



Trustees:

Mike Murray (Chair), Susan Carr (Vice-Chair), Lisa Beare, Korleen Carreras, Ken Clarkson, Dr. Dave Rempel

Executive:

Sylvia Russell (Superintendent), Laurie Meston (Deputy Superintendent), Flavia Coughlan (Secretary Treasurer), Shannon Derinzy (Director of Instruction), Harry Dhillon (Director of Instruction, Learning Services), David Vandergugten (Director of Instruction)

Proposed Preliminary Budget 2016/17

Secretary Treasurer Flavia Coughlan presented the draft *Proposed Preliminary Budget 2016/17*, which is available for public review and feedback at <http://www.sd42.ca/budget-process>.

The *Proposed Preliminary Budget* identifies strategies to address what would otherwise be an increasing deficit over the next three years. Projected budget funding shortfalls continue to be caused by cost pressures beyond the school district's control, including the CUPE wage increase, increased costs for benefits, inflation, utilities rate increases, the use of reserves to fund previous budget shortfalls, as well as provincially mandated administrative savings.

The draft budget includes the implementation of the following administrative savings measures, approved in 2015: move to bring your own device for students by 2018 (\$150K), general supplies reduction (\$180K), 2015/16 transportation changes (\$70K), 2016/17 discontinuation of regular student transportation (\$650K), and Energy Management Plan savings (\$300K).

Ongoing budget balancing proposals include additional counseling resources (as requested by students), and class size reductions to address concerns about the district having reached one of the highest class size averages in the province.

In accordance with The School Act, the Board must adopt a balanced budget for the coming year. The Board will receive public and partner group input on the *Proposed Preliminary Budget 2016/17* starting 6pm on Wednesday, April 20, 2016 at Thomas Haney Secondary School.

2016/17 School Enhancement Program Submission

The Board approved the submission of a request to the provincial government for capital funding to complete the installation of several air handling units, the replacement of a boiler at Pitt Meadows Secondary School, and the replacement of a number of school roofs. If funding is approved, all work will be completed in accordance with the school district's Energy Management Plan.

Superintendent's Update

Superintendent Sylvia Russell presented the superintendent's update, which included the following highlights:

- School teams from Davie Jones Elementary, Yennadon Elementary, and Samuel Robertson Technical attended the BC School Superintendents Association (BCSSA) spring forum on the new curriculum. Presenters Faye Brownlee, Leyton Schellert, and Shelley Moore will be in the school district in May 2016 to work with school teams.
- The Rotary Club dictionary program will be launching this fall, providing all grade 4 students with a beautiful Usborne Picture Dictionary by early October.
- The Metis Red River Cart projects are taking place in our secondary schools. Each project takes Metis carver Patrick Caillehoo about a week to complete. The project is jointly funded by the Aboriginal Education department and the Metis Nation of BC.
- Pitt Meadows Secondary hosted a meet and greet for teachers, education assistants and admin from its feeder schools to collaborate about the transition process for grade 7 students. Literacy week is also coming up at the school, which has a variety of activities planned before the big Battle of the Books finish at Westview Secondary on April 21, 2016.
- Grade 12 wrestlers from Maple Ridge Secondary (Libby McDonnell, Cam Hicks, Marco Kolobara and Miki Rowbottom) heading to Calgary on April 14 for the Canadian National Juvenile Wrestling Championships; other accolades include the school's chamber choir earning gold at the Kiwanis Choral Festival and the girls' rugby team being crowned Plate Champions in California over spring break.
- Samuel Robertson Technical is preparing for the 10th Anniversary Open House on May 13.
- Alouette Elementary is participating in the Recycling Council of Ontario initiative *Plastic Bag Grab* challenge, and on April 20th grade 6/7 classes are presenting "Dig It" – a performance about ancient civilizations.
- At Harry Hooge, grade 5 teachers Cassie Krieger and Jenn Woolley have created ICE time (Innovate, Create, Explore). ICE time will give students an opportunity to show their critical and creative thinking through play.
- Yennadon hosted the BC Lions, who taught students about energy conservation as a follow-up to the lighting upgrade the school received over spring break. One of the school's 6/7 classes has been doing "genius hour," as a part of which groups select and fundraise for a charity. Finally, the school's forest restoration project is in full swing as volunteers work to keep the environment around the school in its natural state.
- Thanks to the school's PAC and to Westview Secondary's wood shop, Fairview Elementary now has a collection of planter boxes that the school's primary students will soon fill with growing plants.

Board Policy Development Committee

The Board considered a draft policy on *Physical Restraint and Seclusion in School Settings*, submitted by the Inclusive Education and Policy Committees. The draft policy follows and in some cases exceeds provincial requirements. The policy has been posted for public review and feedback for the next 30 days at <http://www1.sd42.ca/node/2008>.

Facilities Committee Update

Secretary Treasurer Coughlan reported that the Project Definition Report for the new South Albion elementary school has been submitted to provincial government for final consideration, with the hope that the application will be approved and the school district will receive capital funding for the new school in the near future. The submission included letters of support from the municipality, service providers, and both MLAs.

BC School Trustees Association (BCSTA) Annual General Meeting

Reflecting on the weekend's BCSTA annual general meeting, trustees observed that 31 resolutions had been brought to the floor. Three of these resolutions were introduced by the SD42 Board of Education, addressing maternity leave provisions, school site acquisition charge legislation, and adult graduated student upgrading fee waivers. All three resolutions were subsequently adopted, as was an amendment to the resolution endorsing the provincial report on Child and Youth Mental Health, which requested that BCSTA encourage, provide input on, and monitor the full implementation of the report.

Trustee Reports

Arts Council – Trustee Carreras spoke about the Arts Council's discussions with both municipalities regarding the provision of services following the change in Parks and Leisure Services delivery later this year. Trustee Carreras also mentioned that five scholarship auditions were recently held for graduating student bursaries, which will be awarded in several arts related disciplines.

Social Planning Advisory Committee – Board Chair Murray and Vice-Chair Carr spoke about their recent meeting with the Social Planning Advisory Committee, in which they had discussed the loss of United Way funding for the network tables coordinating Early Years, Middle Years and Seniors Services in the community. They also mentioned the process involved in developing a Youth Strategy, which will identify youth needs and determine how those needs might be met in the community.

Good News

The good news portion of the evening included the following items: Board Chair Murray noted that he and Superintendent Russell attended a Kiwanis Club meeting at Thomas Haney Secondary for student representatives of Kiwanis Youth clubs throughout the lower mainland. The Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows School District has these clubs in place at three of its secondary schools. The focus of the clubs is community service.

The next Board of Education meeting will be at 6 pm April 20, 2016 at Thomas Haney Secondary School.