

*SD#52 Annual Budget Consultation
January 31st, 2023
Group #1*

1) What is most important? (What must we do?)

- Ensure (from the technological piece) we can provide adequate equipment to ensure student success
- Incorporate technology in classrooms
- Technology budget often cut; its too bad
- Technology can be a challenge; hoping for “good things” with the Microsoft money
- Technology a “wise investment”
- Literacy, K-3 (SD goal)
- Continue to work on a common practice/programming in all our elementary schools
- Recent K meeting was really empowering – so important for cohesiveness
- Providing safe spaces for learners & educators the tools/supplies required to help them in this important endeavor
- Don't leave anyone behind
- Give best opportunity to all our students
- Look at how funds are currently spent and how to best utilize them
- Next 4 years: finding a model that works for our district in this area of the province, not an archaic model that doesn't work
- Focus on parents to get them to be part of the learning
- Environmentally friendly footprint
- Mental health is also important
- Difference between COVID and present; students need that adult connection. Relationships are SO important. Students feel safer when connected.
- All kinds of connection are important; staff relationships just as important
- Increase in cyber security breaches – necessary to teach students about cyber safety and protocols when learning
- preparing our learners for the world post-high-school

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2) What is making a difference in our schools? (What is working well?)

- Staff – working hard to support students so they can succeed
- Some technology is good; hoping to improve
- Changes are slow but happening; having a good impact on student learning
- Real growth in student presentations; real competence and growth in high school students
- Staff – each and every day; blessed to have knowledgeable and caring, across the board (EAs, teachers, Admin, SBO, etc.)
- Doing what we can within the system
- Need to consider impending retirements
- Indigenous Education Department – amazing! Provincial leaders! Very friendly and capable, willing to come to classrooms
- TRC work happening in the SD in ALL schools; positive contributions of AbEd (CR4YL, provincial connections, etc.)
- Very inclusive district
- Staff are welcoming and have the best intentions in helping learners feel a sense of belonging and create a positive sense of self
- Indigenous Ed department renowned provincially
- Teachers are #1 important thing; we need to look after them
- Community – SD52 – amazing; just need to figure out how to support all that work so hard to make it so great
- Team environment that our schools and town has
- Everyone cares
- Groups of staff that work together; work diligently to support learning
- Connections to community and families
- Trustees – would be great to receive input from others to help make informed decisions – already happening...so great
- New hires undergo 2-day training that includes TRC work; other districts are following suit once they heard SD52 does this

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3) How can we allocate limited resources to ensure every student succeeds?

- Being creative; "think outside the box"
- Applying for grants & initiatives
- Keep a "pulse" on the learners that we are receiving
- Really look at what really needs to be implemented
- Providing technological supports to help learners in their learning journey
- Listen to our educators to find out where the needs are
- Keeping up with Pro D and current issues; try to get a "consensus"
- Ideas need to come from the bottom up
- Leaders – take funding and spread out as much as possible; so difficult!
- Communication of above with trustees to ensure that limited resources used in best way possible
- Funding from outside agencies, companies
- Build funding around what is REALLY needed; trying to be equitable
- Toughest job to distribute scarce resources
- Use the Strategic Plan to guide spending; identifies Literacy as a major goal → spend/fund Literacy Specialist
- Rely heavily on feedback/input from those working at ground zero
- No one is left behind; we are all important and we all matter
- Budget process is reflective of this; so important that we are all being heard
- Keep our mind on the students; not affect them (as little as possible) with budget cuts
- Bring students on early in terms of literacy; cannot interfere with this as it is SO important
- Keep our students & educators' mental health so important
- Keeping focus on Strategic Plan but also considering the mental health. If we don't have healthy teachers, we won't have healthy students

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- If teachers are overwhelmed, we have to find the funds for the mechanics to support them
- Administration is also so important; they also need to be healthy in order to help those in their buildings and on their teams
- Inefficiencies in our SD that can be tightened up