

SCHOOL DISTRICT 54

(Bulkley Valley)

OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Regular

October 5th, 2021

5:00 PM

School Board Office

Voting Members	Administration
L. Kearns, Chair P. Mitchell, Alternate	M. McDiarmid, Superintendent D. Margerm, Secretary Treasurer M. Monkman, Assistant Superintendent
J. Williams (ex officio)	
Regrets: J. Krauskopf	

The meeting was conducted from 5:02-6:05

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. Accumulated Surplus Management

Mr. Margerm outlined the surplus policy and associated briefing note. A draft three-year plan for surplus spending was provided to committee for discussion. There is a general need for the Board to increase surplus spending given policy requirements. It is very challenging at this time to employ more educational staff to direct support to educational services given limited supply of staff and recruiting availability. The recommendations for surplus spending revolve around supporting capital spending to upgrade facilities. This includes surplus spending to support improving flexible learning spaces:

- new furniture purchases for each school;
- upgrading the Telkwa School learning commons;
- hiring new trades personnel to support the use of in-district staff;
- funding to support a new maintenance storage facility;
- upgrading SSS foods room;
- possible upgrading of indigenous and classroom space;
- technology infusions.

The committee also discussed the need for the District to spend time preparing a plan for indigenous spaces within schools over the next year.

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2. Enrollment vs Budget Update

Mr. Margerm updated the Committee on September 30th enrollment (1701). Actual enrollment is 1912 FTE, as compared to 1901 FTE budgeted in February 2021. This is an overall increase of 11 FTE. Total FTE by year end after distance education has occurred throughout the year is estimated to be 1940 FTE.

3. COVID Funding Update

Mr. McDiarmid updated the Committee current COVID issues:

- Masks now required for K-3
- 10-33% of students away due to illness at the moment
- BCPSEA & MoE are currently discussing the option of requiring vaccinations for school district employees, but at this point, the Government is leaving the decision to school districts. Some boards are considering this option to require vaccinations. Boards are waiting on any direction/guidance from BCPSEA/MoE in regards to a required vaccination and applicable exemptions. Important to analyze pros/cons and benefits/costs of mandatory vaccinations. Also, important to understand how it will affect our staffing.

Date & Time of Next Meeting: November 9th, 2021.