SD 42 POLICY: 4204

CONTINGENCY RESERVE

Philosophy

The Board of Education is responsible for ensuring the district is protected financially from extraordinary circumstances which would negatively impact school district operations and the education of students. To discharge this responsibility, the Board will establish a contingency reserve from available operating surplus which would be used to mitigate any negative impact such circumstances might cause.

Authority

The Board authorizes the Superintendent and the Secretary Treasurer to develop and implement all procedures required for the establishment and management of the Board's contingency reserve.

Guiding Principles

The Board shall maintain a contingency reserve of at least 1% of operating expenditures and not exceeding 3% of operating expenditures.

The Board may approve the use of the contingency reserve under the following circumstances:

- The elimination of any deficit arising at the end of a fiscal year of operations;
- The funding of new cost pressures in a fiscal year that were not known at the time of budget development;
- Extraordinary unknown utilities cost pressures;
- The payment of severances (wages and benefits) upon termination of employment;
- The settlement of any legal action that is not covered by insurance;
- Initial one-time cost outlays for new education programs;
- Coverage for disaster recovery expenditures;
- Extraordinary expenses incurred to ensure business continuity;
- Replacement of equipment essential to the continuation of safe operations of school district facilities;
- Coverage for unexpected additional major capital project costs not funded by the province;
- To assist in balancing future years budgets.

In recognizing that the use of the contingency reserve represents a one-time source of funding, the Board will incorporate into its future budget planning processes, strategies to re establish the contingency reserve. Such strategies may be implemented over a period of two years.

APPROVED: March 9, 2016

REVIEWED: January 2021