

Upper Grand District School Board
Board as Budget Committee Meeting, Tuesday, August 18, 2020
Minutes

The Upper Grand District School Board met as the Budget Committee on Tuesday, August 18, 2020, virtually, starting at 6:00 p.m. The Chairperson, Trustee MacNeil presided and the following Trustees were present: Bedi, Busuttil, Campbell, Edwards, Foley, and Topping. Student Trustees Fournier and Tran were also present.

Confirmation of the Agenda

Trustee Topping moved that the agenda be confirmed as printed.

The motion carried.

Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

Approval of the Minutes of the Meeting Held August 4, 2020

Trustee Topping moved that the minutes of the meeting held August 4, 2020, be approved as printed.

The motion carried.

2020-21 Budget Report

Superintendent of Finance Regier reviewed the 2020-2021 Budget Report. He advised that the 2020-2021 Draft Budget Report presented to Board as Budget Committee included an In Year Deficit of \$2,014,455.

Trustee Busuttil asked if there is an itemization of the provincial government's allocation for enhancements announced on August 13, 2020, as it pertains to the 2020-2021 school year budget available at this time.

Superintendent of Finance Regier confirmed that the August 4, 2020 meeting uses information from the B11 memo to respect budget processes. Provincial information announced on August 13, 2020 will be incorporated into Revised Estimates, similar to updates to enrolment and staffing. Additional information on the August 13, 2020 funding will be reviewed for clarification and brought forward at a later date.

Trustee Busuttil asked if there has been conversation provincially regarding additional supplements or supports that we may look towards with respect to enrolment variables.

Superintendent Regier commented that information to date has largely supported September re-opening, and information regarding funding based on potential decline in enrolment has not yet been brought forward.

Trustee Busuttil asked for clarification on Page 9 of the Budget Document, School Opening Expenditures. Superintendent Regier noted that amounts included in this total include funding for additional custodial, health and safety training, enhanced cleaning, mental health supports, and technology supports.

Thanks was expressed by Trustee Busuttil to Superintendent Regier and his staff for their work.

Trustee Busuttil moved that:

1. The Operating Budget for the period September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021 be approved in the amount of \$416,337,588 as provided for under Section 231 of the Education Act.
2. The proposed Capital Budget in the amount of \$49,126,629 be approved. This Capital Budget includes Debt Repayment, Amortization Expense, New Schools, School Renewal Projects, and School Condition Improvement.
3. The Board designate \$0 from Non-Classroom Operating Budget for the purpose of acquiring those school sites eligible to be funded through the Education Development Charges By-Law, as there are insufficient funds in Non-Classroom.
4. The Board approves the use of \$2,014,455 from Accumulated Surplus to balance the Operating Budget.

The motion carried.

2020-2021 UGDSB In Year Deficit Elimination Plan

The Ministry of Education requires a Board-approved Deficit Elimination Plan that identifies how the Upper Grand DSB will produce a balanced budget by the 2021-2022 school year. Superintendent of Finance Regier reviewed the plan to achieve a balanced budget by 2021-2022.

Trustee Busuttil asked if the plan as presented includes additional expenditures as permitted by the August 13, 2020 provincial announcement. Superintendent Regier clarified that the reduction of the 0.5% base-line deficit is reflected in the report.

Trustee Busuttil asked if costs are recoverable by Boards related to one-time COVID-19 expenditures that have been funded by using Accumulated Surplus reserves. Superintendent Regier confirmed that information received to date from the province does not indicate a replacement of the Accumulated Surplus reserves that are used to fund COVID-10 related expenditures.

Trustee Busuttil moved that:

1. The report entitled "2020 2021 Upper Grand DSB In Year Deficit Elimination Plan" dated August 18, 2020, be received.
2. The proposed In Year Deficit Elimination Plan listed in Table A of the report entitled "2020-2021 Upper Grand DSB In Year Deficit Elimination Plan" dated August 18, 2020, be approved.

The motion carried.

Other Business

Trustee Busuttil expressed sincere thanks to Senior Administration for their work on the budget, and expressed appreciation for the creation of a Workplace Equity and Diversity Manager role.

Adjournment

Trustee Foley moved that the Board as Budget Committee adjourn and report to the Board at 6:25 p.m.

The motion carried.