

BCSTA Provincial Council – February 2020: Trustee Bowman's Summary

DM, ADMs.

Overall, funding to BC schools is status quo. Any increases over previous years are growth and CEF.

Noted that wages are not keeping up, overall, with increases in cost of living.

I asked whether funding for transportation would be restored so that we would not be taking funding out of operating. The answer from the ADM was that this might be our SD's problem, but not all SDs have this problem. Some have other problems, like heating. There was no indication that funding for transportation would be restored.

Similar questions were asked about AFG funding, and the answer was similar.

CSBA News

Quebec has just eliminated all French school boards, English school boards exist only until November 2020.

Only Manitoba has boards with the capacity to tax.

PEI is reinstating school boards, originally lost due to lack of community input and low performing schools.

BC School Boards should focus on community relationships and involved governance in order to remain important and politically relevant.

IEC Report

Recommendation that boards "deep dive" into the BC Tripartite Education Agreement, make sure that we all understand it.

Recommendation that boards understand and discuss UNDRIP as it has now been adopted by the BC government. It includes reference to language, culture, identity, education, and land title. It will affect, for example, disposition of crown lands and potentially other land use and land ownership decisions that may be relevant to some boards' land acquisitions.

Reports from Working Groups

1. Branch Structure Working Group

Noted that shifting a board to another region requires a process and criteria.

That such a move should not happen on the floor of the AGM, but should require greater consultation and process.

Such a process would involve an explanation for why the board wants to move, etc.

Motion to this effect will come to AGM.

2. Capital Working Group.

"Capital Program Slippage," in which capital budgets were not used by boards, has been a concern in the past, not this past year, and not seeming a problem anymore.

Changing school capacity formulas to accommodate child care: a challenge if a district wants the space back.

Portables: addressed the problem that we use operating dollars on portables because we don't have capital \$ to expand or replace schools; when students are accommodated thus via our operating dollars then we do not access capital for growth or replacement. Survey is coming from BCSTA to all boards to help us make the case for portables to be capital funded.

Insufficient AFG: building lifecycle contributions are insufficient

3. Criteria for new standing committees working Group

Recommendation is that BCSTA develop a bylaw asking that before a motion comes to an AGM for the creation of a new standing committee that a proposal come to the board of directors explaining the goals, budget, etc of proposed committee. A Board of Directors might instead recommend an ad hoc committee or working group. The motion can still come to the floor for a standing committee if the board of directors does not approve it; but that disapproval would be expressed to the BCSTA membership.

This motion will come to the AGM.

BCSTA Finance and Audit Committee

Report and slides coming in email. Per Diem dinner went up one dollar. Small surplus due to higher attendance at academies because of 45% new trustees after election.

NOTES from president of BCASBO, which is the Secretary-Treasurer association for BC

*New protocol is in place between M of Ed and MCFD regarding communication about children in care, but how and where to see that protocol BCSTA President did not know. She just said it exists at high level. WE SHOULD ASK?

New Priority Student Supplement from Budget

- For trauma counseling, Community Link, transportation for vulnerable students, etc; these were to all be one budget item. This may come in future budgets.
- Recommendation that boards prepare for this funding by being aware of our spending and needs on these items now

School Board Reserves

- new policies coming re: guidelines for boards about how much, for how long, and for what purpose boards can keep reserves

Child Care centers

- BCASBO talking to MCFD to ask that school districts be considered partners in child care rather than like other non-profits, so that our application process to include a child care center in new buildings is less onerous.