



AGENDA
Board Education and Business Committee
Tuesday, April 27, 2021
Via Zoom 4:00 PM

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER
We respectfully acknowledge that we are meeting on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people where we live, learn and play.
2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
 - 2.1. Motion to Adopt Agenda

"That the Board Education and Business Committee adopts the agenda of the April 27, 2021 Board Education and Business Committee meeting."
3. MINUTES
 - 3.1. Minutes of the March 30, 2021 Board Education and Business Committee Meeting 3 - 6

"That the Board Education and Business Committee adopts the minutes of the March 30, 2021 Board Education and Business Committee Meeting."
[Minutes of the March 30, 2021 Board Education and Business Committee Meeting](#)
 - 3.2. Minutes of the April 13, 2021 Special Board Education and Business Committee Meeting 7 - 9

"That the Board Education and Business Committee adopts the minutes of the April 13, 2021 Special Board Education and Business Committee Meeting."
[Minutes of the April 13, 2021 Special Board Education and Business Committee](#)
 - 3.3. Minutes of the April 22, 2021 Special Board Education and Business Committee Meeting 10 - 13

"That the Board Education and Business Committee adopts the minutes of the April 22, 2021 Special Board Education and Business Committee Meeting."
[Minutes of the April 22, 2021 Special BEBC Meeting](#)

- 4. ACTION LIST
 - 4.1. Action List 14
[Action BEBC April 27, 2021](#)
- 5. PETITIONS AND DELEGATIONS
- 6. EDUCATION
 - 6.1. Youth Leading Reconciliation - Yu'ewen Skweyulus Part 2
Hannah Morales, Coordinator of Indigenous Student Success
 - 6.2. Swallowtail Update
Ann Kissinger, Vice-Principal, CVOLC/The Grove
Krista Crowther, Teacher
 - 6.3. Gender Neutral Washrooms
Thomas Longridge, Associate Superintendent
- 7. BUSINESS AND OPERATIONS
 - 7.1. 2021-2022 Budget Considerations
- 8. POLICY
- 9. COMMITTEES
 - 9.1. Summary of the April 20, 2021 Advisory Committee Meeting 15 - 18
[Summary of the April 20, 2021 Advisory Committee Meeting](#)
- 10. ADJOURNMENT
 - 10.1. Motion to Adjourn

"That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned."

**MINUTES OF THE BOARD EDUCATION AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 79
(COWICHAN VALLEY) HELD ON TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 2021 AT 4:00 PM VIA ZOOM**

Trustee Rob Hutchins, Chair
Trustees Elizabeth Croft, Randy Doman, Johanne Kemmler,
Candace Spilsbury, Joe Thorne
Robyn Gray, Superintendent
Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer
Sheryl Koers, Associate Superintendent
Tom Longridge, Associate Superintendent
Larry Mattin, Director of Instruction (Secondary)
Richard Dyble, Director of Operations
Karen Blow, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Mike Russell, Director of Communications

PRESENT:

Claire Spencer, Recording Secretary

APOLOGIES:

Trustee Barb de Groot

1. **Call to Order**

Trustee Hutchins called the meeting to order at 4:06 p.m. and respectfully acknowledged that meeting was taking place on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people where we live, learn and play.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

2.1. **Motion to Adopt Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Spilsbury seconded by Trustee Kemmler *"That the Board Education and Business Committee adopts the agenda of the March 30, 2021 Board Education and Business Committee meeting."*

CARRIED

3. **Minutes**

3.1. **Minutes of the February 23, 2021 Board Education and Business Committee Meeting**

Moved by Trustee Kemmler seconded by Trustee Croft *"That the Board Education and Business Committee adopts the minutes of the February 23, 2021 Board Education and Business Committee Meeting."*

CARRIED

4. **Action List**

4.1. **Action List**

The rainbow crosswalk project has been awarded and work will begin shortly.

Trustee Thorne joined the meeting at 4:07 p.m.

5. Petitions and Delegations

6. Education

6.1. Update on Career Education Ryan Gough, District Coordinator of Careers

Highlights of the presentation on Career Education included:

- A reduction in VIU seats for the 7-10 month apprenticeship programs due to health regulations resulted in student apprentices in carpentry, electrical, automotive and culinary beginning their apprenticeships by working a minimum of 500 hours in the trade and attending school for only 7-10 weeks.
- This is first year the Ministry of Education has not sponsored students the year following their Grade 12 graduation.
- The District currently has 82 new youth apprentices, with 15 apprentices pending.
- The ITA will be awarding 71 \$1,000 cheques to youth apprentices who have worked a minimum of 900 hours and maintained a B+ average (51 for 2021 along with 20 students who missed last year due to COVID).
- This is the first year the District sent students to BCIT for the machinist program. A shortage of machinists on the island led to a partnership with ProMac to install a C&C Metal Milling machine at Cowichan Secondary School.
- Over 1,000 students have participated in Career Education programs in 2020-2021, including trades programs, work experience and dual credit courses.
- Although programs such as the RCMP Camp and Skills Canada were cancelled due to COVID, 2,253 Elementary Builds and the building of 1,289 gravity cars took place.
- Work continues on: Youth Train recruitment for next year; academic recruitment; revamping Career Education's digital presence on the website; instructional videos on YouTube for Elementary Builds; translation of birdhouse instructions into Hul'q'umi'num; creation of elementary electrical projects; and a Youth Work billboard.

6.2. Cowichan Valley School District Literacy Update Learning Coordinators: Rich Ready, Brenda Lee, Corina Fitznar

Corina Fitznar was unable to attend and sent her regrets.

Rich Ready and Brenda Lee presented an overview of initiatives to improve reading outcomes across the District. The initiatives are designed to be transformative and sustainable by building understanding and strengthening the practice of teachers through a collaborative inquiry model. The initiatives include:

- **Informal Networks** at both the elementary and secondary level;
- **Collaboration Grants**, including one on phonemic/phonological awareness involving coordinators, teachers, and administrators at various schools across the District;
- **Principal/Vice Principal presentation** to encourage administrators to be champions of literacy at the school level;
- **Literacy Messages** to share information in a variety of ways (print, electronic) and build understanding and awareness of the critical components;
- **Grade 3 Reading In-Service** to provide teachers with three half-day learning sessions to build a collaborative inquiry around reading;
- **Focus schools** are being supported to address reading gaps with our vulnerable students. Literacy and reading support is being provided to teachers at Alexander and Khowhemun Elementary Schools, Quamichan School, and Chemainus and Cowichan Secondary Schools.

6.3. District Program Registration Update
Robyn Gray, Superintendent
Mike Russell, Director of Communications

A marketing program is being created to highlight the District's alternate learning opportunities, and to promote the Cowichan Valley School District in general as a place to come and learn. The marketing program will include brochures, websites and videos on each of the following programs:

- Inquisitive Design & Technology Program (out of Drinkwater Elementary)
- Mill Bay Blended Learning (K-7)
- Distance Learning Virtual Classroom
- Blended Distance Learning (The Grove)
- At Home Program (The Grove)
- Swallowtail (The Grove)

6.4. Plans for 2021-2022

- Secondary School Survey Update
Larry Mattin, Director of Instruction (Secondary)

Larry Mattin has been working with Secondary Principals on a survey for students, parents and teachers to gather feedback on what worked/didn't work this past year in three key areas:

1. Health and safety;
2. Educational experience (blended and online learning);
3. The quarter system vs. semesters (if we have to use the quarter system, what can we do to make it better?).

The survey should be finalized within the next few weeks.

Trustee Thorne left the meeting at 5:17 p.m.

7. **Business and Operations**

7.1. Updated 2021-22 Budget Timeline

The Special BEBC Meeting originally scheduled for April 15, 2021 has been moved to April 13, 2021 due to a conflict with the BCSTA AGM.

7.2. Review of Ministry Formula and Funding Announcement

Year End Projection shows revenues coming in within \$37K of budget. Only 15% of the budget for extracurricular, in-service and department head expenses has been spent to date. The current projected surplus of about \$1.4M is down slightly from the previous projection of \$1.5M. The surplus is expected to increase once the February count is included. This surplus is in addition to the Board's unrestricted surplus of \$1.4M.

The Ministry's summary of grants to date was shared to show how the Ministry calculates funding. The District's 2021-2022 estimated operating grant is \$84,440,911.

The per-pupil funding rate has gone up by 4.3%, but this is not all new money as the rate now includes wage increases which were previously outside of the per-pupil rate. Funding for Distributed Learning increased for the first time in two years.

The enrollment-based grant for 2021-2022 is \$1.3M greater than 2020-2021, even with an estimated decline in 187 students, due to the increase in per-pupil rates. Funding for unique student needs and unique geographic factors have both increased.

A reconciliation of the grant announcement showed that the labour settlement funding and support staff benefit funding has been moved into the operating grant, resulting in a comparative drop in the grant of almost \$250K.

8. **Adjournment**

8.1. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Trustee Spilsbury seconded by Trustee Kemmler *"That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned."*

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:37 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD EDUCATION AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 79 (COWICHAN VALLEY) HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021 AT 4:00 PM VIA ZOOM

PRESENT:

Trustee Candace Spilsbury, Acting Chair
Trustees Elizabeth Croft, Barb de Groot, Randy Doman, Johanne Kemmler, Rob Hutchins, Joe Thorne
Robyn Gray, Superintendent
Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer
Sheryl Koers, Associate Superintendent
Tom Longridge, Associate Superintendent
Larry Mattin, Director of Instruction (Secondary)
Richard Dyble, Director of Operations
Karen Blow, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Mike Russell, Director of Communications

Claire Spencer, Recording Secretary

1. **Call to Order**

Trustee Spilsbury called the meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. and respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people where we live, learn and play.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

2.1. **Motion to Adopt Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Thorne seconded by Trustee de Groot *"That the Board Education and Business Committee adopts the agenda of the April 13, 2021 Special Board Education and Business Committee meeting."*

CARRIED

3. **Business and Operations**

3.1. **2021-2022 Annual Budget**

The Secretary-Treasurer presented a revised year-end projection. Expenses for casual replacement are coming in very close to budget, although they are expected to increase based on a recent rise in absenteeism. The 2020-2021 surplus is projected to be \$2.038M. An updated projection will be presented at the April 22, 2021 Special Board Education and Business Committee Meeting.

COVID-19 is expected to continue to affect both expenses and revenue in 2021-2022. The Board may wish to continue some of the health and safety practices and protocols that were implemented this past year, however no announcements on targeted funding to address these costs have been made by the provincial or federal governments. The pandemic has affected enrolment at the International Student Program and across the District, with a decrease of 187 students projected for 2021-2022. This year a number of families chose to enrol their children in distributed learning/blended learning programs which are funded at 80% of the standard per-pupil rate. It is unknown at this point how many families will choose these learning options next year. Staffing levels will be affected by the drop in enrolment.

Some factors that will affect the budget are still unknown, such a potential benefit premium holiday due to the reduced usage of health care practitioners during the early stages of the pandemic.

The opening Operating Budget shortfall was estimated to be \$4M.

Trustee Thorne left the meeting at 4:16 p.m.

Contributing to the shortfall are the following factors:

- The 2020-2021 Budget was balanced using \$2.5M of surplus;
- Wage increases for teachers and support staff were underfunded by approximately \$600K;
- The decline in enrolment will reduce the Province's grant payment by \$1M;
- A Capital expenditure is needed to upgrade the financial/business function software.

Options to reduce the operating Budget shortfall include:

- Appropriation of 2020-2021 surplus;
- Benefit premium holiday;
- Staffing reductions due to declining enrolment;
- Funding the software upgrade from local Capital;
- Average teacher salary adjustment (staff who are on leave/retire are replaced with teachers with less experience who are at lower levels on the salary band).

Optional additions to the Budget include:

- Continuation of LifeSpeak subscription (mental health/health resources);
- District Principal of Literacy (funded from in-service surplus);
- Electrostatic sprayer custodial program;
- Protocols for cleaning standards next year are still unknown;
- Principal/Vice-Principal/Exempt staff compensation adjustment (to match increase received by teachers);
- Inclusive education equipment request;
- Vehicle Replacement Program (Maintenance fleet);
- CUPE and USW (custodian) closure week banking of time.

The anticipated 2020-21 surplus of \$2,038,455, combined with the previous year's surplus of \$1.445M equals almost \$3.5M in unrestricted surplus. If \$2M is used to balance the 2021-2022 budget, it would leave \$1.5M, or 1.7% of the budget, which falls within the Board's contingency policy of 1-3%.

Decisions on how to balance the Operating Budget will be made through consideration of feedback received from the budget survey, meetings with partner groups, and guidance from the 2020-2024 Strategic Plan and Budget Guiding Principles. The budget survey will close April 20, 2021 to allow time to consolidate the feedback.

There were no significant changes to any of the Special Purpose Funds.

A public meeting on the Budget will be held on April 20, 2021 at 5:30 p.m. Staff will continue to work on options to reduce the shortfall and will present details to the Board at the April 22, 2021 Special BEBC Meeting. Final recommendations will be presented to the Board at the April 27 BEBC Meeting. A balanced budget will be presented for consideration at the May 4, 2021 Open Board Meeting.

4. **Adjournment**

4.1. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Trustee de Groot seconded by Trustee Croft *"That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned."*

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:47 p.m.

MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL BOARD EDUCATION AND BUSINESS COMMITTEE OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 79 (COWICHAN VALLEY) HELD ON THURSDAY, APRIL 22, 2021 AT 4:00 PM VIA ZOOM

Trustee Rob Hutchins, Chair
Trustees Barb de Groot, Johanne Kemmler, Candace Spilsbury, Joe Thorne
Robyn Gray, Superintendent
Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer
Sheryl Koers, Associate Superintendent
Tom Longridge, Associate Superintendent
Larry Mattin, Director of Instruction (Secondary)
Richard Dyble, Director of Operations
Karen Blow, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Mike Russell, Director of Communications

PRESENT:

Claire Spencer, Recording Secretary

APOLOGIES:

Trustees Elizabeth Croft, Randy Doman

1. **Call to Order**

Trustee Hutchins called the meeting to order at 4:02 p.m. and respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people where we live, learn and play.

2. **Adoption of Agenda**

2.1. **Motion to Adopt Agenda**

Moved by Trustee de Groot seconded by Trustee Spilsbury *"That the Board Education and Business Committee adopts the agenda of the April 22, 2021 Special Board Education and Business Committee meeting."*

CARRIED

3. **Business and Operations**

3.1. **Budget Survey Results**

Mike Russell, Director of Communications, presented the results of the 2021-2022 Budget Survey. The online survey was active for twelve days and had 136 respondents, which was up from 108 last year but below the pre-pandemic response in 2019-2020. The majority of respondents identified as staff, followed by parent/grandparent/guardian (respondents could select more than one choice).

The survey was framed around the priorities from the Strategic Plan, with respondents asked to identify which objectives they felt were most important.

Learning: The top choice was "applied learning and authentic real-world learning experiences," followed closely by "foundational literacy and numeracy."

Indigenous Ways of Knowing: The majority of respondents chose "investing in creating safe, flexible and culturally-responsive learning environments."

Culture of Care: There was very little margin between the top three choices, with “creating healthy work and school environments that promote wellness” closely followed by “enhancing mental health opportunities and partnerships that promote wellbeing,” and “continuing to create and promote safe and inclusive learning environments for our diverse communities.”

Future Focused System: The majority chose that “all decisions be evidence based, child focused and culturally and environmentally responsive.”

Sixty-five respondents provided comments. Of those, 23 were concerned with increasing/maintaining services and supports for students. Comments also included maintaining or increasing the COVID-related custodial services. Some respondents were concerned about cutting core music programs, which has been discussed as an option at a neighbouring District.

The survey results will be sent to Trustees.

Trustee Kemmler joined the meeting at 4:09 p.m.

3.2. 2021-2022 Revised Budget Position and Options

The Secretary-Treasurer advised that there have been new learnings around expenditures since the previous budget presentations to the Board.

The Budget Guiding Principles, which ensure the priorities of the Strategic Plan are considered, were reviewed. As we move through the budget process, we will begin to align the Strategic Plan to budget options. The process is designed to be transparent and includes opportunities for input from the public and the District’s partners.

The pandemic will continue to affect revenue and expenditures during 2021-2022. To date there has been no indication that funding to cover COVID-related expenses will be forthcoming from either the provincial or federal governments. While the benefit rates for teachers and principals are not yet known, we do know there is a surplus in the funds for teacher and support staff benefits. The number of students who will return to in-class learning is still unknown. ISP revenues and expenditures will continue to be significantly affected by the pandemic. Additional custodial requirements may continue to be required next year. Enrolment estimates have been affected which will impact revenue and staffing, with the first enrolment drop in six years projected.

The 2021-2022 Operating Budget expenditures include \$62.5M in wages, \$15.6M in benefits (which will decrease due to the benefit holiday), and \$8.6M in services and supplies.

The opening budget shortfall of \$4.07M was due to the previous budget being balanced using \$2.5M of surplus, the District being underfunded for wage increases, and a reduction in enrolment.

Options to reduce the shortfall include:

- Appropriation of \$2M of the 2020-2021 surplus;
- ISP enrolment adjustment due to new registrations;
- A reduction of funding for students choosing DLVC, as a number of students are expected to return to their schools;
- A reduction in teacher benefit premiums of \$361K (one-time savings);
- Staffing reductions due to declining enrolment;
- Funding the business software upgrade from local capital;

- Reduction in the travel account due to the pandemic;
- Average teacher salary adjustment.

Options to be added to the budget include:

- Mental health - LifeSpeak subscription;
- District Principal of Literacy funded from in-service dollars;
- Electrostatic sprayer/custodial program increased by \$70K to include hand sanitizer, soaps, disinfectants, and portable wash stations;
- PVP/Exempt staff compensation to match the increase received by teachers and CUPE staff;
- Inclusive Education Equipment Request;
- Strategic Planning Implementation;
- CUPE/USW Closure Week Time Bank.

When expenditure options are included, the budget position reflects a shortfall of \$911K.

Special Purpose Funds:

The Classroom Enhancement Fund was created after the Supreme Court restored the class size and composition language in 2016. The fund is composed of three parts:

1. The cost to hire the required additional teachers (78 teachers this past year);
2. Remedy for teachers when the class size and composition language can't be accommodated; and
3. The cost to manage parts one and two.

Last year the District redirected money from EA's to Human Resources in order to plan and track remedy, and to deal with the increased pressures in Human Resources due to the additional number of teachers and CUPE members.

The allocation of Community Link funds was significantly changed last year, with a phased reduction of funding for the Community School component (1/3 per year for three years), a reduction of positions supporting the food program, and an increase in the food budget utilizing the redistributed funding. There is also a plan to consider allocating funds toward a Youth Support Worker in future years. The only change for the upcoming year is a shift of dollars from the Community School component into the food budget. Community Link also provides funding for an early learning component, and for Student Support Workers to provide social, emotional and behaviour supports.

The next steps in the budget process will be partner group meetings with the Board. Final recommendations will be received at the regular BEBC meeting on April 27, 2021. At that time, if there's a balanced budget and the Board is comfortable with the recommendations, the budget can be forwarded for consideration at the May 4, 2021 Board Meeting. While the Board has until June 30, 2021 to fully adopt the budget, a commitment needs to be made around staffing levels by May 4, 2021 as collective agreement-based timelines require the staffing process to begin on May 5, 2021.

Moved by Trustee Spilsbury seconded by Trustee Thorne *"That the Board Education and Business Committee recommend to the Board that a letter be sent to the Minister of Education regarding fully funding labour settlements."*

CARRIED

4. **Adjournment**

4.1. Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Trustee de Groot seconded by Trustee Kemmler *"That there being no further business, the meeting be adjourned."*

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 4:45 p.m.

ACTION LIST FOR BEBC MEETINGS

Description	Assigned To	Action	Disposition / Completion
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February 26, 2019

Rainbow crosswalks at all school sites	Jason Sandquist	Work with CDTA to create plan for Trustees to consider for installing rainbow crosswalks at all school sites	In progress
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**SUMMARY OF THE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OF SCHOOL DISTRICT NO. 79
(COWICHAN VALLEY) HELD ON TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021 AT 4:30 PM VIA ZOOM**

PRESENT:

Trustee Elizabeth Croft, Chair
Trustees Barb de Groot, Randy Doman, Rob Hutchins, Johanne
Kemmler, Candace Spilsbury, Joe Thorne
Robyn Gray, Superintendent
Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer
Sheryl Koers, Associate Superintendent
Tom Longridge, Associate Superintendent
Larry Mattin, Director of Instruction (Secondary)
Mike Russell, Director of Communications
Karen Blow, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Richard Dyble, Director of Operations
Chris Rolls, LCTA
Naomi Nilsson, CDTU
Louise Thomson, CDTU
Charlie Coleman, CVP/VPA
Brent Ranger, CVP/VPA
Carmen Sundstrom, DPAC
Meghan Lewthwaite, DSAC
Veronica Meyer, DSAC

Claire Spencer, Recording Secretary

APOLOGIES:

Tara Brooks, CUPE
Aaron Henry, USW

1. Call to Order

Trustee Croft called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. and respectfully acknowledged that the meeting was taking place on the traditional and ancestral lands of the Coast Salish people where we live, learn and play.

2. Check-In

Chris Rolls: Teachers are tired, and are holding on to make it to weekends and holidays. They are keeping things moving for kids with events like sports day and graduation. With the good weather they are trying to be outside as much as they can. It's hard not to have compassion fatigue. Glad to see people by age groups are getting vaccines.

Carmen Sundstrom: DPAC has been focusing on its presentations. Two have already taken place, and one tonight will feature John Gaipman, CEO of BCCPAC, on how to advocate for your child. Other upcoming presentations include the White Hatter on online gaming on May 7, and Shelley Moore on universal supports on May 27. Presentations are free, and available to parents, caregivers and staff of SD79. The BCCPAC AGM is coming up on May 1, and the DPAC AGM will be held May 20.

Veronica Meyer: The school is busy with the end of the year coming up. Things are exciting and nerve wracking, with so many things happening at once. Everyone is finally getting used to the quarter system. Students are happy to be getting through their courses and are ready for something new, as the new quarter comes up.

Meghan Lewthwaite: All students are trying to finish their quarter 3 classes strong and get ready for quarter four.

Robyn Gray: It has been a very long, extraordinary year, with people being as resilient as they can be. The work everyone is doing to support our learners is so appreciated. Excellent work is being done across the District. Non-Instructional Day on Monday featured a presentation on inclusion and diversity by Shelley Moore. CSS replacement is on the go, with two of three collaborative sessions with the three proponents completed. The third and final set of collaborative sessions will take place in May.

Naomi Nilsson: Her biggest concern today is how exhausted teachers are. Teachers are very grateful to Cowichan Tribes for providing vaccines to staff at four schools.

Louise Thomson: Louise also thanked Cowichan Tribes, and shared how grateful the teachers who received vaccines were. People are feeling stressed.

Candace Spilsbury: April is budget month, and the Board is focused on getting input and making plans for September. Trustees know how important it is to have resources in our schools. Another focus is on the replacement of Cowichan Secondary; sharing updates with the community and letting them know how they can be involved. Planning is underway for the Board's new Ad Hoc Anti-racism Committee. The Committee will include representatives from partner groups within the District and the community. Not only has the sunshine been a treat, but it has allowed teachers the opportunity to take their educational programs outside.

Charlie Coleman: Secondary schools are transitioning from quarter 3 to quarter 4, and checking to ensure Grade 12 students have the credits they need in the final quarter to graduate. Both secondary and elementary schools have had their share of COVID notices, but no in-school transmissions and no outbreaks. High schools are working on course selection and time tables for next year, along with some new BAA courses and academies for high schools. Secondary schools are looking at how COVID will affect graduation ceremonies this year and timetables next year. Teachers are looking for opportunities for outdoor learning.

Brent Ranger: Elementary schools are continuing to see teachers and support staff being creative to provide opportunities for students, and are thankful for how parent communities are supporting schools. Teachers are coming out of reporting season and are in the home stretch making sure kids are getting what they need before summer holidays. Was very impressed by the YouTube clips done by Frances Kelsey Secondary to introduce Grade 7 students to the school, since they aren't able to visit in person due to COVID.

Jason Sandquist: Focus is on the budget, which must be completed in a couple of weeks. A public meeting will follow this meeting, and a survey closes today. A Special BEBC meeting will be held on the budget Thursday, and meetings to get input from partner groups will take place on Friday. By Tuesday the budget should be pretty close, but there is still a lot of work to be done in a very short period of time.

3. Old Business

3.1. Truth and Reconciliation - Standing Item

- Presentation by Charlie Coleman, District Principal of Indigenous Education

Charlie Coleman led a presentation on Truth & Reconciliation - Calls to Action. Before we can move to reconciliation, people need to learn and understand the truth of Canada's history - a history that hasn't been taught in schools. Reconciliation is not about apologizing for the past; it's about taking action to change the future.

In 2015 the Truth and Reconciliation Commission released its Calls to Action. Several of the

Calls to Action that directly impact education and educators were reviewed, with a challenge to each of us to consider what we can do to take more action.

This presentation has already been given at 22 staff meetings, and will be given at five more next month, as well as at DPAC and PAC meetings. The slide presentation will be shared by email with Advisory Committee members.

4. New Business

4.1. Community of Care Pledge

The wording of the Pledge was discussed. Trustee Spilsbury advised that the word "abilities" was selected through consultation with Clements Society, parents and staff, to be as broad as possible and to include all people with diversities. DPAC will take the pledge and the explanation back to the PIE Committee, and bring feedback to the next Advisory Committee Meeting.

4.2. 2021-2022 Annual Budget

An overview of the 2021-2022 Annual Budget was provided.

During the Budget Development process, the Board will gather feedback through a public meeting, survey results, Special BEBC Meetings, and meetings with partner groups.

COVID will continue to impact the Budget next year, affecting both Revenue (through the projected drop in enrolment at ISP and throughout the District, as well as reduced funding for students participating in DL programs) and Expenses (added custodial time).

There are still a number of unknown factors, such as: health benefit rates; whether Districts will receive funding for COVID expenses; and the number of students that will come back to in-class instruction.

The rollover of the 2020-2021 Budget resulted in a shortfall of \$4.1M. Reasons for the shortfall include: the use of \$2.5M in surplus to balance the current budget; underfunded wage increases for staff; and a smaller grant due to a drop in enrolment.

Options to reduce the budget shortfall include: the use of surplus; a benefit premium holiday due to reduced health practitioner usage early in the pandemic; staffing reductions due to declining enrolment; using local capital to fund a software upgrade; and the average teacher salary adjustment (teachers with more seniority retire and are replaced with newer teachers who are lower on the pay band).

Considerations to add into the Budget are: Mental Health - LifeSpeak Subscription; District Principal of Literacy (funded from in-service surplus); Electrostatic sprayer custodial program; PVP/Exempt compensation adjustment of 2% to match increase received by teachers; Inclusive Education equipment; vehicle replacement program; and CUPE/USW closure week time bank.

Veronica and Meghan shared that having a transparent budget process is great for students, as it is helpful for them to understand where the District's money goes.

Naomi commented that the Provincial budget included \$1.3M to assist with UNDRIP, which would help with reconciliation. Jason added that the budget also contained some additional funding for playgrounds, mental health supports and increases to Annual Facilities Grants for

building envelope improvements.

5. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 5:26 p.m.