

## **Notes from the School Board Meeting April 14, 2025**

### **Superintendent:**

April 3 - Senior indigenous NISS students requested more higher level Kwak'wala courses when they met with Christina at the Indigenous Youth Council

April 5 – All Administrators joined VINTA and CUPE for Health and Safety Training; positive feedback from all

April 10 – Indigenous Health Career Fair at Tsakis Big House

May 21 – Chess tournament at NISS

### **Secretary/Treasurer:**

\*\*List of approved budget cuts with my commentary are at the end of this report

The Capital Plan By-Law had its three readings and passed – includes new roof for FRES and HVAC for CES (even though it's closing, the ministry said to go ahead with the work)

### **Assistant Superintendent:**

Enrollment at the end of March was 1208 which is up 7 from February

Projection for 2025-2026 is 1179

Staffing – .86 FTE at NISS to be filled

Field Trips – Camp Homewood (SES+AJES, EVES+FRES), Canoe series (PHSS), Canadian Human Rights Museum in Winnipeg (EMX) - this last is for two students who are being recognized for a video they produced for a competition

### **CES Closure:**

Final Reading of closure motion carried

### **BCSTA – Eric Hunter:**

Have cut their budget by \$70,000

### **VINTA:**

Sad day when we close a school and shutter parts of others.

New BCTF Executive as of the AGM

Bargaining underway but nothing to note so far

Appreciated the attendance at the H&S Training session

### **CUPE:**

Bargaining underway

Hope that the H&S Training session will make a positive improvement going forward

## Approved Budget Cuts – with commentary

1. Cover some maintenance staff wages using some of the Annual Facilities Grant - \$300,000
  - a. The AFG is what normal school improvements come from so this means fewer small projects will be undertaken like carpet replacement or new equipment.
2. Increase rent on expiring leases - \$6,000
  - a. Only applies to leases that are up. Our lease was resigned in the fall, so we are three years away from another increase.
3. School supplies decreased by 10% - \$12,743
4. School library supplies reduced by 10% - \$1,595
5. School learning resources decreased by 10% - \$3,176
6. School inquiry projects eliminated - \$30,000
7. School field trip budget reduced by 10% - 5,751
  - a. Schools will have to prioritize trips for coverage – with some direction from Sr. Admin
8. School equipment replacement reduced by 10% - \$5,063
9. School photos budget eliminated - \$10,000
  - a. The Board has paid this to LifeTouch for the past 2 years to enable the pictures to be done. This will likely mean no school photos going forward – at least as we’ve known it. It also impacts Grad photos.
10. Staff Training (support for goals) reduced by 50% - \$6,000
11. Equity Scan Initiative eliminated - \$5,000
  - a. This was a Scott and Kaleb program that is mostly an instinctive practice now
12. PVP Training and Development budget reduced by 20% - \$6,000
13. Trustee travel costs reduced by 53% - \$25,000
  - a. This was increased from the original 30% cut by request of the trustees
14. Staff travel costs reduced by 5% - \$4,150
15. Recruitment and Retention budget reduced by 50% - \$10,000
  - a. This is for attending the career fairs that have not produced results, and for hosting the UBC teacher candidates in the spring.
16. Additional supplies for Goals/Innovation reduced by 50% - \$7,500
17. Building and IT maintenance supplies and materials reduced by 10% - \$15,800
18. Custodial supplies and materials reduced 5% - \$2,600
19. Grounds maintenance supplies and materials reduced 10% - \$2,000
20. Reduction in 2<sup>nd</sup> Elementary Counsellor position by 20% - \$27,000
  - a. Corresponds with a request for leave by a member
21. Reduce Maintenance staff through retirement - \$95,000
  - a. Trustees asked the Board to consider hiring an apprentice to help cover the workload
22. Overhead savings from moving CES students to SES - \$170,000
23. Reducing use of space at smaller schools - \$48,000
  - a. Close upper building at SVES and shutter other rooms elsewhere
24. Reduce unfunded CYCW hours (100 hours/week) - \$183,260 \*\*
25. Reduce unfunded EA hours (100 hours/week) - \$183,260 \*\*

\*\* These were very unpopular with the trustees and their request was that John look for any way possible to mitigate this change.

Total Savings: \$1,164,628