



Memorandum

Date: June 13, 2025
To: Finance and Planning Committee
From: Kate Cumming, Assistant Secretary-Treasurer
Action Item: **Multi-Year Financial Plan (2025/2026 to 2027/2028)**

1.0 ISSUE STATEMENT

District Policy 162 - Financial Planning and Reporting (Appendix A) requires the Board develop, implement, and submit to the Ministry of Education and Child Care a Multi-Year Financial Plan to show how funding and resources will be allocated to support strategic objectives and operational needs with a focus on improving student educational outcomes for all students.

2.0 RELEVANT BOARD MOTION/DIRECTION

Public Board Meeting – June 24, 2024

Main 24P-081

THAT: The Board of Education approve the Multi-Year Financial Plan (2024/2025 to 2026/2027) as attached to the Agenda and as presented at the June 26, 2024 Public Board Meeting.

3.0 BACKGROUND

On July 1, 2021, in collaboration with the education sector, the K-12 Public Education Financial Planning and Reporting Policy was developed. The purpose of this policy is to provide direction and guidelines to align the Board of Education's multi-year financial planning and reporting processes with provincial requirements. This policy provides for greater transparency and accountability for the planning and reporting of the financial resources managed by the Board of Education.

4.0 POINTS FOR CONSIDERATION

The development of the Multi-Year Financial Plan follows the District's Budget Development Principles and will continue to take into consideration the feedback obtained from the public engagement process in the development of the Annual Budget in accordance with Policy 156 - Finance and Planning Committee (Appendix B).

In addition to the Central Okanagan Public Schools' Strategic Plan and the District's Mission, Vision and Cultural Values, the District will also consider the District's Overarching Goal, using both the District Budget Development Principles and guided school-based budget decisions model expanded below.

District Budget Development Principles

- students come first.
- every budget allocation will be aligned to meet the District's Mission, Vision, Cultural Values and Overarching Goal.
- consideration must also be given to the individual school goals.
- the District will obtain the most effective results for the dollars spent.
- the Board must meet legal requirements; therefore, the budget will be balanced, and all statutory requirements will be met.

Guided School Based Budget Decision Model

- Decisions are made considering:
 - school plans and District goals.
 - discussions with School Administration, Assistant Superintendents, Human Resources, Senior Management and Finance.
 - consultation with partners, parents, and students.
 - alignment to the school's plan and their ability to achieve the plan remain a priority.

In conjunction with the finalization of the 2025/2026 Annual Budget Bylaw, a draft Multi-Year Financial Plan for the three fiscal years from 2025/2026 to 2027/2028 has been brought forward for discussion and feedback (Appendix C).

Key Assumptions

The Multi-Year Financial Plan for the three fiscal years from 2025/2026 to 2027/2028 was prepared using the following assumptions:

- BC Resident student growth of 150 FTE each year.
- Increase to the per pupil amount as follows:
 - **2025/2026** – A 1.12% increase to per pupil funding was confirmed in March 2025.
 - **2026/2027** – 1.00% estimated increase.
 - **2027/2028** – 1.00% estimated increase.
- Increase to the overall wages, benefits, services and supplies costs as follows:
 - **2025/2026** – Collective Agreement negotiations for 2025/2026 to 2027/2028 are ongoing with the Central Okanagan Teachers' Association (COTA) and the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) and as such, no salary costs have been adjusted for the 2025/2026 Annual Budget except for expected grid progressions. The 2025/2026 Amended Budget will be adjusted for the results of the collective bargaining process.
 - **2026/2027** – 1.00% estimated wage increase and a 2.25% inflationary increase. Inflation is based on a 2-year average of the British Columbia inflation rate.

- **2027/2028** – 1.00% estimated wage increase and a 2.25% inflationary increase. Inflation is based on a 2-year average of the British Columbia inflation rate.
- Other required significant operational adjustments including:
 - Additional adjustments made for anticipated enrolment increases affecting staffing and service and supply allocations.
 - Expected incremental grid increases for staff.
 - Additional bus routes to support student growth.
 - Increased benefit costs.
 - Increased costs for portable and capital needs.
 - Increased costs for technology equipment upgrades.

5.0 OPTIONS FOR ACTION

- a) Recommend the Multi-Year Financial Plan (2025/2026 to 2027/2028) to the Board of Education for approval at the June 25, 2025 public meeting.
- b) Make recommendations for adjustments to the Multi-Year Financial Plan (2025/2026 to 2027/2028).

6.0 ASSISTANT SECRETARY-TREASURER COMMENTS

The Multi-Year Financial Plan (2025/2026 to 2027/2028) is due for submission, alongside the 2025/2026 Annual Budget Bylaw, to the Ministry of Education and Child Care by June 30, 2025.

7.0 STAFF RECOMMENDATION

THAT: The Finance and Planning Committee recommends to the Board:

THAT: The Board of Education approve the Multi-Year Financial Plan (2025/2026 to 2027/2028) as attached to the Agenda and as presented at the June 18, 2025 Finance and Planning Committee Meeting.

8.0 APPENDICES

- A. Policy 162 – Financial Planning and Reporting
- B. Policy 156 – Finance and Planning Committee
- C. Multi-Year Financial Plan (2025/2026 to 2027/2028)