

School District No. 22 (Vernon)
Public Budget Forum Feedback
April 20, 2016

Members of the public provided the following feedback at the April 20, 2016 public budget forum held at WL Seaton Secondary school.

1. What do you support from the Budget Adjustment Plan?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Elementary teachers are already experts in teaching reading....the support would be better spent helping schools deal with anxiety amongst their students, i.e. elementary onsite counsellors instead of itinerant reading specialists ❖ The open community process is good ❖ Support for students who generated these funds ❖ Increases in counselling & community time ❖ Adjust bell times (this would offset community funding) ❖ Successionship planning ❖ Counselling support – would like to see more – use surplus to support community in-school support – those in current positions to be topped up – less itinerants ❖ Career support – Charles Bloom requires additional time – add to current counselor – allocation ❖ Accept courtesy fee ❖ All looks good ❖ Overall it is solid, technology moving forward ❖ Mental Health Liaison position: systemic formal agreements are needed for Mental Health Liaison. Moneys should be used to work directly with students. Monies for the Mental Health Liaison should be put towards White Valley/NOYFSS ❖ Perhaps some of the suggested positions should be reviewed following the release of a revamp of the entire mental health system that is underway in the province. Information sharing protocols are set to be released in June ❖ Is there enough face to face student support and how to keep students in school should be focal points ❖ An audit needs a robust set of documentation, which takes away from direct student assistance ❖ Increased services for mental health thru school counselling ❖ I like the Mental Health Hub idea. Is the \$40,000 going to a service position? A VTA member or external service? ❖ The increased services for in school counselling
2. What concerns do you have from the Budget Adjustment Plan and what recommendations can you provide to offset those concerns?
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Reduce class sizes – Yes! ❖ \$40,000 in strategic plan – have employees, Board, etc do it ❖ With the # of stdts in Alternate programs, I'd like to see more resources available to them – SBRT time, NOYFSS, counselling time, ASW's. They are our most vulnerable students, they should be the most supported ❖ More community organization funding (NOYFSS) ❖ Needs more EA time ❖ Increase fees for bussing – within 2.4 then charge them ❖ Adjust bell times to save \$170 K – helps secondary students to acquire more sleep – research support ❖ P/VP wage increase – is a net cost – offset needs to be identified

- ❖ 2.0 FTE elem and .5 FTE sec counselling – allocation/distribution is not sufficient
- ❖ No concerns
- ❖ Should we look at SBRT time or direct supports at the school level. Current budget has quite a bit of centralized items
- ❖ Mental Health Liason position – I worry about the effectiveness of this position w/o protocols in place at upper levels. Move that \$70,000 to direct service in each building for kids. Wait until after June to understand the Mental Health Info sharing process is released
- ❖ .5 increase to counselling at the secondary level will result in v/little increae in service for kids if spread throughout 5 schools
- ❖ We used to have a meeting of all service providers a few times a year – this helped to build connection: relationship – could we re-instate this – much cheaper than a \$70,000 liason position
- ❖ Mental Health liason would not result in more direct service to kids – while the coordination of service is important – allocating that time to more direct counselling services – feeds into the best-most powerful protective factor which is consistent – familiar personal connection with adults

3. What ideas/suggestions do you have for future considerations?

- ❖ Reduce class sizes – Yes!
- ❖ \$40,000 in strategic plan – have employees, Board, etc do it
- ❖ Cost for 3rd party transportation?
- ❖ Last Friday of the month – school closed? 0- similar to 4 day/week but less drastic
- ❖ Increase TA time instead of \$1,200,000 to decrease class size by adding teacher? Would that produce a better bang for the district?
- ❖ Increase foreign students enrollment
- ❖ More events and budget road show in family of schools
- ❖ Require principals to present their school budget
- ❖ Share proposed budget – line by line items include previosu years’ audited budget to compare
- ❖ Where is it coming from? Single out where it came from?
- ❖ Strategic plan
- ❖ Request P+VP to share their school budget to PAC
- ❖ Capital reserves to be used for technology capability, student access
- ❖ This budget process needs to occur again – advertise as Family of Schools – provide more sessions – personalize it “road show”
- ❖ Add 2 counsellors from Ab. Funding for Aboriginal students funding source from Ab Ed
- ❖ “bring your own device” policy plus wifi in high schools would reduce the need for annual computer purchases - could be positive or negative impact on budget – needs to be investigated
- ❖ BYOD ideas/functionality for students
- ❖ Fund a part time person to help facilitate the relationships btw the systems that deal with young people
- ❖ More \$ for mental health literacy training for all staff (admin, teachers, CUPE, students)
- ❖ Keep as much support in school based work. Face to face in school time to support kids
- ❖ Increase sbrt
- ❖ Increase behaviour time in schools or alternative programs w/in a school
- ❖ Increase admin counselling so that we can follow thru w/the H claims, continue w/the documentations create vibrant, alternative support programming

*note: responses are typed as they were received, with no editing