

KAWARTHA PINE RIDGE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

BUDGET COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

Held Wednesday, May 31, 2023 at 7:00 p.m.
Roy H. Wilfong Boardroom, 1994 Fisher Drive, Peterborough, Ontario

Present: Trustees Jaine Klassen Jeninga (Committee Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the Board), Paul Brown (Committee Vice-chairperson), Cathy Abraham, Terry Brown, Cyndi Dickson, Rose Kitney and Angela Lloyd.

Trustees Steve Russell (Chairperson of the Board), Kathleen Flynn and Diane Lloyd; attended via the Webex platform.

Regrets: Trustee Sean Conway; Student Trustee Maria Mahfuz and Kelly Mitchell.

Also Present: R. Russo, D. McNaughton, J. Brake, J. Ford, A. Foster, S. Gohil, M. Loya, J. Maliha, A. Anirud, D. Fitzgerald, G. Kidd, G. Payne, J. Shuttleworth, D. Swift, C. McKeen, C. Pike, M. Tran and M. Williams.

CALL TO ORDER AND LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Committee Chairperson Klassen Jeninga called the meeting to order (7:00 p.m.) and recognized and acknowledged that the committee was meeting on the traditional territory of the Mississauga First Nations.

ADOPTION OF AGENDA

It was,

Moved by: Trustee Abraham
Seconded by: Trustee Kitney

That the Agenda be adopted as printed.

CARRIED

DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

It was,

Moved by: Trustee P. Brown
Seconded by: Trustee Dickson

That the Committee move to In-camera Session (7:05 p.m.).

CARRIED

The Open Session of the meeting resumed (8:05 p.m.).

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

It was,

Moved by: Trustee Abraham
Seconded by: Trustee Kitney

INFORMATION ITEMS

2023-2024 Budget

Superintendent Gohil spoke to the Alternative, International and Continuing Education (AICE) department and the key considerations for budget including maintaining the delivery of a variety of individualized programs. The AICE department is committed to providing opportunities for lifelong learners to fulfill both academic and personal goals. It offers an array of programs that is responsive to the unique needs and interests of all learner's adolescence and adults. This year the board has hosted 26 international students with a goal to increase that number to 50 by the 2025-2026 school year. There were no notable changes to the AICE department budget. Also noted was a slight increase in demand for International Languages.

Administration responded to trustee questions of clarification.

J. Shuttleworth, System Principal of Special Education spoke to the Special Education, Mental Health and Wellbeing department noting the work done this year to reach out to students to support mental health, speech referrals and psychological assessments. Special Education, Mental Health and Wellbeing collaborates with many departments within the board as well as outside agencies to support student needs through a multi focus and disciplinary team. The focus on mental health is an ongoing and intentional practice in the Special Education, Mental Health and Wellbeing department. This department will begin next year with the same number of leadership consultants. These positions provide support in schools directly to the special education teachers, classroom teachers and education workers. Mental Health Clinicians and Speech and Language Pathologists will have a minor reduction next year due to attrition.

Educational workers will be reduced by ten FTE due to attrition, while still maintaining the minimum requirements agreed upon with CUPE.

Special Education funding is enveloped, however, it is projected to be over budget due to salary and benefit increases and the job evaluation process for education workers. Special Incidence Portion (SIP) funding allocation supports students with exceptional high needs that require up to two full-time staff to address their health and/or safety needs. Revenue is down slightly from previous years and is a significant source of funding.

Mental Health support will be targeted to students over the summer including provides supports to virtual elementary and secondary students transitioning back to in person learning.

The combination of the job evaluation and the collective bargaining agreement to increase salaries for CUPE staff, will result in the Special Education, Mental Health and Wellbeing department being significantly over the funding. Also noted was the loss of COVID-19 learning recovery funding which will result in the loss of 33 FTE positions.

Trustees provided comment and administration responded to trustee questions of clarification.

It was,

Moved by: Trustee T. Brown
Seconded by: Trustee P. Brown

That the Resource Committee meeting be extended (8:58 p.m.).

CARRIED

Deanna Swift, Executive Officer, Mental Health and Wellbeing spoke to work they are doing to create and implement a strong mental health action plan with the focus being on mental health and wellbeing. There will be a continued focus on providing professional learning to all staff groups including our senior team, educators, educational workers, parents and students. D. Swift detailed the support provided and the number of students supported this year including targeted support to the transition of Grade 9 students. The Mental Health and Wellbeing department supports educators and students JK-12 to learn about noticing signs when mental health support is needed and how to take care of their mental health. Mental Health professionals in the schools continue to provide direct assessment, counselling and support along with direct family outreach to support parents learning around mental health. Additional funding has been received outside of the GSN funding to support additional psychological and speech assessments and counselling for students who need support over the summer. As well there will be support for students attending summer school. The additional funds will be used to develop resources and to support additional professional learning.

Administration responded to trustee questions of clarification.

ADJOURNMENT

It was,

Moved by: Trustee Kitney
Seconded by: Trustee Dickson

That the Budget Committee meeting be adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

CARRIED

Jaine Klassen Jeninga
Committee Chairperson and Vice-chairperson of the Board
May 31, 2023