

Finance and Facilities & Transportation Committee Meeting Report



May 14, 2024 (4:15 p.m. – 7:01 p.m.)

Trustees in Attendance:	Angie Delainey (Chaired Mtg.), Mary Forbes, Anne Kohut. Michael Franklin, Ciel Patenaude.
TEAMS:	Willow Macdonald.
Regrets:	Linda Martens.
Staff:	Superintendent Chris van der Mark, Deputy Superintendent Cheryl Lenardon, Secretary-Treasurer Brenda Hooker, Directors of Education - Sean Cameron, Anita Richardson, Director of Human Resources, Taryn Aumond, Executive Assistant Jodi Symmes.

Agenda Item	Notes	Action
Acknowledgment of Traditional Territory		
1. April 9, 2024, Committee Report	The committee reviewed the report and recommended no changes.	None.
2. Transportation Update	<p>Secretary-Treasurer Hooker provided an update for the committee and community members on the Transfinder Report and Catchment review that the district has been undertaking since early 2023. The five (5) considerations, along with the detailed information related to the pros and cons of each.</p> <p>Question/Comments: Trustees asked clarifying questions regarding what is considered SoC and how wildlife concerns could be addressed in rural areas. Staff also clarified that when families request a SoC, they are clearly advised that transportation will not be provided. The challenge we are facing is our historically inconsistent practice.</p> <p>Big Lake Community parents came in person, and online bringing forward the following concerns for their children:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Walk limits for their rural area, - SoC – length of time to receive busing confirmation for students accepted to Columneetza School for grade 7. <p>Proximity and historic consideration as a “bowl school” feeder for grade 7.</p>	<p>RECOMMENDATIONS: THAT The Board of Education directs staff to continue to operationalize transportation route optimization to align practice with Policy and AP 770 which may include developing an application process for courtesy and school-of-choice riders, contingent on bus routes having available seats.</p> <p>Staff will continue to revise AP to include considerations from the discussion as part of the optimization, including grandfathering options.</p> <p>THAT the Board of Education receive an update at the June committee meeting on details of the operational changes to be implemented for September 2024.</p>

“Learning, Growing, and Belonging Together”

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Lack of adequate communication with the process – School Administration and District do not seem to be in alignment. <p>IUOE – President Sue Sim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Raised concerns regarding the Districts used in financial comparison and the fear that if routes are optimized the result will be job loses. - Staff verified that Northern Districts with similar transportation challenges were used in the analysis. It was also stated that if any changes were approved by the Board, the District hoped to absorb any bus driver staff affected but that the collective agreement would be followed regardless. <p>Community Member –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Here to advocate for the proposed changes. As a teacher and a parent whose children are picked up and dropped off, I believe these funds are desperately needed for schools and our students. <p>Trustees agreed that communication can be improved and that the last four years have been a lot of work, and we are trying to get back on track. We have been working through District Policies, many of which are outdated, and do not align with the District's mission or values. Having these conversations is necessary, we encourage them and will continue to work on communication. As trustees, we are governors for the District and have a fiduciary responsibility to look into these types of cost concerns.</p> <p>Possible Options: Secretary-Treasurer – if the Board wishes to create a process for SoC, that can be done, but we need to start with efficiency and a place to start.</p> <p>Trustee Delaney – requested an additional meeting next week, for further discussion.</p>	

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	<p>Superintendent – Given we will bring suggested changes to public Board Meeting, and then review in committee again in June, probably not necessary. May need to consider grandfathering out SoC, if there is space on the run, the child can go on it, but it is on a year-by-year basis, with no guarantee.</p> <p>Community Member: Grandfathering – wanted to ensure siblings would also be included.</p> <p>Trustee Franklin: how long would it take to give decisions to parents?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The board will discuss the recommendations at the May board meeting which will then inform staff direction at the June committee and Board meeting. Staff will inform affected families as soon as possible. The District will continue to look at operational efficiencies, as the bus service often changes and demographics and needs change. 	
<p>3. Emergency Planning</p>	<p>Directory of Instruction Richardson walked through a PowerPoint of information for the committee on the District's Emergency Plans that have been developed. With the unfortunately dry summer ahead, the district wanted to have everyone aware of what the plan of the district is.</p> <p>WM – questions related to the CRD – during the 2017 fires: Do we have something about this written down about communication and school use?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - We have contacts in place now. <p>AK – have we received a plan from the CRD?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The district is having a meeting on May 30. 	<p>None. Information only.</p>

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<p>4. Facilities & Transportation Works Yard</p>	<p>Secretary-Treasurer Hooker brought forward information on the Facilities and Transportation works yard and the findings to date of the feasibility study. Currently this is a high-level plan and the staff is looking for Board support to proceed to in-depth costing and planning. A presentation, possible site layout, survey information and cost breakdown have been provided.</p> <p>WM – The proposed plan is good. AD – Do we own the current facility yard property?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Yes. - If Glendale stays, would the studio Theater be able to stay? - Until such time that we demolish the closed school. 	<p>RECOMMENDATION: THAT the Board of Education for SD#27 (Cariboo-Chilcotin) approves staff to conduct detailed planning and costing for a replacement Facilities and Transportation Works Yard at the Glendale property, with the understanding that information will then be brought back to the Board for a final decision.</p>									
<p>5. Annual Budget 2024-25</p>	<p>Secretary-Treasurer Hooker presented the preliminary information for the 2024-2025 budget planning. She advised that the amounts may change slightly prior to full adoption of the bylaw as the draft still needs Ministry review and further funding may be announced.</p> <p>WM – Are there flags where the schools are not spending their operational funds?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Secretary-Treasurer – Some schools struggle to spend all their special purpose funds due to timelines, or scope of use for the funds. 	<p>RECOMMENDATION THAT the Board of Education proceed with the first two (2) readings of the Annual Budget Bylaw at the May 28th, 2024, Public Board Meeting.</p>									
<p>6. New Spaces Fund – Minor Capital Daycare Application</p>	<p>Secretary-Treasurer Hooker reviewed information with the committee regarding an application for New Spaces Fund for a possible after school care location at Chilcotin Road.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - All Trustees present agree that the recommendation should be moved forward. 	<p>RECOMMENDATION THAT the Board of Education for School District #27 approve staff to submit an application for a minor capital childcare project at Chilcotin Rd Elementary School.</p>									
<p>7. Proposed Future Meeting Dates</p>											
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