

Finance Department Memo

2021/2022 Budget Update



To: Martha Rogers, Director of Education
From: Glen Regier, Superintendent of Finance
Date: May 11, 2021
Report Type: INFORMATION

Background

The Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) provided feedback on Budget Guiding Principles during the March 10th, 2021 SEAC meeting. Feedback on the Budget Guiding Principles was also supplied by the Trustee Climate Emergency Committee (TCEC) as an outcome from their meeting on March 16th, 2021. On May 4th, 2021, the Ministry of Education released information related to the 2021/2022 School year including documentation related to the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF).

Issue

To share with Trustees an update on the 2021/2022 Budget.

Recommendations

It is recommended that:

1. The report FIN 0521-01 entitled "2021/2022 Budget Update" dated May 11, 2021 be received.

Rationale

The following information provides a summary of the feedback received regarding the Budget Guiding Principles as well as key information related to funding for the 2021/2022 School Year.

Budget Guiding Principles

During the March 10th, 2021 SEAC meeting, it was recommended that an additional guideline could be added to address adaptability to encompass what is needed in

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current times. With that feedback in mind, a proposed Budget Guiding Principle would be:

- The school board acknowledges that the Operating Budget reflects a set of assumptions and plans and the school board may need to redeploy resources to adapt to changing needs.

As an outcome from their meeting on March 16th, 2021, TCEC provided the following recommended Budget Guiding Principle.

- Climate change impact and carbon emissions need to be an essential consideration as they relate to the future wellbeing of our students, community, and planet.

Based on feedback from the Board of Trustees, these recommendations can be added to the current list of Budget Guiding Principles to provide guidance during the Budget process.

Funding Allocations for COVID-19 Supports

The Ministry of Education (Ministry) memo “Planning for the 2021-22 School Year” recognizes that additional measures may be required in the ongoing response to COVID-19. To support these measures, the Ministry will provide funding supports and the following table provides the amounts for Upper Grand District School Board:

| Funding Allocations for COVID-19 Supports | (\$000's) |
|--|------------------|
| Additional Staff Support | \$5,130 |
| Additional School Operations Support | \$486 |
| Transportation Supports | \$1,283 |
| Special Education Supports | \$254 |
| Mental Health Supports | \$377 |
| Re-engaging Students and Reading Assessment Supports | \$341 |

School boards will be allowed to access up to two per cent of their operating budget from their reserve funds to support the safe operation of schools. The Ministry will also be providing funding to school boards, such as Upper Grand District School Board, where the use of reserves exceeded two per cent over the 2020-21 and 2021-22 school years.

School boards are expected to budget for approximately half of the above resources to support the first half of the year. The Ministry will confirm the use of the remaining

resources in the Fall, pending vaccine distribution across the province and public health advice.

Regular Funding Updates

Trustees will receive additional details on Grants for Student Needs (GSN) and Priorities and Partnerships Funds (PPF) during the June 7th Board as Budget Committee meeting. The following are key points:

- Salary and Benefit benchmarks will be adjusted to reflect central agreements and benefit plans.
- The non-staff portion of the School Operations Allocation will be increased by two percent to assist school boards in managing the increases in commodity prices.
- Secondary Pupil Foundation Allocation reflects a differentiated funded average class size for online and in-person learning.
- Student Transportation Grant will be maintained at the previous year's funding level, with adjustments for enrolment growth.
- The 2021/22 GSN will reflect transfers of funds that were previously supported through PPF's, transfers between GSN grants and some COVID-19 supports including amounts for technology.

Timeline

The Ministry deadline for submitting 2021/2022 Budget (Estimates) is June 30th, 2021. Board staff will present the Draft 2021/2022 Budget to the Board as Budget Committee on Monday, June 7th, 2021.