



## **Media Release Highlights of May 11, 2021 Board Meeting**

### **C.A.R.S.**

District Principal Christine Franes and Occupational Therapist James Wintle presented the work underway for the Collaborative Action Research Study. C.A.R.S. is supporting teachers to develop a systematic approach to improve student literacy.

“The Board was very impressed by the ability of our staff to expand their project to multiple schools despite the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Board Chair James Horne. “We hope staff will be able to meet in-person when the project enters its third year in 2021-2022.”

### **Investigation Approved**

The Board of Education passed a motion asking the Superintendent to investigate how 10 additional itinerant teachers were hired for the 2020-2021 school year, and why the Board was not informed.

### **2021-2022 Annual Budget Bylaw**

The Board of Education has adopted the annual budget for 2021-22. The operating budget is a surplus budget. This surplus enables the district to restore a reserve of \$188,700 or 0.67% of the budget as a contingency to address future operational needs. The Surplus Policy provides that a contingency should be maintained at between 2% and 4% of the operating budget.

The budget includes ongoing spending reductions totaling \$1,657,700. New ongoing spending of \$39,000 was also approved.

A one-time cancellation of the annual \$45,000 contribution to the vehicle replacement reserve helped to fund one-time spending in the amount of \$150,000 for ongoing work on the Prince Rupert Middle School Seismic Replacement Project.

Total expenses in the approved operating budget are \$26,583,776. The total budget bylaw (including capital and special purpose funds) is \$31,644,191.

Specific changes to the budget are outlined below:



Ongoing Reductions:

|                         |                    |
|-------------------------|--------------------|
| OH&S Budget             | \$100,000          |
| Travel                  | \$56,000           |
| Computer Software       | \$10,000           |
| PRMS Staffing           | \$100,000          |
| School Supplies         | \$11,500           |
| Maintenance Supplies    | \$24,000           |
| Equipment               | \$37,000           |
| Computer Equipment      | \$35,000           |
| Itinerant Teachers (13) | <u>\$1,201,200</u> |

Total Ongoing Reductions \$1,702,700

Ongoing Spending:

|                                    |                 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|
| District Careers Education Teacher | \$20,000        |
| Library Assistants                 | <u>\$19,000</u> |

Total Ongoing Spending \$39,000

One-Time Reduction:

|   |                 |
|---|-----------------|
| Annual Vehicle Replacement Contribution | <u>\$45,000</u> |
|---|-----------------|

One-Time Spending:

|                            |                  |
|----------------------------|------------------|
| PRMS Environmental Studies | <u>\$150,000</u> |
|----------------------------|------------------|

“The Board acknowledges the significant impact of the decision to reduce the number of teachers in the district. The requirement to have a balanced budget left the Board with few other choices,” said Board Chair James Horne. “The Board worked very hard to direct the other budget reductions to areas that will have the least impact on students. The addition of time to school libraries will make these learning commons spaces more accessible.”

**School Calendar**

The Board of Education approved an amended school calendar for the 2021-2022 school year. Changes were made to non-instructional days in February and April.

**Policy Committee Work**

2 policies were approved by the Board of Education for the district policy book:

- 2340 Release Time of Staff to Act as Resource Personnel Policy
- 6250 District Parent Advisory Council Policy



1 policy was approved for distribution to the district's partner groups for their review and comment:

1110 Learning Resources Policy

The Board of Education appreciates input on proposed policy changes from all district partner groups.

### **Upcoming Events**

|                          |                                |
|--------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Friday, May 21, 2021     | Professional Development Day   |
| Monday, May 24, 2021     | Victoria Day Statutory Holiday |
| Tuesday, June 15, 2021   | Board of Education Meeting     |
| Tuesday, June 29, 2021   | Last Day of School             |
| Wednesday, June 30, 2021 | Administrative Day             |

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