

School District No. 44 (North Vancouver)

Meeting Summary of the Board's Finance and Facilities Standing Committee Meeting held in the Leo Marshall Curriculum Centre, 810 West 21st Street, North Vancouver, British Columbia on Tuesday, May 4, 2010.

PRESENT:

Ian Abercrombie, Director, Facilities & Planning
Georgia Allison, Director of Financial Services
Elizabeth Anderson, CUPE
Holly Back, Trustee
Brad Baker, NVSD Admin
Elizabeth Bell, SSG
Doug Beveridge, AEA Representative
Linda Buchanan, Trustee
Brooke Caruth, SLC President
Lisa Cartwright, NVPAC
Susan Corcoran, NVPAC
Fiona Daubaras, Parent
Barry Forward, Trustee
Cyndi Gerlach, NVPAC
Joyce Griffiths, CUPE
Karen Harrop, Chair, AEA/NoVA
Judi Israel, NVSD Speech Language Pathologist
Mark Jefferson, Director, Human Resources
Larry Johnson, Assistant Superintendent
Stewart Johnstone, Parent

Bal Kang, NVSD Admin
Karen Koroluk, NVSD Speech Lang. Pathologist
John Lewis, Superintendent of Schools
Jim MacFarlan, Parent
Sheilagh Martin, NVTA/NVTLA
John McGowan, Chair, SSG
Pamela McLeod, NVTA/NVTLA
David Overgaard, SSG Representative
Julie Parker, Director of Instruction, Student Svcs
Dave Pearce, Assistant Superintendent
Bryn Roberts, Assistant Superintendent
Susan Skinner, Trustee/Board Chair
Shirley Stearn, NVTA
Daniel Storms, NVTA
Franci Stratton, Standing Committee Chair
Audrey Van Alstyne, SSG
Wendy Wealick, Parent
Clay White, CUPE
David Whitehead, NVPAC Co-Chair
Irene Young, Secretary Treasurer

A. Call to Order

Standing Committee Chair Franci Stratton called the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee to order at 7:00 pm.

C.1. Budget Presentations – NVTA, CUPE, NVPAC, SSG, AEA/NoVA to

C.5. Presentations regarding priority consideration for the budget development were made by the School District's partner groups. Highlights included:

- North Vancouver Teachers' Association (NVTA) – Recommended the Board adopt a deficit budget as proposed budget cuts are not sustainable. The focus should be on student services. The Board should engage in more joint advocacy with other school districts as every school district is in the same boat. Review administration expenditures again and ensure any and all savings go back into the classroom
- Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) Local 389 – Recommended preserving the Library Technician position and stopping reductions to Special Education Assistants. Shifting ASW and BSW to school based model is not the answer to budget shortages. Concerned that the Board may be putting students at risk. Concerned that eliminating the trades painter will require more reliance on contractors who have little accountability.
- North Vancouver Parent Advisory Council (NVPAC) – Noted that impact of cuts are difficult to understand especially how they will impact students. Concerned that cuts will affect institutional memory of the School District.
- Secondary Study Group (SSG) – Concerned about impact of budget cuts on choices for secondary students. Certain subjects such as French and Spanish may only be offered as split 11/12 classes. Certain subjects may have to be larger than they currently are to ensure all course offerings remain financially viable.

C.1. Budget Presentations – NVTA, CUPE, NVPAC, SSG, AEA/NoVA (continued) to C5

- Association of Elementary Administrators (AEA/NoVA) – Concerned about dramatic changes in the coming year but noted that recent school closures do provide some flexibility. Suggested that additional staffing be applied to address elementary level operational issues such as unworkable split classes. ICT support for learning should be a priority.

C.6. Consideration of a Local School Calendar

Mark Jefferson, Director of Human Resources, reviewed the consultation process to date for the Board's suggested local calendar that proposes November 12, 2010 and March 14 – 18th in 2011 as additional closure days to save funds. Discussion ensued regarding the ability of students to make up for the closure days by adding 10 minutes per instructional day and the cost to parents of additional day care required.

C.7. Group Discussion of Budget Priorities

Chair Stratton noted that the recent school closures have resulted in some limited financial flexibility for the Board. She requested participants gather in groups to prioritize which of the 21 budget directions should be reduced. **The results are attached.**

C.8. Summary of the April 6, 2010 meeting

The summary notes were provided to Standing Committee participants in their agenda package.

D.1. Future Agenda Items

None were identified.

D.2. Future Meeting Dates

The next meeting of the Finance and Facilities Standing Committee will be announced in June 2010 at the last Public Board meeting of the year.

H. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

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SCHOOL CALENDAR: FEEDBACK SUMMARY

Under the *School Act*, on or before May 31 of each school year, the Board of Education must, in accordance with the provisions of the *School Calendar Regulation*, provide a school calendar for the following school year to every parent of a student in each of its schools/programs. The Board is required to operate each school in accordance with the published school calendar. The Board has two general options. First, it can adopt the Standard School Calendar for 2010/11. Alternatively, it can consider a variation to the Standard School Calendar for 2010/11.

At its Public meeting of April 20, 2010, the Board approved the following motion:

that the Board receives the Report of the Calendar Committee and considers the committee's recommendations to close schools on Friday November 12 and March 14th – 18th the week preceding the Spring Break in the Standard School Calendar.

Director of Human Resources Mark Jefferson will be available at this evening's meeting to respond to questions of clarification. An opportunity for written feedback is also provided. Below, please record your feedback regarding the proposed changes to the School Calendar:

The school calendar should be changed to add the 6 days closure. I think the savings are needed right now. Revisit the issue each year.
The best of <u>very</u> bad choices.
I do not think that this would be advantageous. There is no way you can fit in 6 full school days of work into an extra 10 mins of class time each day. The 6 days in a Gr 12 year are essential especially because the curriculum is already dense and rushed on the current school schedule/calendar.
I am supportive of the proposal as long as there are supports put in place for special needs and other children and families who would be unable to handle the loss off support.
This is a good idea.
15 min period will achieve nothing. Ensure some time added back in reasonable blocks.
I support the proposed local calendar with the request that feedback is collected on how it works – what went well (ie decreased absenteeism), what were issues (how do you measure loss of instructional time, especially for high school students).
Not in favour of adding time to days, but believe we can make it work for 2010/2011 with minimal impact on school. If this is the plan for long term, stick to standard school plan. Poor long term choice.
In favour of altered school calendar. Savings from altered school calendar allow monies to support direct services to students for the 186 days in session (6 days less → 10 min more per day). Was ample opportunity for input for all partner groups.
I don't feel that the survey was "fair" as many people didn't fully understand the context. If we change the calendar, we save \$15 per student – 3%-4% of the budget cuts – is that really worth it when you look at the long term effects on the children.
To save \$15/student you are going to force parents to either pay for daycare/alternate care or take vacation in March (when nobody wants to hand around Vancouver with kids) and go somewhere. If you have to take days away, do it at the end of the year rather than the middle even if it means more days. People can plan for months of time off, but 5 consecutive days in the middle are a pain.
I am in favour of the 6 days proposed for closure. It is a better option than eliminating another educational program.

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**2010/11 OPERATING BUDGET PRIORITIES
 SUMMARY OF GROUP DISCUSSION**

Budget Direction # 1 – Instructional Practice (First: 1/Second: 1/Third: 1)(Total responses: 3/18)
Maintain Aboriginal FTE
Aboriginal – Program Services
Support for First Nations students (early literacy)
Budget Direction #2 – Instructional Practice (First: 8/Second 1/Third: 0)(Total responses: 9/18)
Increase Speech Pathology FTE to remaining (or all additional H.O.). Increase Psychologists to prior level.
Increase LAT/LAC specifically to support assessment and student intervention.
Student Services – Speech & Language Pathology – early intervention
Maintain secondary district counselors.
Understand the chain of effects with each of the services before making cuts to student services.
Put money back into funding SEA's and other support for special needs; real concern for transition.
Reinstate student services, special needs
Try to reduce the cuts to this area as it has a great (not all things great are good) impact on services: SLP, Support for Low Incidence. (Many at our table agree)
No cuts to District psychologist, SLP positions → maintain <u>direct service</u> to kids.
Can't reduce the help for kids in need especially at the elementary level.
Need supports for the grey area kids and kids with language/learning difficulties.
Agree with need to decentralize Student Services but need time at school level to facilitate the transition to the school based model. Need enough SEA support to meet the
SEA's – please ensure the vulnerable students in our district are given the time they need with SEA's.
Reinstate Special Education Assistants
Bring back cuts to SEA (including BSW, ASW, CSW).
Budget Direction #3 (First: 1/Second: 1/Third: 0)(Total responses: 2/18)
Put back secondary staffing
Staffing at secondary to ensure course choices.
Ensure funds are available to allow course options in secondary.
Budget Direction #5 – Instructional Practice (First: 0/Second: 0/Third: 1)(Total responses: 1/18)
Mentorship - Growth in professionalism needs support.
Budget Direction #6 – Instructional Practice (First: 1/Second: 2/Third: 0)(Total responses: 3/18)
Return admin time
As we have closed two elementary schools, we have already achieved a reduction of 1.8 FTE in elementary Admin (Plymouth and Fromme).
Reduction of Secondary Admin time will have a significant impact as many are not stepping up to fill when Sec. Admin can't do something.
Leadership at the school level (including Ed Leadership). Increased responsibilities at the school level needs to be transitioned. Is the money saved cost effective?

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Budget Direction #7 – Instructional Practice (First: 1/Second: 0/Third: 0)(Total responses: 1/18)
Restructure district senior executive and exempt staff
Budget Direction #8 – Instructional Practice (First: 1/Second: 1/Third: 1)(Total responses: 3/18)
Increase NIT to Library assignment. Doubling the non-instructional time of the librarian will produce a timetable of 30 min blocks with students coming and going almost all day, but not providing enough time at once to complete a research project or novel study. Additionally, NIT previously offered in areas of music, IT or French may now not be available as most NIT will be assigned to the library, so fewer options for students and staff.
Eliminate LMCC Library Tech position: We have spent over \$1m to automate every school library in the district. The Library Tech operates the systems, adding over 15,000 items per year, producing overdue lists and stats and trouble-shooting the program daily. We <u>cannot</u> add more new items to our schools without the FULL TIME (35 hours) service of our Library Tech. * This position is essential to students and staff at the schools.
Eliminate Professional District Librarian: Our District Librarian performs many functions for all staff in the district: select and maintains the direction of the Teachers' Professional Library, including media. She provides guidance and in-service to librarians and teachers regarding resources.
Budget Direction #9 – Instructional Practice (First: 2/Second: 0/Third: 0)(Total responses: 2/18)
Library Services – retention of a library technician; a pivotal role in the service of an automated library system. Provides support to staff (teacher librarians/library assistants). Get books into the hand of students and staff.
Very opposed to the cuts to the library especially the library technician position. If there is no library technician to add/catalogue new books, how can our children keep up to date with current issues and editions of text books, magazines books, research books, etc.
Cutting library reduces literacy (note the research) and destroys music programs.
Budget Direction # 10 (First: 1/Second: 1/Third: 0)(Total responses: 2/18)
Increased class size is not workable – too many large classes and splits that are not workable. Protect the instruction at classroom level – lower numbers.
Budget Direction #11 (First: 0/Second: 2/Third: 0)(Total responses: 2/18)
Secondary class organization.
Budget Direction #12 (First: 0/Second: 1/Third: 0)(Total responses: 1/18)
Budget Direction #14 (First: 0/Second: 0/Third: 1)(Total responses: 1/18)
Budget Direction # 17 – Program Diversity (First: 0/Second: 1/Third: 1)(Total responses: 2/18)
ESL testing at schools reduces service to children, support for our most vulnerable students – cannot take any more cuts.
ESL – Program Services
ESL – District Support Program services
Budget Direction #20 (First: 1/Second: 0/Third: 0)(Total responses: 1/18)
Less automation as in the long term IT costs money and does not save in the long term.
Budget Direction # - Program Diversity (First: 1/Second: 0/Third: 0)(Total responses: 1/18)

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All programs – Career Academy – Hire career instructors
Focus funds on existing programs.
Budget Direction # (First: 1/Second: 0/Third: 0)(Total responses: 1/18)
Buy out expensive teachers – staff close to retirement so you don't have to cut more junior staff rather than few senior staff.

Which best describes you? (please✓)

- A) NVTA 2
- B) PAC representative 1
- C) NVPAC representative 3
- D) CUPE 1
- E) NVSD Administrator 3
- F) Community Member 4
- G) Parent 2
- I) SLC 1