



# Memorandum

**Date:** October 11, 2024  
**To:** Finance and Planning Committee  
**From:** Delta Carmichael, Secretary-Treasurer/CFO  
**Prepared by:** Rhonda Ovelson, Director of Instruction – Feeding Futures  
**Information Item:** **Feeding Futures Fund Update at June 30, 2024**

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## 1.0 BACKGROUND

In April 2023, the Ministry of Education and Child Care announced new funding of \$214 million over three years for school districts to create or expand local food programs in schools throughout British Columbia. The funds were to be used to purchase food and hire dedicated staff to co-ordinate providing meals and snacks to students. The District's proportionate share for the 2023/2024 school year was approximately \$2.8 million dollars.

After community, district and school consultation, a proposed summary for allocation of the funding was shared at the Finance and Audit Committee meeting on October 18, 2023 and then with the Board of Education on November 8, 2023. The proposed summary ensured that the already well-established District food programs (previously supported through the Community Link funding), were sustained and/or in most cases expanded. The proposed summary also reflected how schools were supported with funding, staffing and given financial support to partner with community, staff, students and parents to build and expand food programs that made sense within their local contexts. The proposed summary was also consistent with provincial funding guidelines.

As at June 30, 2024, \$2,441,730 (87%) of the Feeding Futures funding was spent, leaving \$367,063 to be carried forward into the 2024/2025 school year.

## 2.0 RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

None.

## 3.0 INFORMATION STATEMENT

*Appendix A* provides a summary of how the Feeding Futures funding was spent during the 2023/2024 school year. The summary compares budgeted expenses with actual dollars spent.

As of June 30, 2024, the following statistics were reported to the Ministry of Education and Child Care with respect to how the District has supported families and students utilizing the Feeding Futures Funding.

- An estimated 2,790 students participated in Universal Breakfast Programs.
- An estimated 1,370 students participated in Brown Bag Lunch Programs.
- An estimated 1,220 students participated in School-based Lunch Programs.
- An estimated 3,000 students were supported through the District's Welcome Centre.
- An estimated 500 students were supported through Indigenous Education.
- An estimated 17,770 students were supported through snack programs (including StrongStart families)

In addition to the "operational" Feeding Futures funding, the District received \$150,000 of capital funding through the Minor Capital Program. These funds supported schools with small and large equipment orders, and supported the replacement of commercial kitchen equipment at Rutland Secondary School. At June 30, 2024, approximately \$90,000 of this capital funding was spent. The remaining \$60,000 will be carried forward into 2024/2025 to support future capital projects.

*Appendix B* is a Deputy Minister's Bulletin from April 2023 that outlines instructions for school districts as well as a question and answer section.

#### **4.0 SECRETARY-TREASURER/CFO'S COMMENTS**

The number of students accessing school food programs continues to increase as inflation and cost of living in the Central Okanagan rise. The Feeding Futures Fund allows districts to ensure students are properly fed to enhance positive learning in schools.

#### **5.0 APPENDICES**

- A. Feeding Futures Program Spending 2023/2024
- B. Deputy Minister's Bulletin – Instructions to School Districts