

2019/20 BUDGET – BASIC INFORMATION

APRIL 9, 2019

GOOD NEWS BUDGET

This year, the combined funding announcement and increase in costs resulted in a small surplus of \$63 thousand. It is recommended that the \$63,000 surplus be allocated to an additional HR Coordinator (CUPE) position to assist with the growing needs for recruitment and employee services

This year's budget includes...

- No additional reliance on International Funds
- No new Collective Agreement negotiation costs or funding
- Salary increases entirely based on 2018/19. New costs in 2018/19 are an announced Economic Stability Dividend (ESD) and Elementary Prep Time.
- The Funding Announcement provided \$45 more per K-12 student, increasing this per pupil amount from \$7,423 to \$7,468. This increase was provided to cover these increased 2018/19 salary costs.
- Also factors in balancing the budget were
 - a reduction in the Teacher Pension rate of (1.93%) and
 - funding for the difference between the new Employee Health Tax cost (EHT) and the lesser saving to the District of the phase-out of the Medical Services Plan (MSP).
- Given a balanced budget, we are able to retire the District's remaining \$400 thousand prior systemic shortfall, which is the amount that was required annually from reserve funds to balance the budget to zero per the School Act requirements. This does not impact the District's regular plan for reserve funded initiatives.

MARCH 15 FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENT IMPACTS

The March 15 Funding Announcement resulted in increased per pupil amounts in all categories.

- The REGULAR, (SCHOOL-AGE) PER-PUPIL AMOUNT of \$45 and the EHT funding helped to balance the budget.
- FUNDING FOR UNIQUE STUDENT NEEDS - \$930 thousand.
 - Additionally, the Funding Announcement brought increases in per pupil funding for Inclusive Education, ELL, Indigenous and non-graduated Adult students. These rates had not kept pace with the growth in the basic allocation over the past 8 years.
 - The funding received here will be spent as targeted funding. This funding will not be used to balance the budget.
- ENROLMENT INCREASES are funded on a per pupil basis. The Ministry has announced full funding for increased enrolment. The enrolment used for the announced funding is estimated by school districts.
- CLASS SIZE ENHANCEMENT FUNDING is made available in stages. An early amount is announced to districts for the budget, with additional funding becoming available based on actual use and forecasting. Initial funding for Delta was announced as follows: \$5.4 million, or 90% for teacher staffing and \$892 thousand, or 100% for Overhead funding. No remedy funding has yet been announced. Funding increases are provided for inflationary increases, not for increases in service. The District is not anticipating receiving dollars for increases in service.

2019/20 BUDGET KEY MESSAGING

GENERAL MESSAGING

- Delta School District staff and the Board of Trustees are committed to a thoughtful and student-centred approach to balancing the budget each year, as well as a strong and continued focus to provide excellent educational opportunities.
- The Delta School District is committed to Our Bold Vision of being a leading district for innovative teaching and learner success.
- The District is focused on providing the best learning environments possible by placing the learning needs of all students first.

CURRENT BOARD DIRECTION AND COMMITMENTS

- *Enable all learners to succeed and contribute their full potential to the future*
- *Engage students through stimulating, relevant and inspiring educational experiences that ignite a lifelong passion for learning*
- *Prepare and empower students to contribute their personal best to society and become tomorrow's citizens and leaders*
- *Nurture caring relationships, connections and a sense of belonging to our local and global communities*

IS THIS A “GOOD NEWS” BUDGET?

Yes. This is the first time in many years that Delta School District has been able to balance the budget with no reductions to staffing, programs, or departments.

- This is based in large part on:
 - i) An increase in the 2019-20 per pupil funding, and
 - ii) Adequate funding for the increased cost in the new Employee Health Tax (EHT) after MSP savings

WHAT DOES THE TARGETED FUNDING FOR INCLUSIVE LEARNING MEAN FOR STUDENTS?

- Delta School District Inclusive Learning is committed to thoughtful, proactive staffing strategies that meet the needs of all students with identified needs.
- This allocation of funds will be directed to areas of greatest need, which can include counselors, psychologists, specialist teachers, EAs, CYCWs, etc. to support the implementation of Individual Education Plans and student success.
- This funding is targeted, which means it must go to Inclusive Learning.
- This funding is on top of the previously planned budget allocation

IF ASKED:

- The student's IEP drives the type and scope of supports required to have students achieve their individual goals
- EA supports continue to be an important component of a compliment of supports and services allocated in a timely and responsive manner to enable the implementation of student support plans.
- We need a balance of specialist teachers to education support staff.

WHAT DOES THE TARGETED FUNDING FOR INDIGENOUS EDUCATION MEAN FOR STUDENTS?

- The Indigenous education is a key priority for Trustees and District staff.
- We have prioritized the creation of a long-term plan for funded systems and structures in support of Indigenous Early Literacy.
- We are presently studying the best way to deliver these Indigenous Education initiatives and will use targeted funding dollars to areas of greatest need.
- This funding is targeted, which means it must go to Indigenous education.
- This funding is on top of the previously planned budget allocation and will therefore add to the services that can be made available to students.

WHAT AFFECT HAS INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION HAD ON THIS YEAR'S BUDGET?

- International Student Program Operations provide powerful cultural enrichment opportunities for local and foreign students and financial support to the District,
- From a financial standpoint revenue from International Programs is somewhat uncertain, including:
 - foreign exchange rate fluctuations, world health scares, political unrest,
 - economic downturns in the students' home country,
 - competition from other countries and other local school districts,
 - the availability of direct flights from the students' home countries to name a few.
- Delta School District views the financial contributions of the International Educations Programs through a fiscally conservative lens.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH EA'S IN THIS YEAR'S BUDGET?

- EAs continue to be key members of school teams supporting the implementation of Individual Education Plans and the success of students.
- The compliment of specialist teachers and support staff, including EAs and Child and Youth Care Workers, is determined by student need.
- The budget process makes funding available that is allocated through Inclusive Learning in response to student needs.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH FORTIS?

Delta School District staff is awaiting the ruling and recommendations from BC Utilities Commission (BCUC). We are unable to give further information until the outcome of the ruling is made. However, all things being equal, a year with no budget cuts leaves us in a better position for dealing with the unforeseen than one where budgets had to be reduced. Potential impacts from a BCUC ruling, whatever they may be, will be addressed in the Amended Budget, when they are better understood.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH COLLECTIVE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS?

Collective Agreement negotiations are underway for BC Teachers and support staff, with outcomes presently unknown. Funding for negotiated cost increases is generally not announced until negotiations are complete. However, it is generally anticipated that funding for increases, once known, will be made available by the Province.

WHAT IS HAPPENING WITH THE FUNDING MODEL REVIEW?

Currently, recommendations of the Funding Model Review Independent Panel have been provided to districts for comment and the recommendations are being studied further by Ministry of Education in collaboration with working groups made up of diverse groups of participants. The outcome of the study and the final formula are not yet known and therefore, impacts on school districts cannot be calculated. The new model will become effective in 2020/21 and does not affect the 2019-20 budget.

HOW ARE PLAYGROUNDS BEING INCORPORATED INTO THE BUDGET?

- Delta School District is committed to ensuring safe and healthy learning spaces for all our learners. Physical literacy and unstructured play are important in the healthy development of children.
- District staff is reviewing current challenges and observations around how the District manages playground repairs, builds, and replacements, with the over-arching intention of creating clear, sustainable processes to meet the needs of our learners, our schools, and PACs.
- Delta School Districts Facilities Department began a formalized evaluation of the districts various school playgrounds for purposes of prioritizing maintenance, improvement, and replacement funding. Once finalized report will be shared with trustees.

HOW DOES CEF AFFECT THE BUDGET?

CEF is budgeted in two separate Special Purpose Funds which are targeted for spending on CEF-eligible expenses. The District budgets the Ministry announced amount. The funding provides for salary increases but does not provide for increases in the amount of services provided. The initial funding announcement is an advance on the total amount of funding available, which is being determined after the completion of the prior year-end.

WHAT ABOUT GANG FUNDING?

- Delta is one of 12 districts to receive a portion of the \$1.12 million in gang-prevention money that was announced March 12 by Ministry of Education.
- Delta School District is committed to keeping our students out of harm and supporting all students with making healthy life choices.
- Although there is no crisis in terms of local teens being recruited by gangs, the District, police and community partners monitor and continuously assess risky behaviour.
- We have excellent relationships and partnerships with DPD and ERASE, and collectively our focus is to take steps now to prevent youth from joining gangs, as well as timely, targeted intervention for those who are veering towards a path of violence.