Tab 10

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, BUDGET REPORT

Wednesday, August 26, 2020
7:00 pm
Zoom Meeting

Trustees Present:	Justine Bell, Christine Boothby, Rob Campbell, Chris Ellis, Lyra Evans, Mark Fisher, Wendy Hough, Jennifer Jennekens, Keith Penny, Sandra Schwartz, Charles Chen (Student Trustee), Joy Liu (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), Dorothy Baker (Superintendent of Instruction), Mary Jane Farrish (Superintendent of Instruction), Michele Giroux (Executive Officer, Corporate Services), Shawn Lehman (Superintendent of Instruction), Eric Hardie (Superintendent of Instruction), Prince Duah (Superintendent of Instruction), Nadia Towaij (Superintendent of Program and Learning K-12), Shannon Smith (Superintendent of Instruction), Carolyn Tanner, (Human Rights and Equity Advisor), Andrew Parent (Principal, Gloucester High School), Christine Kessler (System Principal, Learning Support Services) ; Rachelle Sintic, (Principal, Ridgemont High School), Kevin Gardner (Manager of Finance), Sandy Owens (Manager of Business & Learning Technologies), Karyn Carty Ostafichuk (Manager of Planning), Diane Pernari-Hergert (Manager of Communications & Information Services), Nicole Guthrie (Manager of Board Services), Charles D'Aoust (Coordinator of Budget Services), Teri Adamthwaite (Coordinator of Financial Reporting), Michael Guilbault (AV Technician), Rebecca Grandis (Senior Board Coordinator) and Amanda Pelkola (Board/Committee Coordinator).
Non-Voting Representatives Present:	Jean Trant (SSP), Melodie Gondek (OSSTF-ESP), Kelly Granum (OSSTF-OT), Jennifer Coleman (OCSSAN), Jennifer Glassman (OSSTF - PSSP), Jennifer Capitani (OCEOC), Troy Cluff (OSSTF-PSSU), Susan Gardner (OCETFO), David Wildman (OCEOTA).

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

Chair Schwartz called the public session to order at 7:01 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 Hough,

THAT the agenda be approved.

Carried

3. Delegations

3.1 Marty Carr, Ridgemont High School Parent Council, RE: SRO Program

Ms. Carr expressed the opinion that it is inappropriate that a decision affecting a school community would be brought forward without having consulted the schools impacted.

She submitted that students confide in the School Resource Officer (SRO) at Ridgemont High School (HS) and the SRO works with other members of the team. As a high needs school, it is necessary to have this resource available until the program has been assessed.

In response to a query from Student Trustee Liu, Ms. Carr advised that the SRO is a member of the Herongate response team that was put in place to deal with crime in the area. The SRO provides advice to students, and the school council is not aware of any SRO issues.

3.2 Maya Basudde, RE: SRO Program

Ms. Basudde, speaking on behalf of SES Canada, advised that she was diagnosed with PTSD as a result of an assault from a police officer and she finds it difficult to see the SRO officer as an asset. She expressed her preference to see the funds used for healing, growth, and programming.

In response to queries, Ms. Bassudde submitted that, with the Black Lives Matter movement and the District's anti-racism work, it is important to listen to their needs. Ms. Bassudde noted that she is looking to defund police in schools and seeing the funds put where they are more useful in the long run.

3.3 Souheil Bensimane, RE: SRO Program

Mr. Bensimane shared his ideas about racist institutions and the police. He expressed the view that the Board has one moral choice to make, which is to cut ties with police and remove the SRO from Ridgemont HS and Gloucester HS. Police officers have racist practices to reduce

colonialism, control black and aboriginal people, and other oppression. The settler state's goal is to steal land, have servitude, police migrant communities, and in his opinion, police still play this racist role. He asked why the Board wants to be associated with this system that still has a racist presence and SROs, like other oppressive institutions, could not be reformed and must be abolished.

In response to queries, Mr. Bensimane submitted that society, schools and social services are structured to put Black and Indigenous youths and those of families that are poor, in the prison system. An SRO has the ability to push youth through the prison system and forcibly confine them and prepare them for jail. He advised that he did time with people who started jail when they were young because they fought white children who were being racist. He noted that his friends in Toronto have fought the SRO program and succeeded in removing it, and his friends in Ottawa have told him stories involving SROs.

In response to queries from Student Trustee Chen, Associate Director Reynolds advised that the OCDSB may not have a mandate or the ability to remove SROs from schools given that 23 of them are paid for by the Ottawa Police Service (OPS). He added that there are policies at the municipal level that encourage this partnership. If there are threats at school, staff call the police and they determine how it should be managed. The Board does have discretion over the two SRO officers paid by the District.

3.4 Peter Gareau, RE: SRO Program

Mr. Gareau noted that he was very impacted by Ms. Basudde's statement. He submitted that more information is required with respect to the role and responsibilities of the SRO before consultation with Gloucester HS, Ridgemont HS, the community, students, and teachers. He urged the Board not to be hasty with this decision as the positions may not be replaced if they are eliminated.

3.5 Sophie Chen, RE: SRO Program

Ms. Chen, a 2017 graduate of Gloucester HS, noted that she went to a school where they struggled to receive textbooks and updated labs, but prioritized SROs who roamed the halls.

She submitted that SROs were not trusted by students, and social workers and counsellors should be hired. People got into fights and abused drugs, but they did not need to be criminalized. As a student who used counselling, she knows that you can get help instead of being judged by your circumstances. SROs do harm and distract from learning. Parents may not have made an issue of SROs, but as a former student she is

providing her experience of emotional harm, and that of the marginalized communities that have been harmed.

In response to queries, Ms. Chen advised that the SRO attended Gloucester HS weekly, and those who needed help were punished by the SRO who instilled fear.

Ms. Chen expressed the view that consultation is important but we need students to speak of their experiences one-on-one rather than consulting with people who are not impacted by SROs.

3.6 Amran Ali, RE: SRO Program

Ms. Ali, speaking on behalf of a group of mothers and fathers of the Black African community in support of the removal of the SROs from all schools as their children's safety is compromised by being over policed and underserved. She expressed the opinion that these funds should be used for social supports for students, noting that she volunteers in jail where there are many young men from Gloucester HS who had issues with SROs and became criminalized.

In response to queries, Ms. Ali noted that she respects parents who support their children and schools but she does not want to be consulted on her rights or her children's rights. She expressed the view that policing criminalizes and ruins the Black African community. Food, good schools, playgrounds and safe places contribute to safety not a police officer walking around with a gun and exercising their power. As a successful woman, she is intimidated when a police officer walks beside her and expressed the view that, this does not positively impact their learning.

3.7 Hailey Dash, RE: SRO Program

Ms. Dash expressed the opinion that the OCDSB must defund the SRO, Herongate initiative, and support the "no cops in school" campaign. Students of colour are at risk and therefore it is not a safe environment. She has heard numerous stories of fear, racism, sexism and abuse from SROs, who have shamed kids, made comments towards black and brown students, apprehended these students, and put them in the youth justice system. These coloured youths are overrepresented in the youth justice system. Ms. Dash submitted that they are not provided the same learning environment as white students as they are impacted by the SRO's presence.

In response to queries, Ms. Dash submitted that the OCSDB must value their opinions and meet their demands more than they do now.

Ms. Dash explained that the anti-racist feminist collective that she is part of is a group of black and brown students who graduated in 2016 from Merivale HS. They are advocating for the complete removal of SROs, in

Catholic, Public and French schools. The act of policing has its roots in racism. They are to police the behaviour of Afro-Americans and should not be in place anymore. The collective wants the relationship with OPS to be terminated. Punishment and fear should not drive behaviour, but instead accountability and getting to the root of the problem is more effective.

4. Matters for Action

4.1 Report 20-063, 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget

The following motion, as amended, was on the floor at the conclusion of the last meeting of Committee of the Whole Budget on 18 August 2020:

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

A. THAT the unconsolidated 2020-2021 operating budget of $1,008.3 million as presented in Report 20-063, 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget and detailed in the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget Binder be approved, as amended, subject to Ministry authorization to use the accumulated surplus in the amount required to balance the budget;

B. THAT the 2020-2021 capital budget of $97.9 million as presented in the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget Binder, be approved;

C. THAT the In-Year Deficit Elimination plan as presented in the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget Binder, be approved.

D. THAT the accumulated surplus be used to further increase the recommended $4.0 million COVID expense provision by $471,491;

E. THAT the new funding of $3.5 million as shown in Ministry of Education Memo 2020: B11, Investments to Support School Reopening in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak, be added to the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget operating revenues and that a corresponding increase in planned operating expenses be reflected; and

F. THAT the new funding of $1.9 million as shown in Minister of Education Memo dated 14 August 2020, Additional Guidance and Funding for School Reopening, be added to

the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget operating revenues and that a corresponding increase in planned operating expenses be reflected.

Note: The motion includes the following amendments:

THAT $ 95,976 be removed from the School Programs and Support budget which pays for two dedicated School Resource Officers (SROs) at Gloucester High School and Ridgemont High School.

THAT the $95,976 be apportioned to the two schools on a per pupil basis to be administered within the urban priority high school framework.

THAT a budget allocation of $150,000 be made for the funding of effective school councils across all schools and the work of an engaged Parent Involvement Committee to ensure it meets obligations regarding communications with School Councils and to "undertaking activities to help parents of pupils.

The following amendment was deferred at the meeting of 26 August 2020 and was now on the floor:

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

A. THAT the budget for instructional salaries be increased by $100,000,000, to provide the hiring of 1025 additional elementary teachers, reducing the class sizes to a maximum of 15;

B. THAT the budget for school operations be increased by $10,000,000, to provide for additional custodial and maintenance positions at the elementary levels;

C. THAT accommodation costs be increased by $15,000,000 to provide for the rental and acquisition of 1000 elementary classrooms equivalent space;

D. THAT the budget for school operations be increased by $80,000,000 for additional custodial and maintenance positions at the secondary level; and

E. THAT the accommodation costs be increased by $30,000,000 to provide for the rental and acquisition of 1600 secondary classroom equivalents.

Referring to the announcement from the Ministry of Education earlier in the day indicating that the OCDSB would receiving an additional

$7,000,000 rather than the anticipated $10,000,000, Chief Financial Officer (CFO) Carson advised that the funding is to augment funding for student transportation, special education, mental health remote learning, additional teaching staff, and school reopening, Some additional funds are being held centrally for the cost of additional personal protective equipment (PPE) through the course of the year and also for transportation. Staff will assess needs and report on the use of the funds. There are a number of competing demands and staff will have a clear understanding later in the week after speaking to the Deputy Minister. The school reopening funds will allow schools to respond more quickly to their staffing and administration issues as well as other issues that are anticipated in the next six months.

CFO Carson advised that the choice of remote or in-class learning has created the need to develop virtual schools. The original funding allocated was approximately $600,000 but that will not be enough to support thousands of students. Once the reorganization is completed there will be additional costs for principals and vice-principals. It is not anticipated that costs will exceed the 2% deficit the Ministry has recommended.

During discussion on the amendment, the following points were noted:

- The additional funding noted above will not be included in the budget as it is not flowing through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), and staff is recommending that the budget be approved this evening;
- This funding was previously expected to be distributed mid-year. The province has not yet disclosed the details for the second half of the federal transfer;
- Staff is not recommending any changes to the budget with respect to the deficit and the use of 2% of reserves;
- Staff does not anticipate any savings as a result of today's funding announcement. The funds will not reduce the deficit; but rather it will allow for schools to address their needs earlier than previously anticipated. The funding reduces the Board's risk and allows the Board to increase spending beyond the planned $4.5 million buffer;
- Staff anticipates additional expenses for teaching staff to respond to virtual schools and reduce class sizes. CFO Carson confirmed that the additional funding will allow them to make schools safer, enhance practices and physical barriers, and allow further class size reductions;
- If the Board does not pass the budget prior to 31 August 2020, the CFO and Director would need to explain to the Ministry why the

Board is not in compliance and the Ministry could intervene and appoint a supervisor;

- CFO Carson advised that every year staff budgets for a deficit, and staff would bring forward additional requests to overspend, if required, when expenditures were necessary for students or staff;
- With respect to the amendment, Trustee Campbell expressed the view that it is a political statement, but the structure is not clear about the offsetting revenue. CFO Carson advised that the only way to increase expenses is to increase the accumulated deficit by $180.0 million and this would not be approved by the province;
- Trustee Ellis suggested that 440 Albert Street and Confederation Education Centres are no longer in use and could generate revenue from proceeds of sales. Although the Board cannot use money from capital sales for operating expenses, it is important to reopen schools that are as safe as possible with 15 pupils per class, which is not possible without this amendment. Trustee Ellis submitted that the last time the OCDSB passed a non-compliant budget, it led to better education outcomes across the province;
- Trustee Boothby submitted that if the Board is taken over by the province, it would be for the balance of this term and the good work over the last five years would be reversed. Staff and trustees would have little opportunity to ensure programs that are important would be carried out and trustees would no longer be representing their communities. She advised that she and Trustee Penny will raise the issue at OPSBA. OPSBA has, in the past, gone back to the province and were able to use reserves to spend additional funds that they know are critical;
- Director Williams-Taylor advised that additional funds and information about the protocols for outbreaks and safety will address the safety of students and staff. Safety is not limited to physical space and sanitation but also to mental health and emotional safety regarding human rights and anti-black racism;
- While not every challenge is solved by additional funds, Director Williams-Taylor noted the difficulty is in finding places that are safe for students and to provide transportation to those locations. Parents are not comfortable moving their child to unfamiliar locations;
- If these funds became available, the Board would not see the impact until March 2021 due to the requirement to organize schools, find appropriate space, and recruit and train staff. Trustee Schwartz noted that the Board has the opportunity, whether it is a

formal motion or through discussion, to write to the Minister to ask for additional funds to assist with safety, if necessary;

- CFO Carson advised that the *Education Act* and *Regulation* were amended last year to state that a deficit of 1% would be deemed compliant. The Minister has now deemed 2% to be compliant but has not yet published the *Regulation*. If an in-year deficit is anticipated that exceeds 2%, the Board could request additional supports, or the Minister could make a charge against next year's budget;

- Trustee Scott submitted that staff has looked at the most important issues this year, including well-being and safety. If the Board is taken over, none of that funding could be utilized, and the Board could not spend it in the days prior to a supervisor taking over. It would result in worse conditions for students rather than better. She added that making a grand gesture, knowing trustees could not represent the community, would not be a responsible thing to do; and

- Trustee Lyra Evans expressed the view that although her amendment may not pass, it is not a political statement. Dr. Etches has said the Board should minimize class sizes, and the amendment would allow all class sizes to be 15 students. The biggest issue is that the Board does not think the Minister would approve it and that is a question that should be asked, not assumed. If something similar is not proposed, she will vote against the budget.

An amendment moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

A. THAT the budget for instructional salaries be increased by $100,000,000, to provide the hiring of 1025 additional elementary teachers, reducing the class sizes to a maximum of 15;

B. THAT the budget for school operations be increased by $10,000,000, to provide for additional custodial and maintenance positions at the elementary levels;

C. THAT accommodation costs be increased by $15,000,000 to provide for the rental and acquisition of 1000 elementary classrooms equivalent space;

D. THAT the budget for school operations be increased by $80,000,000 for additional custodial and maintenance positions at the secondary level; and

E. THAT the accommodation costs be increased by $30,000,000 to provide for the rental and acquisition of 1600 secondary classroom equivalents.

Defeated

The motion was defeated on the following division:

FOR: Trustees Ellis and Lyra Evans (2)

OPPOSED: Trustees Boothby, Hough, Campbell, Jennekens, Penny, Bell, Fisher, Scott, and Schwartz (9)

During discussion on the main motion, the following points were noted:

- Trustee Campbell queried whether sufficient funding was made available in the budget to manage the additional workload and stress for central staff support. Director Williams-Taylor acknowledged that human resources are stretched, and noted the importance of communications and data in managing the pandemic. She added that there may be a requirement to adjust funding as needs arise;
- Superintendent McCoy noted the strain on the Employee Wellness division, which is managing a large number of requests for accommodation. Some additional support has been provided on a temporary basis to assist with screening requests and realigning some responsibilities. The Employee Wellness division acknowledges the delay in responding to employees and is working on requests as quickly as possible;
- In response to a query with respect to the use of funding for SROs at Gloucester HS and Ridgemont HS, Associate Director Reynolds advised that the schools would use a process to determine what is in the best interests of students, which may include continuing the SRO program. Principal Parent noted that the SRO agreement is between the Board and the OPS, and not the school. He suggested that the OPS would want to know in the next week if the service would be continued, and if it is discontinued, it may be difficult to bring it back; and
- Executive Officer Giroux clarified that the amendment to remove the SRO funding has not yet been approved by the Board as part of its approval of the budget, as amended. The amendments could be listed in the motion for clarity. At the time of Board approval, Board members may overturn the amendment. If the amendment is carried, there is also the option to reconsider that part of the budget at a future meeting.

1. Memo 20-112, 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget Questions and Answers (Release 4)

   Provided for information.

2. Status of Budget Motion

   The following motion, as amended, was on the floor:

   Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

   A. THAT the unconsolidated 2020-2021 operating budget of $1,008.3 million as presented in Report 20-063, 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget and detailed in the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget Binder be approved, as amended, subject to Ministry authorization to use the accumulated surplus in the amount required to balance the budget;

   B. THAT the 2020-2021 capital budget of $97.9 million as presented in the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget Binder, be approved;

   C. THAT the In-Year Deficit Elimination plan as presented in the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget Binder, be approved.

   D. THAT the accumulated surplus be used to further increase the recommended $4.0 million COVID expense provision by $471,491;

   E. THAT the new funding of $3.5 million as shown in Ministry of Education Memo 2020:B11, Investments to Support School Reopening in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak, be added to the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget operating revenues and that a corresponding increase in planned operating expenses be reflected; and

   F. THAT the new funding of $1.9 million as shown in Minister of Education Memo dated 14 August 2020, Additional Guidance and Funding for School Reopening, be added to the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget operating revenues and that a corresponding increase in planned operating expenses be reflected.

Note: The motion includes the following amendments:

THAT $ 95,976 be removed from the School Programs and Support budget which pays for two dedicated School Resource Officers (SROs) at Gloucester High School and Ridgemont High School.

THAT the $95,976 be apportioned to the two schools on a per pupil basis to be administered within the urban priority high school framework.

THAT a budget allocation of $150,000 be made for the funding of effective school councils across all schools and the work of an engaged Parent Involvement Committee to ensure it meets obligations regarding communications with School Councils and to "undertaking activities to help parents of pupils.

3. Notice of Motion to Amend Budget:

1. Amendments, Trustee Jennekens

An amendment moved by Trustee Jennekens,

A. THAT staff be directed to monitor and report to the Board any emergent COVID-19 related shortfalls in resources required to maintain safe and healthy school operations;

B. THAT the Board approach the province for more funding, if necessary, to ensure the safety of OCDSB students and educators; and

C. THAT staff be directed to report to the Board monthly until the end of the first semester and every two months until the end of June 2021.

Trustee Jennekens submitted that the amendment would allow staff to approach the Ministry for additional funding to make appropriate health and safety adjustments as school resumes. Trustee Scott noted that, at the time of approving the principles for the return to school plan, the Board included reporting expectations as part of that action. She queried how the concept of monthly reports and expenditures and shortfalls fit with what was previously approved regarding the COVID pieces. Executive Officer Giroux advised that Part F of the principles provides a standing item on the agenda for regular updates for the full year.

Trustee Scott expressed the opinion that Parts 5, 6 and 7 of the principles overlap with Parts A and B of Trustee Jennekens' amendment.

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Jennekens,

THAT Part A and Part C be deleted.

With respect to Part B, Trustee Scott queried whether the intention is to approach the province for more funding now or in the future. Trustee Jennekens advised that her intention is based on an assessment of weaknesses and strengths over the next few weeks.

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Jennekens,

THAT Part A and Part C be deleted.

Carried

Trustee Ellis expressed the view that there are too many unanswered questions, for example, who decides if it is necessary to have more funding and how will the safety of staff be determined.

An amendment moved by Trustee Jennekens,

THAT the Board approach the province for more funding, if necessary, to ensure the safety of OCDSB students and educators.

Carried

2. Amendments, Trustee Campbell

An amendment moved by Trustee Campbell,

THAT the Chair of the Board communicate immediately with the Minister of Education and Premier, with a copy of the communication also sent to Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) member boards and local media, calling on the province to:

1. Commit to making school boards whole with respect to their extraordinary COVID-19 related use of reserves;
2. Commit to making school boards whole with respect to any unplanned COVID-19 related shortfalls arising directly however from either:

i. Their Ministry-approved plans

ii. Further changes in Ministry direction, or

iii. Unforeseen and unavoidable local COVID-19 related circumstances, and

3. Commit to asking Ontario's Chief Medical Officer to immediately review and publicly respond fully and directly to the expert advice on COVID-19 risk reduction for schools provided on 19 August 2020 by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO), and the Minister and Premier then to reassess as may be indicated the Province's financial support and direction around COVID-19 risks reduction in its schools.

Trustee Campbell submitted that there is an advocacy piece of his amendment for adequate provisions for safety. He is also asking the Province to ensure that the extraordinary COVID-19 costs are not borne by the District. There could be implications that we won't understand yet and he is seeking an in-year budget risk mitigation from the province in the form of a letter to be sent shortly.

Trustee Scott expressed concern that the Ministry states that school boards need to do what they recommend but they are not approving their plans. Director Williams-Taylor clarified that the language used by the Ministry is "confirming" plans, which is in alignment with the guidance document but the word is not "approved" or "endorsed".

A sub-amendment moved by Trustee Scott,

THAT "Ministry-approved" be changed to "Ministry confirmed" in part B i of the amendment.

Carried friendly

With respect to Trustee Scott's request for clarification on Part C, Trustee Campbell noted that it was his intent that the Minister of Education and Premier be asked to write to the Ontario Chief Medical Officer.

An amendment moved by Trustee Campbell,

THAT the Chair of the Board communicate immediately with the Minister of Education and Premier, with a copy of the communication also sent to Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) member boards and local media, calling on the province to:

1. *Commit to making school boards whole with respect to their extraordinary COVID-19 related use of reserves;*

2. *Commit to making school boards whole with respect to any unplanned COVID-19 related shortfalls arising directly however from either:*

i. Their Ministry-confirmed plans

ii. Further changes in Ministry direction, or

iii. Unforeseen and unavoidable local COVID-19 related circumstances, and

3. *Commit to asking Ontario's Chief Medical Officer to immediately review and publicly respond fully and directly to the expert advice on COVID-19 risk reduction for schools provided on 19 August 2020 by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO), and the Minister and Premier then to reassess as may be indicated the province's financial support and direction around COVID-19 risks reduction in its schools.*

Carried

Trustee Penny assumed the chair.

Trustee Schwartz noted that the Committee has had a fulsome debate over many meetings. She thanked everyone involved, including staff, non-voting representatives, and trustees for their participation in the meetings.

Moved by Trustee Schwartz,

THAT debate be closed.

Carried

Chair Schwartz resumed the chair.

Moved by Trustee Lyra Evans,

A. THAT the unconsolidated 2020-2021 operating budget of $1,008.3 million as presented in Report 20-063, 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget and detailed in the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget Binder be approved, subject to Ministry authorization to use the accumulated surplus in the amount required to balance the budget, amended as follows:

a. **THAT $ 95,976 be removed from the School Programs and Support budget which pays for two dedicated School Resource Officers (SROs) at Gloucester High School and Ridgemont High School; and**

b. **THAT the $95,976 be apportioned to the two schools on a per pupil basis to be administered within the urban priority high school framework.**

c. **THAT a budget allocation of $150,000 be made for the funding of effective school councils across all schools and the work of an engaged Parent Involvement Committee to ensure it meets obligations regarding communications with school councils and to "undertaking activities to help parents of pupils of the Board support their children's learning at home and at school".**

d. **THAT the Board approach the province for more funding, if necessary, to ensure the safety of OCDSB students and educators.**

e. **THAT the Chair of the Board communicate immediately with the Minister of Education and Premier, with a copy of the communication also sent to Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) member boards and local media, calling on the province to:**

   i. **Commit to making school boards whole with respect to their extraordinary COVID-19 related use of reserves,**
   ii. **Commit to making school boards whole with respect to any unplanned COVID-19 related shortfalls arising directly however from either (i) their Ministry-confirmed plans, 1. further changes in Ministry direction, or 2. unforeseen and unavoidable local COVID-19 related circumstances, and**
   iii. **Commit to asking Ontario's Chief Medical Officer to immediately review and publicly respond fully and directly**

to the expert advice on COVID-19 risk reduction for schools provided on 19 August 2020 by the Registered Nurses' Association of Ontario (RNAO), and the Minister and Premier then to reassess as may be indicated the province's financial support and direction around COVID-19 risks reduction in its schools;

B. THAT the 2020-2021 capital budget of $97.9 million as presented in the 2020- 2021 Staff-Recommended Budget Binder, be approved;

C. THAT the In-Year Deficit Elimination plan presented in the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget Binder, as amended, be approved;

D. THAT the accumulated surplus be used to further increase the recommended $4.0 million COVID expense provision by $471,491;

E. THAT the new funding of $3.5 million as shown in Ministry of Education Memo 2020:B11, Investments to Support School Reopening in Response to the COVID-19 Outbreak, be added to the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget operating revenues and that a corresponding increase in planned operating expenses be reflected; and

F. THAT the new funding of $1.9 million as shown in Minister of Education Memo dated 14 August 2020, Additional Guidance and Funding for School Reopening, be added to the 2020-2021 Staff-Recommended Budget operating revenues and that a corresponding increase in planned operating expenses be reflected.

Carried.

5. New Business - Information and Inquiries

There was no new business.

6. Adjournment

Chair Schwartz thanked CFO Carson and staff for the hard work put into creating a budget and making safety paramount. As a parent, she noted that she is very thankful to staff for making this a priority.

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

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Sandra Schwartz, Chair