

Ashley St. Pierre, Chair

Craig Myles, Director of Education

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**Finance Committee**

Monday March 24, 2025 at 11:00AM  
Zoom Meeting

Committee Members Present

Shane Hall, Committee Chair  
Howard Wesley, Trustee  
Craig Myles, Director of Education  
Seija Van Haesendonck, Superintendent of Business

Staff Present

Wende Proulx, Manager of Finance  
Stephanie Courchesne, Executive Assistant  
Deb Bartlett, Communications Officer

Absent

Julie Bertram, Trustee  
Chantal Phillips, Trustee

**1. Call to Order**

Chair Hall called the meeting to order at 11:02 AM. Following the roll call, it was noted that the meeting had quorum.

**2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest**

The Chair called for declarations of conflict of interest with none noted.

**3. Approval of Agenda**

*3.1. Motion: Moved by Trustee Wesley, seconded by SBO Van Haesendonck that the agenda for the meeting of March 24, 2025 be approved as amended to include 5.2 In-Year Deficit Elimination Plan Update and 5.3 Fencing at Silver Birches as requested by Trustee Wesley. CARRIED*

**4. Approval of Minutes from Previous Meeting**

*4.1. Motion: Moved by Trustee Wesley and seconded by SBO Van Haesendonck, that the minutes of the meeting held on January 6, 2025 be approved. CARRIED*

**5. Business Arising**

### **5.1. 2025-2026 Budget Update – Verbal**

SBO Van Haesendonck provided an update that staff are continuing work on the 2025-26 budget, including preparing enrollment projections. At this time, there has been no confirmation of when the Ministry of Education will release the Core Education funding formula for 2025-26, and MPPs will not be recalled to the legislature until mid-April. There are no impacts to the current budget timeline, but any significant delay in the budget release may impact budget timelines.

### **5.2. In-Year Deficit Elimination Plan – Verbal**

SBO Van Haesendonck explained that the in-year deficit elimination plan approved as part of the 2024-25 Revised Estimates submission actually begins in 2025-2026, so there is no update available at this time. As presented with revised estimates, a significant component of the plan included teaching staff reductions if projected enrolment for 2025-26 does not recover. As staffing is predominantly formula- based using enrolment.

### **5.3. Fencing at Silver Birches – Discussion**

Trustee Wesley raised the issue of the capital project for site improvement work at Silver Birches Public School recommended for approval by the Finance Committee at the January 6, 2025 Committee meeting, and subsequently approved at the next Regular Board meeting of the Trustees. He asked about the type of fencing that would be installed at Silver Birches.

SBO Van Haesendonck noted that Silver Birches is an elementary school and that these schools are typically partially or fully fenced (newer builds). It will be the typical chain link fencing rather than ornamental fencing. Trustee Wesley noted that people notice the fence at Chippewa and then ask questions and he is concerned about public perception.

## **6. Review of Quarterly Report**

SBO Van Haesendonck was asked to speak to the February Quarterly Report. The first page notes that there are no further applications for the Trustee Initiative fund. There are no approved initiatives to date at this time. Accumulated surplus and deferred revenue is as of February 28, 2025 with a projection for August 2025. She noted that there is a slight change in the variance reporting section and includes both the original budget figures and the approved revised estimates figures. She referred committee members to the notes identifying any significant variances.

Trustee Wesley thanked the staff for their efforts, specifically regarding transportation and spoke about the significant amount of snow days that have occurred this year. Chair Hall mentioned that the weather is out of our control.

Director Myles commented on transportation being an ongoing issue in the province. Health and safety guidelines get more stringent every year. The consortium airs on the cautious side. Health and safety is of utmost importance and we try to ensure students are

equipped for the day but are also kept safe. Chair Hall noted that student well being is of utmost importance.

**6.1. Motion:** *Moved by SBO Van Haesendonck and seconded by Director Myles, that the Finance Committee recommends the Quarterly Report as at February 28, 2025 be presented to the Board of Trustees for review.*

**7. Next Meeting Date:** SBO Van Haesendonck noted the next meeting is anticipated to be a meeting to present a draft budget in middle to end of May, but the date will be determined based on the release of the Core Education funding formula and whether there are any significant changes to be incorporated in the 2025-26 budget. Executive Assistant Courchesne will reach out to committee members once more information is available to determine the next date.

**8. Adjournment**

With no further business to note, Committee Chair tabled the following motion:

*Motion: Moved by Trustee Wesley and seconded by SBO Van Haesendonck that there being no further business to discuss, on March 24, 2025, the Finance Committee stands adjourned at 11:26am. -CARRIED.*