



MEMORANDUM

Memo No. 20-084

TO: Trustees
Student Trustees

FROM: Camille Williams-Taylor, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board
Mike Carson, Chief Financial Officer

DATE: 19 June 2020

RE: **2020-2021 Grant Announcements**

During recent Committee of the Whole Budget (COW Budget) meetings, it has been acknowledged that the response to the COVID-19 pandemic, by both the provincial government and the District, has delayed staff's ability to finalize the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget. Underlying the delay has been the absence of information relating to the funding to be provided by the Ministry of Education through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN).

We are pleased to advise that the Ministry announced the GSN on Friday, 19 June 2020. As in the past, the announcement was by way of a Ministry memo that summarizes funding changes applicable to all boards. The memo, which is attached as Appendix A, highlights a number of changes including the incremental funding to support costs associated with the recently negotiated collective agreements. The Ministry will also provide a technical briefing for school boards on Monday, 22 June 2020. The technical briefing gives participants an opportunity to clarify the information presented in the memo.

Although staff have already commenced a review of the GSN announcement, the release of the grant calculation templates in the Education Finance Information System (EFIS) is key to advancing the budget development process. EFIS uses the District's student and staff demographics, along with school facility information, to estimate the funding that will be provided to support students in alignment with the Board's strategic plan. Populating the templates has already commenced, but it will take one week to complete the process.

The Ministry has set 19 August 2020 for boards to have filed their 2020-2021 Estimates. Accordingly, a new timeline is under development with the underlying assumption that the Board will be in a position to approve a budget sometime between late July and the middle of August in compliance with the Ministry's target submission date.

Despite the GSN announcement, staff will present Report 20-058, Administrative and Support Staff for 2020-2021-Preliminary Report, to COW Budget on 22 June 2020. Proceeding with the report will ensure that investments to meet mandated staffing requirements and those that are deemed critical for operational needs are in place for the start of the new school year.

Staff remains committed to presenting a recommended budget based on the following principles:

- providing as much stability for students, staff, and school communities, over the coming school year;
- providing funds to support safe and effective learning spaces for students, while also preparing for more localized or less lengthy school closures in response to possible COVID-19 outbreaks in the fall and winter; and
- ensuring that progress continues on the ambitious work outlined in the 2019-2023 Strategic Plan, while continuing to reinforce the OCDSB commitment to the pursuit of equity for students, staff and the community.

Additional information regarding the GSN will be shared during the 22 June 2020 meeting. The meeting will also provide an opportunity to once again explore the evolving timeline for the development of the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget.

Should you have any questions, please contact Mike Carson, Chief Financial Officer, at michael.carson@ocdsb.ca

Attach

cc Senior Staff
 Manager of Board Services
 Manager of Financial Services
 Corporate Records