

Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

Finance Committee

Tuesday, September 17, 2024
11:00 AM Zoom

Committee Members Present

Shane Hall, Committee Chair
Chantal Phillips, Trustee
Howard Wesley, Trustee
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business

Staff Present

Wende Proulx, Manager of Finance
Deb Bartlett, Communications Officer
Lesley Marshall, Executive Assistant

Absent with regrets

Craig Myles, Director of Education

Absent

Julie Bertram, Trustee

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 11:00am. Following the roll call, it is noted that the meeting had quorum.

2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

The Chair called for declarations of conflict of interest; none arose.

3. Approval of Agenda

3.1. Motion: Moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Superintendent Van Haesendonck. Carried
That the agenda for the meeting of September 17, 2024 be approved.

4. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting

4.1. Motion: Moved by Trustee Wesley and seconded by Superintendent Van Haesendonck. Carried

That the minutes of the meeting held on July 9, 2024 be approved.

5. Business Arising

5.1 Track discussion – previously deferred

Director Myles provided comments through the Chair.

Track improvements are not projects that we can tackle at this time due to significant expense of the projects themselves, as well as more pressing facility improvements existing elsewhere including unplanned costs such as the Chippewa Secondary School fence.

Trustee Phillips noted that she understood there had been historical conversations around track improvements, and was hopeful to receive insight into any commitment to undertake these projects in the future, and commitment to plans for school improvements and maintenance, prioritizing projects that support accessibility, and the possibility of a fundraising campaign to support projects that are not prioritized.

Superintendent Van Haesendonck noted that as she was not a staff member during the secondary school consolidation in North Bay, she did not have knowledge of what may have been formally, or informally committed to, and would recommend taking this item back to the Director's office.

Additionally Superintendent Van Haesendonck expressed that the potential cost as mentioned by Director Myles, through the Chair, at approximately 2.5 million dollars each in 2021 would be significantly higher at present. With the School renewal allocation (includes both SCI and SRA) allocation of \$6.7 million for 2024/25, redoing the tracks would likely use the whole amount which is not a responsible use of funds when we have very costly renewal and accessibility projects to examine. As noted in the Ministry memo allocating the capital funding, "This funding allows school boards to revitalize and renew aged building systems and components. While school boards are provided the above flexibility under SRA, they are encouraged to prioritize their allocation to address facility condition, ventilation, accessibility, health and safety, and general code requirements."

SBO Van Haesendonck noted that a project of this scope could be a long-term fundraising campaign, and she recommended that Trustee Phillips bring this discussion to the Chair of Board for further consideration.

6. New Business

6.1 Quarterly Report

Motion: Moved by Trustee Phillips, seconded by Trustee Wesley. Carried.

That the Finance Committee recommends the Quarterly Report for September 2024 be presented to the Board of Trustees for review.

Superintendent Van Haesendonck advised the figures as at August 31, 2024 are very preliminary year-end figures, with significant adjustments yet to be recorded, and a surplus not expected. The December meeting will include audited financial numbers. TIF funds have been fully allocated and directed to schools.

With the inclusion of the bill 124 remedy payments, and retroactive payments for collective agreement increases, costs for salaries and wages exceed the budgeted amounts significantly, by nearly \$20 million.

7. Next Meeting Date: Tuesday, December 17, 2024 at 11:00 am via Zoom

8. Adjournment

*Motion: Moved by Trustee Wesley and seconded by Trustee Phillips. Carried
There being no further business to discuss, on September 17, 2024, the Finance
Committee stands adjourned at 11:22 am.*

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