

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES – JUNE 2, 2021

PUBLIC MEETING

Roll call:

Trustees:	Staff:
J. Brown	K. Burra, Director of Education
G. Elliott	S. Gillam, Associate Superintendent, Safe and Caring Schools
L. French	S. Sartor, Associate Superintendent, School Effectiveness and Assessment
T. Gingrich (Vice-Chair)	J. Silver, Superintendent of Education
B. Godkin	S. Hedderson, Associate Superintendent of Education
R. Hutcheon	C. Young, Superintendent of Business Services
K. McGregor	M. Baumann, Manager of Financial Services
J. Morning	
S. Ruttan (Chair)	
N. Quadir (Student Trustee)	
A. Putnam (Student Trustee)-regrets	
Q. Traviss (Student Trustee)-regrets	
	Recorder:
	D. Burns, Administrative Assistant

It was noted that the Acknowledgement of Territory would be read in the EPOC meeting later in the evening.

Chair Gingrich commenced the meeting at 4:03 p.m. and stated: “Good evening Trustees, senior staff, and the viewing public. Welcome to the Budget Committee meeting of the Board. Due to the stay-at-home order this meeting is only taking place virtually. I am Tom Gingrich, Trustee for Kingscourt-Rideau & King’s Town, and Vice Chair of the Board”.

1. Adoption of Agenda

Chair Gingrich asked for any additions to the agenda. There were no additions.

MOVED BY: Trustee Elliott, that the agenda, as presented, be approved. Carried.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Trustee Elliott declared a conflict as his wife is an employee of the Board, and a member of ETFO. Trustee Godkin declared a conflict as his daughter is an occasional teacher with another public board.

3. Information Items

3.1. 2021-2022 Preliminary Operating Revenues, Myra Baumann, Manager Financial Services

Manager Baumann presented the 2021-2022 Preliminary Operating Revenues. The preliminary operating revenue is not yet presented on a full PSAB basis. It excludes School Generated Funds at an estimated amount of \$2,400,000 and Charitable Trust donations at an estimated amount of \$127,537. The 2021-2022 preliminary operating revenue is presented alongside the 2020-2021 revised estimates and 2020-2021 estimates for comparison purposes. The projected enrolment of 19,166 ADE that the 2021-2022 preliminary operating revenue estimates is calculated on is Elementary enrolment is projected at 13,283 ADE, Secondary enrolment is projected at 5,866 ADE, and Secondary-high credit enrolment is projected at 17 ADE. Adult education, continuing education, literacy and numeracy, and summer school enrolment is projected at 329 ADE.

The 2021-2022 preliminary operating revenue estimates are compared to the 2020-2021 revised estimates operating revenue. Operating Grants for Student Needs (GSN) allocations have increased \$647,950 or .26%.

Pupil Foundation allocation has increased \$360,582 or .34%. Starting in 2021-2022, the Ministry is changing the funding methodology for online courses by adjusting benchmark funding for classroom teacher staffing based on a differentiated funded average class size for online and in-person learning. Based on the average class size of 30 for online learning, the secondary benchmark will use a funding average credit load of 7.5 credits per pupil split between online learning (approximately 0.081) and in-person learning (approximately 7.419). The new per-pupil amount introduced in 2020-2021, to support the purchase of educational software that supports learning in and outside of the classroom is being increased from \$0.49 to \$0.84. The COVID-19 Technology-Related Costs allocation has been integrated into a new per-pupil amount of \$7.11 through the new student technology devices component for students in Kindergarten to Grade 12. The allocation has increased as a result of the labour framework salary increase, increase in the per-pupil amount for educational software, and the new per-pupil amount for student technology devices offset by declining enrolment, the new differentiated funded average class size for online and in-person learning, and a reduction in the benefit benchmark.

School Foundation allocation has increased \$63,049 or .38%. There are three tiers of funding support

for school administration: supported, distant, and regular schools. The Parent Engagement allocation moved from the Administration and Governance allocation to better delineate funding for parent engagement based on local needs since the School Foundation allocation provides school-based funding for in-school administration and leadership. The allocation has increased as a result of the labour framework salary increase and the movement of the Parent Engagement allocation offset by declining enrolment and the reduction in the benefit benchmark.

Special Education allocation has increased \$255,542 or .83%. The After-School Skills Development (ASSD) programs moved from Priorities and Partnership Fund (PPF) to this allocation. Funding for ASSD is enveloped and flows through the Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA) allocation. The allocation has increased as a result of the labour framework salary increase, the movement of the ASSD programs, and an increase in the Differentiated Special Education Needs (DSENA) – Measures of Variability table amount offset by declining enrolment, reduction of one Education and Community Partnership Program (ECP), and the reduction in the benefit benchmark.

Language allocation has increased \$67,389 or 1.49%. The Ministry has provided time-limited funding through a new Recent Immigrant Supplement. This funding is intended to address the financial impact of the extraordinary and temporary decline in recent immigrant enrolment as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The allocation has increased as a result of the labour framework salary increase and the new Recent Immigrant Supplement offset by a decrease in projected FSL and ESL students, and the reduction in the benefit benchmark.

Supported School allocation has decreased \$171,144 or 6.82%. Updated secondary Pupil Foundation allocation staffing benchmarks to reflect differentiated funding for online learning. The allocation has decreased as a result of declining enrolment, staffing benchmark updates for both 2020-2021 and 2021-2022, and the reduction in the benefit benchmark offset by the labour framework salary increase.

Remote and Rural allocation has increased \$13,203 or 5.58%. In addition to the per-pupil amount in the Pupil Foundation allocation, a top-up allocation amount has been provided to ensure the school board received a minimum of \$50,000 to purchase educational software. The allocation has increased as a result of the labour framework salary increase and the educational software top-up offset by declining enrolment and the reduction in the benefit benchmark.

Rural and Northern Education Fund allocation has decreased \$14,575 or 2.71%. Funding is based on the number of rural students and two factors measuring the density of rural student enrolment. The allocation has decreased as a result of the estimated decrease in rural enrolment and the reduction in the benefit benchmark offset by the labour framework salary increase.

Learning Opportunities allocation has increased \$397,255 or 8.53%. SHSM which was previously funded through PPF has been transferred to the existing SHSM allocation within the EL Envelope. The allocation has increased as a result of the labour framework salary increase and the transfer of SHSM from PPF offset by the reduction in the benefit benchmark.

Limestone District School Board

Limestone District School Board is situated on traditional territories of the Anishinaabe & Haudenosaunee.

Continuing Education allocation and Other Programs has decreased \$50,324 or 3.41%. Starting in 2019-2020, operating allocations will be reduced by the new International Student Recovery Amount (ISRA). The continuing education allocation is driven primarily by enrolment. The allocation has decreased due to the increase in the ISRA due to the increase in the fee-paying international visa student enrolment, and the reduction in the benefit benchmark offset by the labour framework salary increase.

Cost Adjustment and Teacher Qualification allocation has increased \$1,158,815 or 5.28%. Starting In 2021-2022, the secondary per-pupil benchmark for teachers have been adjusted to reflect the change in funding methodology for online courses based on a differentiated funded average class size for online and in-person learning. The Online Learning Adjustment introduced in 2020-21 has been eliminated as a result of this new approach. The allocation has increased as a result of the labour framework salary increase, qualification and experience changes, ELHT benefit increases, and the elimination of the Online Learning Adjustment offset by the secondary per-pupil benchmark for teachers adjustment, declining enrolment, and the reduction in the benefit benchmark.

New Teacher Induction Program allocation has increased \$13,470 or 12.64%. Allocation is based on the board's new teacher complement from the year before. Funds are available to support the growth and professional development of new teachers.

ECE Qualification and Experience allocation has increased 48,421 or 3.72%. The allocation has increased as a result of the labour framework salary increase and qualification and experience changes, offset by declining enrolment and the reduction in the benefit benchmark.

Transportation allocation has increased \$25,510 or .15%. The allocation has been maintained at the previous year's funding level, with adjustments for enrolment growth. The allocation has increased due to an increase in approved expenses for transportation to and from Provincial Schools.

Administration and Governance allocation has decreased \$154,044 or 2.39%. The Parent Engagement allocation moved to the School Foundation allocation. The Capital Planning Capacity allocation moved to the School Operations allocation to better reflect the purpose of the funding. The Central Employer Bargaining Agent Fees allocation has been increased to reflect a funding amount that is based on the maximum annual revenue of the School Boards Trustees' Association. The allocation has decreased as a result of the movement of the Parent Engagement allocation, the movement of the Capital Planning Capacity allocation, declining enrolment, and the reduction in the benefit benchmark offset by the labour framework salary increase and Central Employer Bargaining Agent Fees allocation increase.

School Operations allocation has increased \$173,642 or .75%. The Ministry is providing a 2% cost benchmark update to assist boards in managing the increase in commodity prices. The Capital Planning Capacity allocation moved from the Administration and Governance allocation to better reflect the purpose of the funding. This is the third year of the five-year phase-in of the updated supplementary area factor for the secondary panel to reflect a secondary class size of 23. Funding to offset the cost of licensing and related fees associated with the approved software that supports

the implementation of effective renewal programs and tracks school condition over time has not yet been allocated, pending completion of procurement. The allocation has increased as a result of the labour framework salary increase, cost benchmark increase, and Capital Planning Capacity allocation movement offset by declining enrolment, the supplementary area factor change, outstanding asset management software funding, and the reduction in the benefit benchmark.

Community Use of Schools allocation has increased \$2,092 or .68%.

Declining Enrolment Adjustment allocation has decreased \$72,995 or 15.30%.

Indigenous Education allocation has decreased \$278,187 or 9.54%. The Indigenous Education Lead position has been fully transferred to the Program Leadership Allocation (PLA), rather than half funded through the PLA and half funded through the Per-Pupil Amount (PPA). The remaining funding generated through the PPA is being transferred back the Board Action Plans (BAP) allocation. The Ministry is enveloping the First Nations, Metis, and Inuit Studies allocation to ensure funds are directed to support Indigenous learning. Funding generated within this allocation must be spent on the program to run these courses, and any funding surplus is to be reported and spent under the BAP allocation. The allocation has decreased as a result of no prior year deferred revenue, declining enrolment, and the reduction in the benefit benchmark offset by the labour framework salary increase.

Mental Health and Well-Being allocation has increased \$133,431 or 18.33%. As part of the realignment of supports for COVID-19 for the 2021-2022 school year, the Ministry is integrating mental health supports into a new Supporting Student Mental Health allocation. This continued funding is intended to foster the learning and well-being of students. The allocation has increased as a result of the labour framework salary increase and the new Supporting Student Mental Health allocation offset by declining enrolment and the reduction in the benefit benchmark.

Supports for Students Fund allocation has continued in 2021-2022.

Program Leadership allocation has increased \$93,525 or 10.32%. The Indigenous Education Lead position has been fully transferred to the Program Leadership Allocation (PLA), rather than half funded through the PLA and half funded through the PPA of the Indigenous Education allocation. The allocation has increased as a result of the labour framework salary increase and the transfer of the other half of the Indigenous Education Lead position funding.

Support for COVID-19 Outbreak allocation has decreased \$261,512 or 100%. In recognition of the continued need for additional funding for technology resources and mental health supports, the Ministry is now planning for these allocations to be ongoing elements within the GSN.

Funding Stabilization allocation has decreased \$1,155,195 or 100%. The Ministry provided a one-time funding stabilization for 2020-2021 only, through the establishment of a 2020-2021 GSN funding “floor” to mitigate the financial impact of the unforeseen enrolment declines as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Other Government Grants has decreased \$2,217,008 or 26.95%. The Ministry released information on PPF (appendix A) with many one-time initiatives carrying forward into 2021-2022 including temporary ongoing COVID-19 funding supports. Two existing allocations, SHSM and ASSD program, transferred into the GSN in 2021-2022.

Tuition Fees has increased \$827,629 or 96.40%. 2021-2022 projections on tuition fee revenues for international students reflect an increase due to higher enrolment. Community education and outreach fees increase reflects the projection of program enrolment increases.

Other Revenues has decreased \$222,113 or 4.95%. Lease revenue increase reflects a projected increase in rents. Interest revenue decrease reflects a projected decrease in interest due to lower cash reserves, as a result of the Ministry cash management strategy. Administrative cost recoveries decreased due to the removal of the one-time Board share of the Manulife benefit plan reserve. The Instructional cost recoveries increase reflects an increase in secondments. International students' other fees increase reflects an increase in the projection of homestay and other fees.

Overall seeing operating revenues at \$259,664,378 compared to revised estimates of \$260,627,920.

Chair Gingrich asked for any questions.

4. Other Business

None at this time.

5. Next Meetings

Chair Ruttan, stepped in for Chair Gingrich and noted the upcoming Budget Committee meeting on June 9 and a tentative meeting scheduled for June 14, 2021.

6. Adjournment

Chair Gingrich asked for a motion to adjourn the meeting.

MOVED BY: Trustee McGregor, that the meeting be adjourned. Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:52 pm.