



Finance & Operations Committee of the Whole Report
Tuesday, February 21, 2023
Via Zoom
10:30 a.m.
Facilitator, Trustee Young

Mandate: To discuss and make recommendations to the Board on financial, facilities, maintenance, technology and transportation matters with a view to environmental sustainability.

1. TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We would like to give thanks and acknowledge that the lands on which we work and learn are on the shared traditional territory of the Qualicum and Snaw-Naw-As (Nanoose) First Nations People

2. PRESENTATION (10 MINUTES)

None

3. PROJECT UPDATES

a. Oceanside Community Track

Director of Operations Munro provided an update on his work with the engineers to update the estimated budget for the renewed track. He shared that there are inflationary impacts of 15% but with refinement of the project and adjusting the track orientation the estimated cost is still in the \$1.4 to 1.5 million range.

A Track Steering Committee Meeting is scheduled for March 14, which will allow staff the opportunity to share the revised budget as well as updates on fund raising efforts. It is anticipated that the partners will be asked for further contributions in order to close the funding gap and be able to go forward on construction.

The construction work is anticipated to last 4-5 months so commitments will be required by April of this year if the project is to be completed by September 2023.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. French Creek Site – Closure to Tenants

Secretary Treasurer Amos opened the discussion with a history on the facility, sharing that the facility was closed as a school in 2014 but was reopened as a rentable facility in 2017, first with an international school and later for childcare and other support services.

It was shared that although the tenant revenues are covering the basic operational costs required such as custodial, utilities and insurance, the maintenance and capital costs are not. Estimates for new roofing and infrastructure and the risks of operating a decaying building was shared to confirm the need to shut the facility down. There was some additional discussion on the merits of keeping it open for public use versus the ongoing capital and liability issues.

A motion to support closing the facility for public use was recommended to be put on the Regular Board meeting agenda, and to allow for a more public decision to take place.

b. Rental Rates and Use of Schools

Secretary Treasurer Amos shared rental rate information for other school districts' and local meeting locations. It was acknowledged that the current SD69 rates are comparable to other facilities but in order to address the considerations that the access is fair, equitable, and cost effective that some administrative changes to the Administrative Procedures of Board Policy 105: *Use of School Facilities* could be done. Brought up for consideration was the combining of the Youth program (Volunteers) with the Youth program (Paid Instructors) and the introduction of a \$50 application fee. These changes would address the administrative costs required to support continued access to the schools by the public. The recommended changes were supported with the understanding that ongoing feedback from the user groups would be considered.

5. INFORMATION ITEM(S)**a. Annual Work Plan – Finance & Operations**

Trustee Young shared the new work plan document that would frame the work for the Finance and Operations Committee of the Whole going forward. It was also discussed that ad hoc items would continue to come forward on an as needed basis.

b. Three-Year Enrolment Estimates

Secretary Treasurer Amos shared the projections document that would be sent to the Ministry of Education to support the March funding estimates announcement and would feed into the 23/24 Annual Budget planning work. The projected enrolment for September 2023 is 4,270 FTE students, which would be a decline of 25 from the previous September. Some modest increases are anticipated in the next two years.

c. Testing Lead Content in Drinking Water

Director of Operations Munro shared that water samples have been taken at various sites and are now with the service provider. It is anticipated that results will be known in the next week and are expected to be sharable at next weeks Regular Board meeting. Results are required to be submitted to the Ministry and be made public on our website by the end of February.

6. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD**a. 2022-2023 Amended Annual Budget**

The Amended Annual Budget documents were reviewed, highlighting new information that has been received for Labour Settlement funds and additional funds for September enrolment. The budget documents and summaries will be included the RBM agenda package along with the required Board motion.

b. Recommendation regarding Closure of French Creek School to Public Use

THAT the Board of Education of School District No. 69 (Qualicum) support the closure of the former French Creek School building and gym to public/business use effective July 1, 2023.

7. FUTURE TOPICS**8. NEXT MEETING DATE:**

Monday, April 17, 2023 at 10:30 via zoom

9. ADJOURNMENT