

2021/22 Budget Consultation – Expanded Committee of the Whole

March 10, 2021

There was a good turn out of attendees (32 of us). We reviewed the Terms of Reference, with emphasis put on our part to provide the board with feedback whether in a surplus or deficit position. They are looking to us to tie it back to the Strategic Plan and it is expected for the April 6th meeting.

Acting Superintendent, Cindy Heitman, then walked us through what we are learning from the Strategic Plan process so far. Some really great things. Although the Mission and Vision sound different, the statements and sentiments behind them will likely remain relatively unchanged as they are still relevant and consistent today. The Values will however look a bit different, but not completely changed.

Student outcomes is something new that has come up, along with a great deal of comments received around Diversity & Equity. These will be priorities again.

Our outgoing Strategic plan has 20+ goals and we may try to reduce this number to allow us to really focus on areas needing attention. Goals that have been met are in Early Learning, Inclusive Education, Skills, Trades & Careers and increased access to IT. We have not met our goals in Learning, however we are starting to see small increases in grad rates, and Numeracy. These will likely remain a priority.

From the first sessions of thought exchange we are seeing a focus on:

- Life Skills
- Inclusivity
- Mental Health
- Learning

Grouping the comments, this is what emerges in order of frequency of comments:

- Life Skills – Prepared
- Career – Options after Graduation
- Student First
- Transparency
- Excellence – High Standards
- Accountable/Responsible
- Diversity
- Respect & Kindness
- Honesty & Truth
- Safety – Physical, Health, Wellness
- Equity – Access & supports for all learners
- Innovative & Creative – Creativity
- Inclusivity – Space for all to belong
- Communication – How & What

Cindy was to put up a slide show on the website by Friday.

We then reviewed the budget assumptions adopted by the board on February 23rd.

And then we started to look at how the district is funded from the ministry. 98.5% of the total revenues the district receives come from the MoE. There are goals that the MoE is trying to reach, such as “to allocate operating funding so that students in all districts have an equal opportunity to receive a quality education”. Our district adopted policies early on so we are following the same rules. There are several provincial committees that continue to look at funding. The ministry was expected to provide a preliminary announcement on our funding on Friday, March 12th. We are anticipating similar challenges with many announcement around funding being made over time rather than knowing everything at the beginning of the process.

Secretary Treasurer, Darlene Patterson, walked us through the basic allocation grant, the unique student grants, the unique district grants and the funding protection/enrolment decline. To provide a better understanding of what this looks like for SD57, she explained the grants we saw for the 2020/2021 school year. When asked about On Reserve funding, SD57 receives funding for 24 Mcleod Lake students and 25 Lheidli T’enneh students. When asked about student assessments and whether there was still a backlog, yes and assessments will continue to take place over spring break, weekends and over the summer.