

April 17, 2022

Trina Cassidy  
Secretary-Treasurer  
1383 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue  
Kamloops, BC V2C 3X7

Dear Director Cassidy,

Re: Board of Education Budget Process (2022) – KTTA Stakeholder Response

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the Board of Education's budget proposed for the 2022/2023 school year. After attending the April 5, 2022 budget presentation and reviewing the presentation documents, the Executive Committee of the Kamloops Thompson Teachers' Association provides the following response:

1. Having now operated through two school years under pandemic and enhanced communicable disease protocols, the on-going need to prioritize the cleanliness and safety of schools is certainly evident. The KTTA supports the allocation of funds for maintaining day-custodial positions and the purchase of MERV-13 HVAC filters for improved air quality in buildings.
2. Recent updates to WorkSafeBC for the K to 12 education sector have brought increased attention to the risk of physical and psychological injury to workers in school settings. Psychological injuries are often invisible and un(der)-reported, with workers simply taking sick leave when their work situations are no longer manageable. This presents a significant financial cost to the employer, along with non-monetary impacts like reduced morale and a decreased sense of safety and well-being for students and staff. The KTTA strongly encourages additional funding be allocated to direct student support, including additional teaching staff, so that adequate support and supervision is available to ensure safe working and learning conditions for staff and students.
3. The district's implementation of Competency Based Inclusive Education Plans in the current and up-coming school year has been supported with some in-service training. However, Learning Assistance Resource Teachers feel strongly that they need additional time and in-service training to best implement the changes in the 2022-2023 school year. Further, classroom teachers have yet to receive in-service. They would require this early in the school year to effectively use and understand these significant changes in process

and documentation. Has specific funding for CBIEP in-service been included in the budget? If not, the KTTA encourages the Board to ensure adequate training and resources are available by designating funds for CBIEP implementation.

4. The current collective agreement with teachers expires June 30<sup>th</sup> and is presently under negotiation. While understandable that a specific figure is not available to include in the budget because any increase in salary and benefits is unknown, the proposed budget does not provide for potential labour settlement obligations. If the provincial government does not provide additional funds to districts when an agreement is reached, how will the Board address what could be the resulting substantial budget shortfall?
5. In response to the last year's budget, the KTTA raised concern over the lack of funding to address ventilation in shop classes. Funding was not allotted in the 2021-2022 budget, and district plasma cutters remained idle in shop classes as a result. Trades skills are important to many students, and we ask again that the Board address this longstanding concern. Ventilation system upgrades should be included in the budget so that this equipment can be used safely and students can gain important practical training in their high school industrial shop classes.
6. The KTTA noted an additional management position in the budget. Is this an overall increase to management or has this position resulted from reductions elsewhere in management? Will the proposed Capital Project Manager position include responsibility for advocating and securing capital projects funding? We question the creation of another management position generally, and wonder what will the Capital Project Manager do given that the Valleyview Secondary project is coming to a close, that Parkcrest Elementary is underway, and that no other major projects in the district have been confirmed?

Lack of provincial capital funding clearly continues to impact the district's operations and the working and learning environment of staff and students. We appreciate that the Board has made catchment area changes to alleviate enrolment pressures, but the district will continue to need more space as student enrolment increases. The provincial government should be further addressing the many capital improvements needs in our district and the KTTA encourages the Board to increase its pressure and advocacy in this area. The KTTA remains open and would welcome collaborative advocacy with the Board around this need.

7. With so much yet unknown about the impact and implementation of Seamless Childcare, which SD73 is piloting, does the district anticipate that it will be fully funded by the province, or will it be up to individual districts to fund this initiative from existing resources?

On behalf of the KTTA Executive Committee, we thank you in advance for considering our questions and concerns and invite discussion relating to our feedback. Please contact us at any time.

Sincerely,

Laurel Macpherson  
KTTA President

Darcy Martin  
KTTA 1<sup>st</sup> Vice-President