



Section One: Board of Education

“Together We Learn”

160 – FINANCE AND AUDIT COMMITTEE

Introduction

The Finance and Audit Committee is a standing committee of the Board of Education.

The Board recognizes its responsibility for the effective use of public funds in providing the best possible education to the students in the community.

The Board has a duty to govern the district in a fiscally responsible and cost effective manner, while carrying out the strategies required to achieve its goals.

Policy

1. Membership

1.1 Voting Members:

- 1.1.1 Three Trustees, appointed by the full Board, with one Trustee appointed Committee Chair at the Board’s inaugural or annual meeting.
- 1.1.2 In the absence of a Trustee committee member, or if the full Trustee committee membership has not been appointed, the Committee Chair may appoint temporary Trustee committee members.

1.2 Non-Voting Members:

- 1.2.1 a representative from each partner group for purposes of providing input
- 1.2.2 Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and/or Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
- 1.2.3 the Board Chair

2. Scope of Functions

- 2.1 Provide recommendations to the Board.



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- 2.2 Function according to Board policy and, in the absence of policy, shall follow *Robert’s Rules of Order*.
- 2.3 Recommend to the Board the annual authorization of Trustee indemnity to be increased in accordance with the BC Consumer Price Index during the preliminary budget process.
- 2.4 Coordinate the budget development process, recommend the operating budget for approval by the Board and monitor its implementation on a regular basis.
- 2.5 Review significant accounting policies and procedures and deal with all financial matters of the School District including acquisition, disposal or rental of buildings and property and investment strategies.
- 2.6 Review all general insurance matters including risk assessment and management processes.
- 2.7 Function as an Audit Committee.
- 2.8 Review and evaluate all policies directly pertaining to the Finance and Audit Committee function at least once every four years.

3. Budget Functions

The budget is a “living” document that identifies the financial resources appropriated by the Board to provide the human and material resources necessary to meet the district’s educational and operational objectives. The Board, through policy/regulations, will provide appropriate flexibility in budget management to enable administration to make the most effective use of fiscal resources within the approved budget.

3.1 Budget Development

The Board’s annual operating budget is a financial plan which reflects how the district’s educational and operational plan will be implemented and maintained. The budget reflects the goals and objectives established by the Board for the school/fiscal year to which the budget applies and will be consistent with the Board’s mission and goal statements.



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Annually, the Finance and Audit Committee, (in consultation with the Superintendent of Schools/CEO), will develop a budget timeline, solicit input from the partner groups, and the general public, and recommend an operating budget to the Board.

3.2 Budget Monitoring

The Committee will receive reports on a regular basis, or as requested, outlining the status of the budget and forecasts for the remainder of the year. Information will be presented by function and major spending categories. The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and/or the Assistant Secretary-Treasurer will advise the Finance Committee of significant deviations from the approved budget. After the review is complete, the reports will be forwarded to the Board, along with any recommendations from the Committee.

3.3 Budget Management

The Superintendent of Schools/CEO is responsible for the overall management of the educational and operational programs that are supported by the annual budget.

The Secretary-Treasurer/CFO is responsible for the financial reports and for the management of the budget. This includes responsibility for ensuring that the funds are used for the purpose intended, for monitoring expenditures to ensure they do not exceed the total funds allocated without proper authority, and for monitoring revenue accounts to ensure that revenue objectives are achieved.

It is recognized that the fiscal resources allocated may be greater or less than the cost of providing the service. All those involved in managing the budget are expected to act in a fiscally responsible and cost effective manner, while meeting the district's educational and operational objectives. Any funds remaining after the objectives have been met will become reserved for general budget management purposes unless otherwise appropriated at year-end.

4. Audit Committee Function

The Audit Committee's principle function is to oversee the school district's financial reporting process and its internal control structure, and report its findings to the Board. The Audit Committee assists the Board of Education to fulfill its governance and oversight responsibilities in relation to the school district's financial reporting, internal control system, risk management system, and internal and external audit functions. These tasks are facilitated by asking questions about the quality of work done by management, participating in the audit planning and reporting process, understanding and reviewing the aspects of the operation that put the school district at risk and the district's preparedness to face that risk. It



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summarizes its findings and provides advice and recommendations so that the Board can make informed decisions. The committee shall be comprised of the three (3) Board members who comprise the Finance Committee, assisted by the district’s Secretary-Treasurer/CFO and/or Assistant Secretary-Treasurer.

The Committee shall:

- 4.1 on an annual basis, review and discuss with the external auditor all significant relationships with the district that could impair such auditor's independence;
- 4.2 review the audited financial statements and recommend approval of the audited statements by the Board;
- 4.3 oversee the integrity of the internal control structure including information technology security and control with a focus on safeguarding district assets;
- 4.4 discuss significant financial risk exposures and the steps management has taken to identify, monitor, control and report such exposures;
- 4.5 monitor the development of and changes to accounting principles, practices and judgment as well as financial reporting standards and their impact on the school district's financial reporting;
- 4.6 oversight of regulatory compliance, ethics, and whistleblower hotlines;
- 4.7 review audit results with the external auditors and follow up on the implementation of the auditor’s letter of recommendation; make recommendations to the Board as to potential policy or procedural changes arising out of the audit recommendations;
- 4.8 review the nature and extent of other services provided by the external auditors in relation to auditor independence;
- 4.9 oversee engagement of external auditors including the terms of the audit engagement and the appropriateness of proposed fees, as well, review and evaluate request for audit service proposals from external audit firms every five years;
- 4.10 meet with the external auditors at an Incamera Meeting without staff members present.

5. Meetings

- 5.1 All meetings shall be governed by Board policy and, in the absence of Policy, by *Robert’s Rules of Order*.



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- 5.2 A seconder is not required for resolutions moved at the committee level.
- 5.3 Public meetings of the Committee shall be scheduled to occur on specific dates and times during the school year as determined by Board resolution at the inaugural or annual meeting.
- 5.4 Items required to be Incamera will be dealt with at an Incamera meeting to be attended by Trustees and senior staff and others, as needed by invitation. Incamera meetings shall usually be scheduled to occur on the specific dates determined by the Board for public meetings of this Committee.

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