

BOARD REPORT

A brief summary of items discussed at Trustees' Regular Meetings

Board of Education Report February 22, 2023

Following are some highlights from the Board of Education meeting held on February 22, 2023.

Staff reported to the Board that the K-12 Anti-Racism Action Plan was recently released. The plan is a comprehensive multi-year framework to address racism and discrimination in the education sector and to create a school culture and climate of belonging for all students, staff, and families. This is a high priority for Minister Singh and can be accessed on the government website.

The Ministry of Education and Child Care announced the Provincial Online Learning Schools selected through an Expression of Interest and review panel process. While our own YouLearn did not submit an Expression of Interest to be a Provincial Online School due to its size, it will still continue to operate and serve students within the District.

Staff reported that information has been shared with schools to release to their parent communities regarding kindergarten registration for the fall of 2023. Registration is now open in all schools for parents to register children who will be 5-years old by December 31, 2023. These will be children born in 2018. Current projections are for a total of 139 kindergarten registrations for September.

In regard to the Student and Family Affordability Fund, the District was informed that we will be allowed to carry over any unused funds to continue some initiatives in the 2023/24 school year. This is great news as planning for these funds took some time in the fall and schools do not want to abruptly stop these programs and initiatives. Districts did not have much notice to plan for these funds and were originally told they must be used by June 30, 2023. Further, at the upcoming BCSTA AGM, the Thompson Okanagan Branch will be putting forth a motion to advocate for a continuation of this fund.

The District held its first consultation meeting for Budget 2023/24 on February 16, 2023, via zoom. The meeting was attended by representatives of SOSTU, CUPE, P/VP and Town of Oliver. District staff spoke to priority-based budgeting, aligning budget with the requirements of the Framework for Enhancing Student Learning (FESL), current success, emerging areas, transparency, and accountability. Further meetings will be announced.

Finally, the Board passed its amended annual budget to be submitted to the Ministry for a total bylaw amount of \$40,870,382, comprised of the following: Operating Fund Expenses \$33,125,803; Special Purpose Fund Expenses \$4,867,601; and, Capital Fund Expenses of \$2,876,978.

Respectfully submitted,

Rob Zandee, Chairperson
School District No. 53 (Okanagan Similkameen)