

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

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## OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

*Regular*

March 5<sup>th</sup>, 2019

5:00 PM

School Board Office

Voting Members	Administration
L. Kearns, Chair P. Mitchell, Alternate  J. Williams (ex officio)	C. van der Mark, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer M. McDiarmid, Assistant Superintendent
<b>Regrets:</b> J. Krauskopf	

*Meeting was conducted from 5:04 pm – 6:10 pm*

**Welcome:** *Before we begin, I would like to acknowledge that we are gathered here today on the home of the Wit'suwit'en Nation, traditional territory of the Gidmt'en - Bear Wolf Clan."*

### REPORT

#### **1. Projected 2019-2020 Enrollment**

Mr. Margerm updated the committee on the current projected enrollment. The District is projecting a decline of approximately 46 student FTE, 1982 FTE to 1936 FTE. A decline of 46 student FTE corresponds to approximately \$341,000 drop in funding. We should receive our initial funding estimate based from the Ministry this March 2019.

#### **2. 2019-2020 Trustee Stipend**

Mr. Margerm updated the committee on the current policy that provides the opportunity for the Board to receive a stipend increase in March. Stipends will increase on an annual basis based on the change in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for British Columbia as at December of each year unless the Board, by majority vote of those present at the annual March Board Meeting, resolve to not take the increase. The vote requires a 2/3 majority to decline the stipend increase or increase the stipend beyond the CPI.

The committee also considered a general stipend increase greater than CPI to raise the stipend up to a rate comparable with other school districts of equal enrollment or similar region. Mr. Margerm will provide a briefing note outlining information on historical raises to the stipend rate and provincial school district stipends for the March board meeting.

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***Motion - Committee recommends that "In order to raise the stipend rate up to be comparable with other school districts of equal size, the Board approves a 19% stipend increase to the positions of Trustee, Vice-Chair and Board Chair as of July 1, 2019."***

In the event that this previous motion is carried:

***Motion - Committee recommends that "The Trustees not receive the annual stipend increase based from the CPI as of July 1, 2019."***

### **3. Walnut Park Project Update**

Mr. Margerm provided an update on the progress of Walnut Park project. Architects and sub-trades have started working on specification for the current design. SD54 has received the first costing figures for the new WPE school rebuild project. The costing is approximately \$5.4 million over planned budget. The Ministry is currently reviewing the costing figures and will get back to the District with questions.

### **4. Response to Access Smithers Delegation**

The Committee discussed the need for responding to the Access Smithers Delegation, and some general points to consider.

***Motion - Committee recommends that "The Board Chair and Mr. Margerm draft and send a letter of response to the Access Smithers Delegation acknowledging their presentation."***

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**Date & Time of Next Meeting: April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 @ 5:00 pm .**