

A Finance Committee of the Whole meeting was held in the Board Office, 570 Johnstone Road, Nelson, B.C. on Tuesday, February 24, 2009 at 11:00 A.M.

PRESENT: Trustees: A. Field, M. Joy, D. Lang, B. Lindsay,
B. Maslechko, V. Mayers-McKenzie, L. Trenaman, B. Wright

REGRETS: Trustee Hambler

ALSO PRESENT: P. Dooley, Superintendent of Schools
T. Smith, Director of Instruction – Student Learning
B. Eaton, Director of Instruction – Student Services
B. DeBiasio, Director of Human Resources
L. Brown, Director of Operations
B. MacLean, Manager of Operations
M. Schulte, Secretary-Treasurer
H. Smith, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
M. Bennett, President, CUPE Local 748
T. Newell, Co-President, KLTF
K. Couch, KLTF Rep
L. Fehr, President, KLPVPA
S. Wilson, Chair, DPAC
G. Mackinnon, Vice-Chair, DPAC
E. Henderson, Executive Assistant

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

IN CRESTON: R. Blair, Co-President, KLTF

1. **Call to Order**
Chair Maslechko called the meeting to order at 11:05 A.M. and turned it over to Secretary-Treasurer Schulte.
2. **Review of Where We are in the Process**
Secretary-Treasurer Schulte advised that the Board had passed the first and second reading of the final 2008/2009 budget bylaw with third reading of the bylaw taking place at the Board meeting this evening.
3. **Revenue and Expense Summary at January 31st, 2009**
Secretary-Treasurer Schulte provided an overview of revenue and expenditures. She advised that the budget is balanced and includes the final deficit repayment of \$637,000. Expenditures need to be monitored in order to ensure the final repayment is met.

Highlighted areas included:

- revenue is comparable to last year;
- waiting for the nominal role in order to invoice the LEA agreement;
- investment income is low due to lower interest rates;
- 53% of budget received is on target at this point;
- utilities higher due to extreme cold weather conditions;
- 52% of the budget spent is reasonable at this time; and,

- will continue to monitor special education and school-based administration as we go through the year.

Discussion took place regarding:

- supplies budget;
- purchasing of teachers;
- off shore students;
- breakdown for international funds;
- school-based administration and business administration;
- counseling services; and,
- substitute salaries.

Trustees expressed a level of discomfort regarding the numbers. Secretary-Treasurer Schulte responded that if Board direction is provided, more detail will be available.

The meeting recessed at 12:00 P.M.

The meeting reconvened at 12:30 P.M.

Discussion took place regarding:

- concerns regarding what Senior Leadership was doing to ensure that the budget is met;
- areas of budget monitoring included accounts that might be coming in under spent;
- savings of \$150,000 will be realized by the five day school closure in March; and,
- wellness aspect of the two week spring break.

At this point the Board was not asking Senior Leadership to make any radical changes that would be damaging to the classroom. The budget is balanced but caution and monitoring needs to be exercised by everyone.

4. **Planning for the Development of the 2009/2010 Preliminary Budget**

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte advised that the district's philosophy, goals and objectives for 2009/2010 need to be discussed with the goal of aligning the budget to the Achievement Contract and Board priorities.

Discussion took place regarding:

- the school calendar;
- school closure days;
- possible consideration of a one week spring break now that the debt repayment has been made;
- working or leave without pay for CUPE during the two week spring break;
- wellness aspect of the two week spring break for teachers;
- calendar survey for CUPE;
- calendar must be passed by May 31st;
- impact of closure days on casual employees and students;
- options of adding minutes to the day and professional development in the summer for closure days;
- enrolment projections are 150 students less this year;

- service delivery and declining enrolment;
- homeschooling;
- programs of choice; and,
- small rural school philosophy.

Secretary-Treasurer Schulte advised that the Ministry funding announcement for 2009/2010 will be made on March 15th with the final budget to be adopted by June 30th. The calendar and level of teaching staff for hiring processes will need to be determined.

5. **Next Meeting Date**

The next meeting of the Finance Committee of the Whole is planned for Tuesday, March 31, 2009.

6. **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 1:20 P.M.