

VSB

VANCOUVER BOARD OF EDUCATION

# SPECIAL BOARD / COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Wednesday, May 15, 2019  
at 7:00 pm in the Boardroom

## REVISED AGENDA

### 1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER

#### 1.1 INDIGENOUS LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

The meeting is being held on the traditional unceded territory of the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Coast Salish peoples.

#### 1.2 OPENING REMARKS

The meeting is being live-streamed and the audio and visual recording will also be available to the public for viewing after the meeting. The footage of the meeting may be viewed inside and outside of Canada.

### 2. BUDGET PRESENTATION – 2019/2020 OPERATING FUND BUDGET PRELIMINARY DRAFT DOCUMENT – Version 3

### 3. MOTION TO DISSOLVE THE BOARD MEETING INTO COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

### 4. DELEGATIONS RE: 2019/2020 PRELIMINARY DRAFT BUDGET OPERATING FUND

*Delegations will commence at 7:00 pm and will present at 5-minute intervals.*

#### 4.1 Stakeholder Delegations

- 4.1.1 International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) – Harjit Khangura and Tim De Vivo
- 4.1.2 District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC)
- 4.1.3 Vancouver District Student Council (VDSC) – Simon Qu, Co-President
- 4.1.4 Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE), Local 15 – Warren Williams, President
- 4.1.5 Vancouver Elementary School Teachers' Association (VESTA) – Chloe McKnight

#### 4.2 Other Delegations

- 4.2.1 Queen Mary Parent Advisory Council (PAC) – Justin Morrison
- 4.2.2 Theo Micolino – Adult Education Student
- 4.2.3 Kana Inoue
- 4.2.4 Friends of School Libraries – Sandra Boutilier
- 4.2.5 Yaser Amiri, Ibra Bolow, and Nish Thaver

### 5. MOTION TO RISE AND REPORT FROM THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

### 6. MOTION TO RECONVENE THE BOARD MEETING

### 7. ADJOURNMENT



# International Union of Operating Engineers

Local No. 963

707 Durward Avenue, Vancouver, B.C. V5V 2Y9

Tel: 604-876-6287 Fax: 604-876-5687

www.iuoe963.ca



## International Union of Operating Engineers, Local 963

### Re: VSB Operating Budget 2019-2020

May 15, 2019

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the 2019-2020 VSB Operating Budget. We will highlight a few select items.

#### Transparency:

Several Stakeholders have stressed the importance of transparency in the budgeting process. Page 8 of the Draft Budget lists the five “Guiding Principles” of the budget process; one of which is “Transparency.”

This is further reinforced at page 11 where it states, “[t]he Vancouver School District is committed to transparent budget planning and resource allocation that is directly aligned with the strategic vision and goals, established by the Board.”

**However, the 2018-2019 Operating Budget contained a report that was not available to Stakeholders or the public.**

In a March 2019 reply to a *Freedom of Information* request, IUOE was told “this record is a report that has been prepared but which the Board of Education has not yet had an opportunity to fully review and consider.”

We say, with respect, that this is not transparent, nor open. And we therefore have to ask whether the Board is making fully informed decisions with all the relevant background and data they are entitled to have as elected public officials.

At a glance it does not appear to have occurred in this year’s budget but we would like confirmation on this point.

Turning to a few specific areas in the budget:

#### Business Development Manager:

The Draft Budget (page 78) seeks to add a Business Development Manager. There is the suggestion that this position “has the potential to generate up to an additional \$250,000 annually in revenue for the school district.”

While we appreciate the desire of the district to try to generate revenue, for those of us who have been with the Board for decades, we have seen many attempts to attract revenue but with limited success. In the 1990’s VSB had a separate corporate entity but that company was wound up as it was proven ineffective.

**Increase in Custodial Supplies:**

The increase of \$100,000 will be welcome by our members. For some perspective, with approximately 120 sites, this equates to less than \$834 per site.

**Equipment Replacement Needed in School Cafeterias:**

The 2018-2019 Budget identified district cafeteria equipment and infrastructure at “end of life.”

According to that budget, an investment of between \$500,000-\$800,000 per cafeteria “is needed to purchase and install new equipment and meet compliance with regulatory Food Safe, Work Safe, City of Vancouver and Vancouver Coastal Health standards.”

Opportunities for learning in the field of culinary arts is already limited in school cafeterias that are contracted out.

There are 7 schools- all west of Oak Street- that cannot offer students Culinary Arts education because the Board has entered into private contracts with a low-wage employer.

This is inequitable to students west of Oak Street who want to engage in Culinary Arts Programs.

We need to invest in school cafeterias to make them Centres of Excellence in Culinary Arts, a vision IUOE has shared with Superintendent Hoffman. This means having all VSB high school cafeterias play by the same rules and a concerted effort to support the Culinary Arts.

**Supervision Aides:**

There is no provision in this draft budget to increase the number of Supervision Aides at district schools.

This group of employees is charged with direct student supervision and they do a terrific job. But there are not enough of these positions in the system. We think parents want more student supervisors in District schools.

With annual salaries of just over \$10,000 per year, Supervision Aide (work 2.5 hours per day) are some of the most cost-effective human resources an employer could buy.

In school year 2014/15, there were 252 Supervision Aides and 29,602 elementary students. **This equates to an average SA to student ratio of more than 117:1.**

That ratio is likely not all that different today. Imagine trying to directly supervise an average of 117 kids? And let's be clear, this is direct supervision- on the playfield, in the lunchroom, halls and basements, etc.

Further, in the school year 2014/15, a revised formula was adopted by the Board that eliminated a minimum requirement of 2 Supervision Aides. In some cases, we understand school principals received additional SA's provided the salary was paid out of school funds.

<b><u>2004/05 Supervision Aides staffing allotment:</u></b>	
All elementary schools/annexes-	<b>2 SA's</b>
375 students to 529 students-	<b>3 SA's</b>
More than 529 students-	<b>4 SA's</b>

The current staffing allotment was implemented in 2014/15. Again, in some cases school principals received additional SA's provided the salary paid out of school funds.

<b><u>2014/15 Supervision Aides staffing allotment:</u></b>	
Less than 75 students-	<b>1 SA</b>
Up to 375 students-	<b>2 SA's (avg. ratio of 187.5:1)</b>
376 students to 529 students-	<b>3 SA's (avg. ratio of 176.33:1)</b>
More than 529 students-	<b>4 SA's (avg. ratio of 132.25:1)</b>

Thank you for the time.

IUOE Local 963 represents Building Engineers, Head-Custodians, Custodians, Maintenance Engineers, Supervision Aides & Cafeteria Workers. The first collective agreement with the VSB was in 1945.