SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 43 (COQUITLAM)
BOARD OF EDUCATION MINUTES

SPECIAL PUBLIC BOARD MEETING - BUDGET
EDUCATION LEARNING CENTRE, BOARD ROOM

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2023

Our mission is to ensure quality learning opportunities for all students of all ages

PRESENT

Chair:	Michael Thomas
Vice-Chair	
Trustees:	Jennifer Blatherwick
	Carol Cahoon
	Chuck Denison
	Kerri Palmer Isaak
	Lisa Park
	Christine Pollock
	Zoe Royer
Regrets:	Craig Woods
Administration:	
Superintendent of Schools/CEO	Patricia Gartland
Secretary-Treasurer/CFO	Randy Manhas
Assistant Superintendents	Carey Chute
	Gerald Shong
	Nadine Tambellini
	Robert Zambrano
Executive Director, Facilities & Planning Services	Ivano Cecchini
Executive Director, Human Resources	Randy Manhas
Assistant Secretary-Treasurer, Corporate and Financial Services	Nita Mikl
Director of Instruction	Paul McNaughton
Director of Instruction	Stephen Whiffin
Assistant Director of Communications and Community Relations	Ken Hoff
Recording Secretary	Colleen Stavert

CALL TO ORDER

Michael Thomas, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:31 p.m.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORY

The Acknowledgement of Territory was expressed by Trustee Denison.

ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The Chair asked if there were any additions or deletions to the agenda.

PALMER ISAAK/CAHOON moved acceptance of the agenda.

Question was called. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

INTRODUCTIONS
a) Partner Groups
b) DLT

The SLC, DPAC, and CTA representatives in attendance were recognized. The DLT members in attendance introduced themselves.

OVERVIEW OF BUDGET

The Chair provided opening comments, an overview of the 2023/24 budget consultation process, and the sequence of events for this year's budget.

This meeting, marking the first of four, was designed specifically for the public and stakeholders to address the Board and provide input before the commencement of the preliminary budget process. The second meeting on April 11, 2023, will provide the Board and stakeholders with details of the 2023/24 preliminary budget. The third meeting scheduled for April 18, 2023, will provide stakeholders with an opportunity to present their budget feedback to the Board. The fourth, and final, Regular Public Board Meeting on April 25, 2023, will involve Trustee discussion and a decision upon the final budget.

Superintendent Patricia Gartland informed stakeholders that this opportunity to voice recommendations is paramount to the district's commitment to responsiveness and transparency. She also provided an overview of the Directions 2025 strategic plan.

Secretary-Treasurer Randy Manhas provided a presentation on the 2023/24 budget process. Mr. Manhas reviewed the budget and financial planning cycle, stakeholder engagement process, budget approval cycle, budget consultation guide, budget goals, operating expenses, school district funding, and 2023/24 focused outcomes.

A copy of the 2023/2024 Budget PowerPoint Presentation is attached to the official minutes.

BUDGET STAKEHOLDER INPUT PRESENTATIONS
a) Student Leadership Council (SLC)

SLC Co-Chair Alina Wang (student at Port Moody Secondary), and SLC Co-Chair Ariya Ghag (student at Port Moody Secondary), provided budget requests including:

- District initiatives to enhance opportunities for students to learn and develop positive mental health strategies through student counselling and workshops with advisors and administration. This includes

strategies related to anxiety, stress, and pressures of school and social lives.
- Implementation of a Student Voice Hearing Committee for student initiatives.
- District initiatives to improve sexual health resources, including the provision of public workshops pertaining to consent, LGBTQIA25+, healthy relationships, and identity.
- A district-wide anti-racist policy encouraging equity and diversity.

A trustee commented on the relevance of the Mental Health Task Force.

b) District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)

DPAC President Rosey Manhas expressed appreciation to the Board for the Burke Mountain project. Gratitude was also expressed to the Board and District Leadership Team (DLT) for the exceptional response to the fire which occurred at Coquitlam Alternative Balanced Education (CABE) in June 2022. The following requests were made:

- Employment of Behavioural Interventionists (BI's) as a more affordable choice than Educational Assistants (EA's).
- Continuation of school breakfast programs in 2023/24 and subsequent years.
- Mainstream approach to provide students with access to all programs at all schools.
- District communication with TransLink to coordinate bus schedules with bell schedules, provide larger buses to address capacity needs, and provide transit in communities where it is not currently available.
- Continued funding for Indigenous learners and graduation rates.
- Return to funding of $20,000 annually that was provided in the past (prior to COVID-19).

c) Coquitlam Teachers' Association (CTA)

Ken Christensen, CTA President, provided budgetary requests on behalf of the membership, including:

- Elimination of teacher layoffs to offer greater job security.
- Maintenance of existing staffing levels in classroom and district support roles.
- Additional staffing resources for the Inclusion Support Team, school level student services, and counselling support.

d) Coquitlam Music Teachers'

CMTA President Susan Kiddie (music specialist at Nestor Elementary), and CMTA Secondary School Representative Kathy Fester (music specialist at Heritage Woods Secondary) expressed gratitude to the Board for funding student transportation to district music events and related Teacher-Teaching-On-Call (TTOC) coverage. The following requests were made:

- Increased budget to meet the demands of district events.
- Addition of a Fine Arts Coordinator (part time or full time) to manage and organize district events, perform financial accounting, coordinate a district library and sharing of equipment, conduct bi-monthly meetings, and assist with the transition of new music teachers.

Association (CMTA)

QUESTION PERIOD

At 7:16 p.m. the Chair opened the floor to questions.

a) Trustees
b) Gallery

There were no questions from the trustees.
There were no questions from the gallery.

ADJOURNMENT

PALMER ISAAK/POLLOCK moved to adjourn the meeting at 7:16 p.m.

Question was called. **MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

"Original Signed by"
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Chair

"Original Signed by"
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Secretary-Treasurer