



International Union of Operating Engineers

Local No. 963

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May 25, 2022

Trustees
Vancouver Board of Education
1580 West Broadway
Vancouver, BC
V6J 5K8

Re: Motion- 2022-2023 Budget Proposal Regarding Anti-Racism In Service Training

Dear Trustees,

We write to support Trustee Reddy's above-captioned motion that the Board engage independent experts to design and deliver anti-racism education for all employee groups with a focus on anti-Black, anti-Indigenous and anti-Asian racism, race-based data collection, racist history of BC, and race-based incident reporting as it impacts children and youth.

We further support one full day of in-service training, that references child rights, VSB policies and procedures on discrimination, hate, racism, SOGI, and incident reporting and response and that this education is mandatory for all employee groups in the 2022-2023 school year.

Yours truly,

Tim De Vivo
Business Manager

Tim Chester
President

Harjit Khangura
Vice-President



International Union of Operating Engineers (Local 963)

VSB Operating Budget 2022-23 Submission

May 26, 2022

Dear School Trustees and Board Staff:

On behalf of the more than 900 Operating Engineers working in Vancouver schools we respectfully submit the following for consideration in the 2022/23 VSB Operating Budget. We thank you for your time.

Regrettably, we again have to begin with VSB's consultation process. This is not the first time IUOE 963 has addressed this specific issue as it was in our June 22, 2020 presentation with respect to the 2020/2021 Operating Budget. Insofar as the following statement remains in the latest versions, the public can only assume it is intentional and deliberate.

¹**Engagement Spectrum**

The District is committed to open, clear and transparent engagement. The budget development timeline provides several and varied opportunities for input into the annual budget. The following information summarizes input from stakeholders and members of the public gathered February 17, 2022, to March 21, 2022. Additional opportunities for input and feedback remain in April and May.

*The District's Administrative Procedure 106: District Public Engagement guides all engagement activities. Best practices acknowledge that the engagement spectrum can and should be fluid to reflect meaningful engagement opportunities. **As such, engagement for the 2022-2023 budget development rested within both the inform and consult levels of the International Association of Public Participation (IAP2) Spectrum. (emphasis added)***

.....

The International Association of Public Participation Spectrum (IAP2), in fact, consists of five consultation elements, not simply the two ("rested within both the inform and consult levels...") the VSB selectively chooses for this consultation:

Inform, Consult, Involve, Collaborate and Empower

Why are school trustees allowing staff to engage the public and stakeholders in a budget consultation process that purports to be "open and transparent", yet clearly excludes 3 of the 5 elements of IAP2 Consultation Spectrum? **We, and the public, need to know your thoughts on this in this election year.**

The full IAP2 Spectrum is shown below:

¹ VSB Budget Development 2022-2023 Engagement Summary Report, page 1.

IAP2 spectrum

developed by the international association for public participation

	INFORM	CONSULT	INVOLVE	COLLABORATE	EMPOWER
PUBLIC PARTICIPATION GOAL	To provide the public with balanced and objective information to assist them in understanding the problem, alternatives and/or solutions.	To obtain public feedback on analysis, alternatives and/or decision.	To work directly with the public throughout the process to ensure that public concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered.	To partner with the public in each aspect of the decision including the development of alternatives and the identification of the preferred solution.	To place final decision-making in the hands of the public.
PROMISE TO THE PUBLIC	We will keep you informed.	We will keep you informed, listen to and acknowledge concerns and aspirations, and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will work with you to ensure that your concerns and aspirations are directly reflected in the alternatives developed and provide feedback on how public input influenced the decision.	We will look to you for advice and innovation in formulating solutions and incorporate your advice and recommendations into the decisions to the maximum extent possible.	We will implement what you decide.



At a Special Board meeting on April 19, 2022, Associate Professor Michael Hooper (School of Community and Regional Planning UBC), said the following about the Board’s consultation process:

“As I’ve learned about the VSB’s school disposal processes and broader engagement strategies I’ve been incredibly troubled from a professional standpoint.”

Adding, *“My point today is that the VSB does not follow its own ethical rules in its engagements with communities.”*

And while Professor Hooper referenced the IAP2 *Code of Ethics* in the context of school closures-in which he asserted the “VSB and its engagement consultant adhere to a participatory planning framework called IAP2, which has clear protocols and a Code of Ethics”- he did not specifically reference the IAP2 *Spectrum*.

According to the IAP2 website, the “Spectrum of Public Participation was designed to assist with the selection of the level of participation that defines the public’s role in any public participation process. The Spectrum is used internationally, and it is found in many public participation plans.”

Within this fuller context it is clear the “public’s role in any public participation” with respect to the 2022-2023 VSB Operating Budget specifically excludes Involvement, Collaboration and Empowerment.

BUILDING MAINTENANCE IS A “CORE” EDUCATION SERVICE

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the interconnectedness of custodial work and the ability to conduct in-person classes.

Prior definitions of “Core” educational services that did not consider building cleanliness/maintenance as integral to school operations will no longer suffice in the age of globalism. Decision makers must assume, regrettably, that the next worldwide pandemic will be around the corner and with potentially deadlier strains. It would be negligent for decision makers, especially given the knowledge gained since the COVID pandemic, to fail to plan for future health outbreaks that inevitably impacts public school students and staff.

That is why building maintenance in the 21st century is a Core educational service.

ADDITIONAL SUPERVISION AIDES

Elementary schools (and their Administrators) welcomed the addition of hours offered to permanent Supervision Aides at the start of the 2020/21 school year that added 1.5 hours of work time to about 150 permanent Supervision Aides (note: there are about 245 permanent Supervision Aides).

We concur with our colleagues- teachers, administration and other support staff- that this additional allotment should have remained in place so that all Supervision Aide’s work minimum 4 hour shifts throughout the District. This is a sound education investment that is of great use to the schools.

INVEST IN CULINARY ARTS

Vancouver is not only a world class tourism destination but is widely known as a “food city.” Trustees should be ensuring more culinary arts opportunities in all secondary schools, including the high schools that are contracted out and **therefore cannot be used for educational purposes.**

We again urge the Board to make required investments in school cafeteria equipment that have been left largely unattended for far too long. Investment is required for an equitable culinary arts program in the district. It is also worth noting- again- that the District offers no Culinary Arts programs west of Main Street in Vancouver. This is not equitable education and further defeats efforts to reduce our carbon footprint due to unnecessary travel.

Thank you for your attention to this submission and we look forward to your response relative to our concerns about the Consultation Spectrum.