



**HASTINGS AND PRINCE EDWARD DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
BUDGET COMMITTEE
MINUTES
June 9, 2008**

Present: M. Brant, S. Clements, C. Cotton, T. Goodfellow, M. Hall, H. Marissen,
C. Pitman, M. Walker, J. Williams

Resource: T. FitzGibbon, R. McGall, J. Montgomery, M. Norton, D. Rutherford, K. Soule,
D. Tregenza

Regrets: D. Inch

Minutes: C. Reid

Call to order

The Budget Committee commenced public session at 5:10 p.m.

Approval of agenda

Moved: J. Williams
Seconded: M. Hall

That the agenda be approved.

Carried

Approval of minutes

Moved: C. Cotton
Seconded: T. Goodfellow

That the minutes of the June 3, 2008 Budget Committee meeting be approved.

Carried

Business arising from the minutes

Clarification was sought regarding the status of the reserve funds and what is a reasonable amount to have in reserves. There are no best practices identified within the education sector, however, there is an upper limited of 20% of operating budget as prescribed in the Education Act.

Recommendations

Centre Hastings Secondary School football program

Moved: C. Cotton
Seconded: M. Hall

That \$10,000 be included in the 2008-2009 budget to support the football start up request from Centre Hastings Secondary School.

Carried

Equity and Diversity Steering Committee

Moved: M. Brant
Seconded: H. Marissen

That \$30,000 be included in the 2008-2009 budget to support the request of the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board's Equity and Diversity Steering Committee.

Carried

Centre Hastings arts facility

Moved: M. Walker
Seconded: T. Goodfellow

That \$5,000 be included in the 2008-2009 budget to support the construction of the arts facility in Madoc as requested by the Municipality of Centre Hastings Fundraising Committee.

Moved: J. Williams
Seconded: M. Hall

That the motion be amended to change the amount to \$15,000.

Board members expressed concern about setting precedent relating to other community based projects. It was noted that the original motion was moved with the expectation that a nominal amount be provided with additional support being offered through application processes through the Learning Foundation and the possibility of future application to the Board.

Further, it was noted that "in kind" support has already been given through students helping with construction and fundraising.

Amendment defeated

Original motion carried unanimously

French Immersion resources

Moved: T. Goodfellow
Seconded: H. Marissen

That \$10,000 be included in the 2008-2009 budget to support the request from the school councils of Harry J. Clarke Public School and Bayside Public School to purchase French Immersion resources as identified by curriculum services.

Clarification was sought regarding the request. A group of concerned parents brought to the Board a request for a 3 year funding plan for support for resources. Curriculum Services was asked to provide input regarding particulars areas of focus that were not being adequately addressed. Literacy was identified as one such area.

Carried

Contingency fund

Moved: S. Clements
Seconded: M. Walker

That the 2008-2009 budget include \$400,000 to offset unanticipated cost increases for such things as, but not limited to, the fuel component of school bus transportation and utilities.

Carried unanimously

Transfer from reserves

In order to present a completely balanced budget the transfer is required.

Moved: T. Goodfellow
Seconded: H. Marissen

That the 2008-2009 budget include a transfer from the reserves for working funds in the amount of \$605,378.

Board members inquired about the resulting balance in operating reserves. The status of reserves was reviewed. This transfer would result in the Reserve for Working Funds being reduced to just over \$1 Million.

Carried unanimously

2008-2009 Budget

The report presented will be amended based on the recommendations made by the budget committee and will be brought forward for Board approval at the meeting on June 16, 2008.

Moved: C. Cotton
Seconded: M. Walker

That the Budget Committee recommend that the Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board approve the 2008-2009 budget in the amount of \$170,766,033.

Board members expressed their appreciation for the work that senior administration has put into preparing the budget.

Carried unanimously

Information

Review current financial position

The 2008-2009 financial position was previously reviewed.

Fuel cost comparison

A comparison of fuel costs for student transportation was reviewed. For 2007-2008, the fuel portion of the contract was \$2,376,508. It is projected to be \$3,431,518 for 2008-2009 representing an increase from 19.5% of total contract to 25.7% of total contract. The total projected fuel increase is projected to be \$1,315,552 incorporating the \$260,542 from the Ministry. Clarification was provided regarding the Ministry funding to offset fuel prices.

Correspondence - None

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:53 p.m.