
Board of Education:

Trustees Nicole Duncan (Committee Chair), Karin Kwan, Natalie Baillaut, Angela Carmichael, Emily Mahbobi, Rob Paynter

Staff:

Deb Whitten, Superintendent

Harold Caldwell, Deputy Superintendent

Tom Aerts, Associate Superintendent

Katrina Stride, Secretary-Treasurer

Julie Lutner, Associate Secretary-Treasurer

Marni Vistisen-Harwood, Director of Facilities Services

Andy Canty, Director of Information Technology for Learning (via Zoom)

Hervinder Parmar, Director of Finance, Budgets and Financial Reporting

Jim Vair, Director of Human Resource Services

Dr. Jeff Davis, Director of International Education

Connor McCoy, Past President, Greater Victoria Principals Vice-Principals Association

budget in the current year.

Questions and comments related to this agenda item:

- Is the estimate based on part way through the year or to year-end?
 - Year-end
- Why is there less surplus this year compared to last year?
 - Many factors that contribute to this change, including a change in spending patterns (spend current year \$ on current year kids; not saving for a rainy day), less conservative budgeting, inflationary increases, etc.
- Can you provide any additional insight into the teacher hiring lag?
 - There are two parts to this: 1) medical leaves not being filled, and 2) average teacher salary calculation. A small variance in the average teacher salary can make a huge difference when extrapolated out across all teachers.
- Has there been any consideration of a spending freeze? How quickly could one be implemented?
 - This has been discussed and would require further conversation with schools and departments. A spending freeze can be implemented immediately, but we would need to consider the impact over the 4 months left in the school year. We would also need to define what spending could be frozen, as we cannot prevent costs from going through if they are not discretionary.

The Committee received an update on the projected 2023-2024 Structural Deficit. The structural deficit is expected to be \$4M, but there are still a number of outstanding variables that may impact this number.

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- Varies from class to class; some K classes have no technology, but there is generally more technology in higher grades
- Important to consider other items, such as insurance coverage should devices be damaged or destroyed (family insurance if child's device); having personal items in schools adds complexity

This item was deferred to the March 2, 2023 meeting due to lack of time.

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The following questions were received by email following the meeting:

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