

Expanded Committee of the Whole

May 12, 2021 3:00pm on Zoom

Summary Report by Rickie Mitchell

2021-2022 BUDGET CONSULTATION

2021-2022 Allocation of Revenues - \$3,167,650 challenge in the budget

In answer to why the drop: Based on the ratios as well as the fact that this year (we) have less in terms of the funding, we have less students for our organization at this point so (we) will take a look at that over the next year. If students physically in buildings increase then it will be revised.

“Covid dollars” have run out. Cannot use surplus dollars as support staff wages, for example, because it’s not sustainable.

Discussion of Specific 2021-2022 Annual Budget Opportunities or Challenges Identified at the Previous Meeting

(Written submissions can still be submitted over the next couple of weeks)

CUPE (regards for attendance in person) recommendations sent via email

CUPE 3742 Recommendations

- All high school Education Assistants, Youth Care Workers and Indigenous Education workers provide 35 hours of support per week, and elementary school support workers provide 30 hours per week.
- Reinstate the Indigenous Education Worker casual position in the district to provide the coverage needed during the IEW day-to-day absences.
- While adhering to our 4-hour minimum workday, provide an additional permanent clerical position in a continuing position in each elementary school where a Vice-Principal has been newly assigned within the last 2 years.
- Reinstate 1 dayshift custodian at each worksite.

District Parent Advisory Council recommendation

- Hire a Communications Officer to develop a Communications Plan for our district that is long overdue.

PGPVPA input (COVID recovery year)

- Mental Health Supports for students (not itinerant, must be school based supports)
- Counselling Time increase - Secondary and Elementary
- YCW support increase
- EA classroom support increase
- Learning Assistance support increase
- Community School Coordinators - 1 in each school
- Vice-Principals - NO TEACHING
- Lack of Resources for students to move through the grad program

- Staffing needs are a recurring cost that needs to be funded from year to year (EA consistency is best for kids)
- Daytime Custodial time helpful

Lheidli T'enneh Rightsholders suggestions:

Mcleod Lake:

- Children come number one
- Keep incoming staff properly educated
- Not allowing children to pass just because it's the system.

PGDTA Considerations:

- Increase learning support teachers in all schools to address the need for learning recovery that is necessary.
- Recognize that there are some schools that need more supports than the non-enrolling ratios provide. Provide extra teaching staff to these schools for the success of students and the mental wellness support of their classroom teachers.
- Trained counsellors at all elementary schools. Enough counsellors at all schools to support all students in a timeline that meets the students immediate needs.

Brian Larsen voices support for continued custodial service.

Indigenous Education Advisory Council, Cheryl Schweizer:

- Would like to see more cultural support and humility training and safety.
- Keeping the enhanced cleaning, mental health and EA's.
- Suggests a staggered approach to support.
- It is difficult to change the system, but if people change then the system will move in the direction of the people.

DSAC:

- Mental health readily available
- Accessible counseling
- Academic supports for those not getting enough help and/or struggling
- CUPE recommendation #4 is strongly supported

Brenda Rappel - Would like sufficient sick time for staff

Next Steps

Will be drafting a document that will be a report of the ECOW meeting to submit to the board so that the public can also be aware of recommendations being made to the board from this committee.

Circulating the draft by email and it will be sent out later next week for everyone to view before it gets submitted to the board.

Not sure if it will be done in one meeting or two meetings, but will announce it as a public meeting. (Request some feedback on how the process worked this year)