



Finance & Operations Committee of the Whole Report
Monday, June 19, 2023
Via zoom
10:30 a.m.

Mandate: *To discuss and make recommendations to the board on financial matters and matters pertaining to facilities, maintenance, technology and transportation.*

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORIES

2. PRESENTATIONS (10 MINUTES)

a. Early Care and Child Care Update

Sheila Morrison, District Principal of Early Learning, provided an update of the work she is leading in the District for childcare and early learning programs. Currently there are two district-run childcare programs being offered: Seamless Day at Errington and afterschool care at Oceanside. Based on observations from the childcare scan, Bowser will be the next afterschool program with a targeted opening of Fall 2023. It was shared that the Seamless pilot funding will continue for another year as will the Early Care and Learning funds. The programs continue to be well supported and the reporting of costs will continue to be monitored as the intent is for these programs to be self-sufficient with no additional financial costs borne by the District.

3. PROJECT UPDATES

a. Oceanside Community Track

Trustee Young shared that the Society's work is winding down as the Project is now fully funded. Director of Operations Munro provided an update of the Track work that will start with moving the DRC into the Winchelsea facility, followed by the removal of the DRC portables to allow the heavy equipment to have access to the site for the actual Track excavation work.

b. Operations Update

Director of Operations Munro updated the committee on the work started by the BC Hydro Energy Consultant. Grants are being applied for in order to offset costs for the Sustainable Energy Management Plan (SEMP). This report will provide a path to which the District can focus its efforts in the next few years. Now that the recommendations of the Prism Report are 95% complete, those action items will fall away with the SEMP providing the next steps.

Director of Operations Munro also shared the results of the new Digitized Drawing service that converted all the Districts blue prints and mechanical drawings into a Digitized format that will now be available online and therefore from any location. This service not only protects against loss of the documents but also allows our staff, service providers and contractors to have controlled access to the documents, anytime, anywhere.

A question came up regarding the transportation planning process and it was shared that the application process starting earlier this month and route and pickup scheduling will continue into the summer. The routing software will support the 24/25 planning year.

4. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION

a. WCB Rate Increases

Secretary Treasurer Amos shared a summary of the historical rates for the past 10 years. The recent increases of both the base rate and the district rate have been significant however work is being done to mitigate some of the escalation. Brant Prunkl, Manager of Operations – Safety & Transportation, and Anna Phillips, Health & Wellness Coordinator provided an overview of the program and indicated that this work is providing cost relief to the district which will reduce our costs going forward. A program to manage the return to work of staff was shared and will be brought forward in future budget discussions.

b. 2024-2025 Major Capital Projects

Director of Operations Munro shared the current work being considered for inclusion in the submission to the Ministry. The projects that will go forward will be the same Seismic projects as last year but with updated costs and priorities. The False Bay planning continues to move forward with discussion and support from Harold Engineering.

There was also discussion that there would be a forthcoming submission to the Ministry for the new School Food Infrastructure Program (FIP). This new program fund is an extension of the Feeding Futures Fund but from a capital perspective. It was shared that the Ministry reopened the 2023-2024 Minor Capital Program for this fund only in order to allow submissions to be included in the 2023-2024 capital planning year with a submission date of June 30, 2023.

c. Facility Condition Index

Secretary Treasurer Amos opened the discussion by providing further clarification of the FCI. It was shared that the calculation for the FCI score comes from work done by a Ministry consultant that identifies the value of work that is needing to be done on facilities. The index value is the total cost of repairs/renewal divided by the current cost of replacing the building. When we spend on facility renewal, we in turn decrease in the FCI score. There was discussion on how the FCI is used to determine safety or usefulness of a facility but it was explained that it is just one metric of many used to assess facilities.

5. INFORMATION ITEM(S)

a. End of Year Financial Update

Ron Amos, Secretary Treasurer, shared that the current financial position of the district continues to be positive with the anticipation of a small surplus for year end.

6. ITEMS FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE BOARD

a. 2024-2025 Major Capital Projects and 2023-2024 Minor Capital Submission

An updated Major Capital Projects submission summary will be shared at the Regular Board meeting as well as the minor capital submission re the new School Food Infrastructure Program.

7. FUTURE TOPICS

8. NEXT MEETING DATE:

Monday, September 18, 2023 at 10:30 via zoom

9. ADJOURNMENT