



COWICHAN VALLEY
School District

AGENDA
Special Open Board Meeting
Tuesday, June 15, 2021
Via Zoom 4:00 PM

Page

1. CALL TO ORDER

'Uy' skweyul, sii'em' nu siiye'yu. 'Uy nu shqwaluwun kwunus 'i lumnalu.

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

a. Motion to Adopt Agenda

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) adopts the agenda of the June 15, 2021 Special Open Board Meeting."

3. RECOGNITION AND DELEGATIONS

4. OLD BUSINESS

5. CHAIR OF THE BOARD

5.1. For Board Action

5.1.1. Funding for Diverse Learners

"Given that the Ministry of Education is not providing adequate funding to address all of the needs of diverse learners in our School District, the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) directs staff to prepare an analysis that identifies the gaps in service provided to diverse learners and the funding required to address these gaps."

6. SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS

7. SECRETARY - TREASURER

7.1. For Board Information

- 7.1.1. February Enrolment Count/Funding Claims for K-9 Distributed Learning 3

[Correspondence from the Ministry of Education](#)

7.2. For Board Action

- 7.2.1. Electric School Bus Purchase Upgrade 4 - 6

"That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) approves the ordering of two electric school buses as presented with the additional funding supported by the Canadian Infrastructure Bank (CIB) Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) Financing Program."

[Briefing Note - Electric School Bus Purchase](#)

8. COMMITTEES AND OUTSIDE ORGANIZATIONS

- a. Board Education and Business Committee Recommendation

"That the Board Education and Business Committee recommend to the Board that a letter be written to the Ministry to define the implications for our School District in this new policy and to also reference the late announcement aspect."

9. CORRESPONDENCE

10. NEW BUSINESS

11. QUESTION PERIOD

12. ADJOURNMENT

- a. Motion to Adjourn

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



Ref: 247708

June 2, 2021

Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer
School District No.79 (Cowichan Valley)
Email: jsandqui@sd79.bc.ca

Subject: February 2021 Enrolment/Funding Claims for K-9 Distributed Learning

On May 10, 2021, I asked you to review your claims for K-9 Distributed Learning (DL) claims made through the February 1701 count as your school district may have inadvertently made duplicate claims for funding, and I am following up with you on the results of your review.

After review and confirmation by you and your staff, we have confirmed the number of duplicate claims. Related funding will be recovered into the 2020/21 holdback and will subsequently be allocated to all school districts prior to June 30, 2021.

Thank you for your assistance in ensuring all districts are treated fairly through the funding process.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me directly.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Reg Bawa". The signature is stylized and written in a cursive-like font.

Reg Bawa
Assistant Deputy Minister

pc: Karen Blow, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer

Ministry of Education
Resource Management Division

Mailing Address:
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Victoria BC V8W 9H1

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Briefing Note

Date of Report: June 11, 2021

Prepared for: The Board of Education for **Action** for the June 15, 2021 Special Open Board Meeting

Subject: Electric School Bus Purchase Upgrade

Background:

The Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) through their actions has demonstrated a commitment to environmental stewardship.

At the February 4, 2020 Open Meeting of the Board the following motions were adopted:

“That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) recognizes that climate change poses a grave threat to our students, the wider school community, and general public, and as such constitutes an emergency.”

“That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) refers the following to staff to bring back to the next Board Education and Business Committee Meeting for discussion:

In declaring a climate emergency, the Board:

- I. Directs the Superintendent to produce a report to the Board within 90 days outlining a range of specific options for accelerating emissions reductions related to SD79 operations in line with the latest climate science.*
- II. Directs the Superintendent to produce a report to the Board within 90 days outlining a range of specific options for enhanced climate education within SD79 for students, teachers, and parents, including leveraging the curriculum’s core competencies, training, and public education in the community.*
- III. Directs the Superintendent in developing these options to consult widely both within the SD79 community and also with other school districts engaged in similar efforts to identify the best ideas and also to build common cause both within and across districts.*
- IV. Acknowledges the need for assistance in taking new action by directing the Board Chair to write to relevant BC Government ministries to inform them of this resolution and to seek their advice and greater financial resources for solutions.”*

Further action was taken by the Board at the Open Board Meeting of June 2, 2020. The following motions were adopted:

“That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) directs staff to create a Climate Action Plan in conjunction with the Strategic Plan 2020-2024 Operational Plans.”

“That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) directs staff to:

1. *Utilize the school district’s Strategic Plan’s priority areas to Learning and Indigenous Ways of Knowing as the impetus to build capacity regarding:*
 - *Land-based, nature-based and place-based opportunities; and*
 - *Issues and activities guided by the “Big Ideas” and competencies within the curriculum*
2. *Work with community partners to develop a district-wide comprehensive plan for recycling and composting.*
3. *Provide leadership support for students and teachers to connect with local governments and businesses to collaborate on real world issues, questions and inquiries.*
4. *Continue to support the environmental education pilot program in partnership with the CVRD and School District No. 68 (Nanaimo-Ladysmith).”*

And to further their commitment to Climate Action on May 4, 2021 the Board passed the following motion:

“That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) strike a Standing Committee on Climate Change, effective October 2021, and that staff prepare a draft Purpose, Powers and Duties, Membership and Meetings for review at BEBC.”

The Board’s first electric school bus has been purchased and is being prepared for service. The arrival was highly anticipated and celebrated as it signaled a new, cleaner alternative for transporting students.

Discussion:

At the Open Meeting of June 2, 2021 the Board adopted Capital Bylaw No. 21-02 which included approval for four diesel fuel school buses, at \$178,448 per bus. Currently the Ministry of Education does not provide funding approvals for electric school buses but works with other Ministries to narrow the price difference. Knowing the Board’s desire to continue to replace the diesel fleet with electric buses, an opportunity is being presented to upgrade two of the four new buses from diesel to electric.

The District is unable to support more than 50% of fleet replacement with electric school buses due to kilometer restrictions and the demand for field trip services. It is not anticipated that the Ministry of Education will support any new bus funding requests in the District for the next two school years.

Below is a chart detailing the cost differential and sources to fund the difference between a diesel and electric school bus.

	Type D 84 Diesel	Electric
Purchase Price	160,692.00	352,377.40
PST	11,248.44	24,666.42
GST (32% of 5%)	2,571.07	5,638.04
Charging Stations (15,000 for 2 buses)		7,500.00
Electrical Upgrade		25,000.00
SUB TOTAL	\$ 174,511.51	\$ 415,181.86
ASTSBC (2% of DIESEL purchase)	3,213.84	3,213.84
GST (32% of 5%)	51.42	51.42
COMPLETE COST	\$ 177,776.77	\$ 418,447.12
Less Ministry Funding	178,448.00	178,448.00
Clean BC - Min of Mines (33%)		116,284.54
Ministry of Education		30,000.00
Charging Rebate		3,000.00
COST	(\$903.00)	\$ 90,714.58
CIB Loan		\$ 90,714.58

The cost differential of \$90,714.58 per bus can be funded by the Canadian Infrastructure Bank (CIB) Zero-Emissions Bus (ZEB) Financing Program. This program allows Districts to borrow funding to apply towards the school bus and required infrastructure at a rate of 1% interest. Payments are made against this loan utilizing the demonstrated cost savings from a reduction in fuel and maintenance. The estimated annual repayment of the loan is \$5,200-\$12,000 annually. Cost savings for the 12-year lifespan are expected to be \$153,000-\$174,000 for the life of the bus.

Recommendation:

It is recommended that the Board approve the upgrade of two school buses from diesel to electric to continue to support the Board’s climate action goals and commitments. The differential will be made up by grants and the CIB ZEB loan program.

“That the Board of Education of School District No. 79 (Cowichan Valley) approves the ordering of two electric school buses as presented with the additional funding supported by the Canadian Infrastructure Bank (CIB) Zero-Emission Bus (ZEB) Financing Program.”

Prepared by:



Jason Sandquist, Secretary-Treasurer

Reviewed by:



Robyn Gray, Superintendent
Date June 11, 2021