



Delta District Parent Advisory Council (Delta DPAC)

C/O Delta School Board
4485 Harvest Drive, Delta, BC, V4K3C9
Email: deltadpac@deltasd.bc.ca
Website: dpac.deltasd.bc.ca

DPAC General Meeting Minutes

Monday, February 24, 2020

Meeting location: Delta School District Office

Meeting time: 7:00 – 9:00 pm

Members in attendance:

Joe Muego - Chair (SDSS)
Kristin Unger - Secretary (Gray)
Jen DenHartogh - BCCPAC (Hawthorne)
Trish Uppal - Sunshine Hills, Burnsvie
Lara Wilson - Beach Grove
Gladys We - Sands
Sheila Dunn - Chalmers
Chelsea Pavich - Neilson Grove
Julia Mellish - Holly
Stephanie Davis - Ladner Elementary
Kristen Kringhaug - Ladner Elementary
Tia Litz - Port Guichon/DSS
Tracey Innes - Cliff Drive
Bel Chhokar - Pinewood

Guests in Attendance:

Doug Sheppard - Superintendent
Laura Dixon - School Board Trustee, Vice Chairperson
Brad Bauman - Assistant Superintendent
Allie Rasmussen – Community Connector / Childcare Options Resources & Referral

Meet & Greet - 6:45 pm

Meeting brought to order at: 7:10 pm

Welcome & Introductions



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Brad Bauman - Assistant Superintendent

This year, the budget is almost all salary and could pass \$200 million; the public is invited to give information and opinions to the Board on February 25, 2020 as they set the budget.

Budget development relates to what we've done in the past, but we don't want to get stuck there either. The District starts the framework in January, creating a preliminary budget, and goes up until they receive an amount from the Ministry. Department managers are looking into the budget from last year and designing it based around that. A working committee prepares a balanced budget and works with principals, VPS, and the public.

Legally, the budget must be balanced. We cannot increase taxes, alter revenue; we are dependent on what the government provides. What you pay for taxes in Delta doesn't necessarily go to Delta. It goes to the provincial pot and gets distributed from there.

This district currently has a bit of a reserve to draw from to help balance the budget if it goes over. Education is one of the few government ministries that can carry a reserve. The District has had anywhere from \$7 million to \$17 million in reserves in the past.

Feb 25, 2020 7:30pm consultation with public (public Board meeting)

Mar 13, 2020 Ministry announcement of Delta funding for 2020-21

April 7, 2020 approve audit plan (public Board meeting)

April 9, 2020 public release of budget recommendations

April 14, 2020 special public Board meeting, the Board receives delegates regarding budget recommendations

April 21, 2020 public Board meeting, adoption of 2020-21 budget bylaw

The District has until the end of June to pass the budget but in this District it usually gets passed sooner.

Uncertainties: the funding model review, the government indicated it would come in with this budget; 12 of the 22 recommendations will be enacted and the rest will be referred for further review; teacher bargaining, they are uncertain about when that will resolve; COVID, global health issues and impact to the international student program; increasing energy and carbon tax costs

Funding model review: 12 recommendations were put forward, and they essentially will provide additional funding for kids who live in care of the ministry, the most vulnerable students in the system; because of freedom of information issues, we never had a good idea of who those kids are in a timely manner, but now will be improved and better supports; major recommendations are more accountability, more reporting, new recording based on the auditor general. We don't know how that will spin out yet; we used to have three reports annually and now we're up to five, and that could increase more.



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Phase 2 of funding review includes a major review of inclusive education, online learning, career education, funding by course or by headcount; the current model is funding by course.

Public comments from last year's budget: revise EA classification process and improve EA working environment; focus more on indigenous funding; enhance staff and student support with resources to educate about human rights, racism, homophobia, vandalism; continue to support initiatives that nurture caring relationships, wellbeing of students and staff; good working conditions, resources to support teachers, prioritize physical health, playgrounds, and expect equity.

Budget 2019 Trustee priorities: the key priority is a long term plan for funded systems and structures in support of early indigenous literacy; they wish to maintain coordinators of inquiry, collaboration time and district initiatives (focused on teachers); student wellness, both mental health and physical; employee wellness, both mental and physical; the District went through many years of having to make cuts, and tried to keep money in classes as much as possible so the administration was impacted, and in comparison to other districts, we ended up with very low overhead of administration costs, but the District wants to make sure we keep an eye on that to make sure we're not suffering from that low cost; we need more care and attention to buildings, as it's a challenge to keep buildings up to code because most are older.

Everything in the budget is based around the Vision for Enhancing Student Learning that the District has.

They want to make sure we have the best information to make an informed opinion, nothing is too small to bring forth as an issue to consider. All parents are welcome to attend the public sessions and can always send an email/written statement to the Trustees through the office of the Superintendent or the secretary's office.

Laura Dixon - School Board Trustee, Vice Chairperson

The province must add far more money than they collect in school taxes, money doesn't solely come from the property tax portion. The Trustees look for alignment with the vision and framework, thinking, is this going to benefit students? That's the whole lens they look at. The priority if they can't say yes to everything is to focus on the vision and framework.

This is an unpredictable year because they don't know what to expect with the funding formula review. Last year was a very small structural surplus. Administration costs are to support the great people who are working with the students and the administration who are caring for those students.

In terms of how Boards operate, they are the most fiscally responsible level of government because they can't run a deficit. A surplus is a source of political tension because the province thinks we should spend down to zero every year. This is a bad idea and stressful because then there is nothing to fall back on in times of need.



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The Trustees love to hear what you like and what you want more of too, because preserving those important things is also really great; all input is important.

Doug Sheppard - Superintendent

On custodial comparison to other districts: that sort of detail isn't out there in the budget; Secondary schools, we're very similar in terms of what's in buildings; Elementary schools, it's similar depending on size of school. We don't have morning caretakers, but in terms of operational, hot water, soap being filled, those aren't typically budget rationales. There's usually something else going on there if it's not being fulfilled. It could be the person who normally fills is away/ill, someone else is coming in who doesn't know the school as well. There are only one or two caretakers in the evening at elementary schools, and usually it's a challenge to get everything done. Sometimes it's just as simple as a lack of communication on an issue, and sometimes it's the age of the building and what we have to work with. The District is not trying to save money by reducing hot water and soap.

The predicted budget, based everything on that we got last year, is approaching \$200 million for total. That's how they start, and then predict various factors (ie CUPE contract).

One thing that might be addressed in this round of teacher collective bargaining is they might look to compress some of the bottom rungs on the ladder and move up the lowest paid; (2, 2, and 2) It's the first time we're anticipating them giving us a 3-year budget as part of the funding model review which should be better for planning.

How do you plan for EAs? The inclusive education department does a great job and it's a lot of work. They have a regular budget, then a classroom enhancement fund which was the agreement between the BC Teachers Federation and the ministry after the court case. There is a separate budget for inclusive learning; once the money is in District, the District decides how that money will be spent, on maybe more counseling, maybe more EAs. It's all different in different districts. There's no provincial or district contract that says how many EAs is required for X amount of kids but this is being reviewed.

BREAK

DPAC Regular Meeting 8:00 pm

Delegation: Allie Rasmussen – Community Connector / Childcare Options Resources & Referral



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Child care options in Surrey, but also in Ladner, Tsawwassen and North Delta. They are a child care resource and referral program and they link parents with child care providers. They want to make quality child care more accessible. Delta has a major need for childcare and support in applying for affordable child care benefits. There is the opportunity to borrow child care resources from their library as well, \$30 for the year for membership; there is a parent lending library as well, and you can check out toys and bring them home to borrow, though they are still working out cost on that. They also help child care providers become registered no license required providers. They have car seat installation clinics and accept toy donations as well (in good condition).

604 572 8032

www.childcareoptions.ca

General Business Meeting: Start time: 8:30 pm

Adoption of Agenda:

Moved by Tracey Innes & seconded by Trish Uppal; approved.

Approval of Minutes:

Moved by Jen DenHartogh & seconded by Kristen Kringhaug; approved.

Chair's Update / Vice Chair Update

Jan 21, 2020 – Education Partners Funding Formula review, SBO

The funding formula will be released to us on March 13, and we've been trying to anticipate what it will be. Since the first partners' dinner, there've been working groups to address individual recommendations

Treasurer's Budget Report

Organizational account: \$5206.98

Gaming account: \$3960.18



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BCCPAC Update

No update

A. Business Arising from Minutes (Jan 2020)- Nil

B. New Business –

Education Partner Guests (Future); partners like CUPE, but also looking to see who people would like to hear from; we need a greater understanding of how the pieces fit together;

Parent Input on Budget; libraries as more of a space than just books; school safety/security, request made for cameras at one school because of vandalism and other things; custodial issues; school psychologist, time frame to see them might need to be looked at and increased; funding for PE equipment; grounds upkeep/maintenance; assessments should be looked at; social skills group funding, so neurotypical children can learn how to interact with non neurotypical children

C. Next meeting, April 20, 2020

MEETING ADJOURNED

9:02 pm