunovan, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, Lyra Evans, Mark Fisher, Wendy Hough, Jennifer Jennekens, Keith Penny, Lynn Scott, Ganaabouté Gagne (Student Trustee), Prasith Wijeweera (Student Trustee)
- Staff Present: Camille Williams-Taylor (Director of Education), Brett Reynolds (Associate Director), Mike Carson (Chief Financial Officer), Janice McCoy (Superintendent of Human Resources), Peter Symmonds (Superintendent of Learning Support Services), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Eric Hardie (Superintendent of Instruction), Kevin Gardner (Manager of Finance), Charles D'Aoust (Coordinator of Budget Services), Teri Adamthwaite (Coordinator of Financial Reporting), John MacKinnon (Audio-Visual Technician), Stacey Kay (Manager of Learning Support Services), Darcy Knoll (Communications Coordinator), Susan Baker (Acting Manager of Board Services), Samantha Flynn (Board/Committee Coordinator)
- Non-Voting
Representatives
Present: Malaka Hendela, Ottawa-Carleton Assembly of School Councils (OCASC), Troy Cluff (Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation), and Rob Kirwan (Special Education Advisory Committee).

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

Chair Penny called the public session to order 9:09 p.m. and acknowledged that the meeting is taking place on unceded Algonquin Territories and thanked the Algonquin Nations for hosting the meeting on their land.

2. Approval of Agenda

Moved by Trustee Campbell,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Delegations

There were no delegations.

4. Discussion Items

4.1 Report 19-119, 2020-2021 Budget Process (M.Carson, ext.8881)

Your Committee had before it Report 19-119 providing information on the issues affecting the 2020-2021 budget cycle as well as the timelines and processes.

Director Williams-Taylor highlighted that ongoing labour relations issues are likely to have an impact on the budget. She added that it is imperative to ensure the budget remains transparent and progressive in its deployment of resources.

During the discussion, and in response to queries, the following points were noted:

- The changing needs of students continue to require additional resources to ensure the District can provide optimal learning conditions;
- As District facilities age, the Ministry of Education has substantially increased school condition improvement (SCI) and facility renewal funding. The Province is aware that many school boards are facing financial pressures with regard to facility upgrades and repairs. The District will continue to work closely with Ministry officials to find additional avenues for funding;
- With regard to facility repairs and upgrades, it is staff's priority to ensure the work is carried out in a manner that is least invasive to student learning;
- Staff will be presenting a facilities renewal program update in January 2020;
- Staff will arrange an opportunity with trustees to explain the more technical aspects included in the budget documentation. Staff continues to value trustees' input with regard to the budget development process;
- Superintendent Lehman oversees the District's wifi technology infrastructure. Staff has developed a five to seven year plan with regard to technology that includes upgrading its wifi system;

- The Ministry has established a database that forecasts annual renewal and maintenance work for school boards across the province;
- Staff is prepared to host meetings in coordination with trustees in various school zones to respond to questions and provide further clarification about the budget to the public;
- In past years, staff has presented a multi-year financial plan to the Board however, the margin of error beyond the first year forecasted begins to broaden. Staff continuously strives to deliberate longer-term plans in achieving its financial goals;
- With regard to emerging issues to be addressed in the 2020-2021 and future budgets, it was suggested that equity funding, environmental initiatives, a Resource Allocation Index based on Socioeconomics (RAISE) review, and an increase to the number of central staff positions be considered as priorities;
- It was suggested that the use of graphs to indicate options and choices with regard to the budget would be helpful;
- It was recommended that the District outline its technology goals for the classroom more clearly;
- It was suggested that the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) be consulted in budget preparations;
- In response to a query, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Carson noted that transportation issues arising from OC Transpo bus/LRT delays are typically dealt with by the Ottawa Student Transportation Authority (OSTA); and
- It was recommended that the District search for better ways to demonstrate the connection between the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan and budget decisions. The Board is able to make more strategic, informed decisions with regard to the budget when it is understood how the strategic plan informed staff's thinking.

5. New Business - Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

6. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.

Keith Penny, Chair