



Kootenay Columbia Teachers Union

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Mr. Bill Ford
Superintendent
School District #20 (Kootenay Columbia)
Suite 120, 1290 Esplanade
Trail, BC
V1R 4T2

VIA EMAIL/ SIGNED COPY VIA FAX # 250-364-2470

RE: KCTU 2017/2018 SD20 Budget Submission

Dear Mr. Ford,

Thank you for your invitation to make a submission to the Board with respect to the possible allocation of any surplus in the 2017/2018 SD20 Budget.

We fully comprehend the challenge the Board is facing without receipt of adequate funds from the Ministry of Education to fully fund our restored Collective Agreement language.

Our respectful request and number one priority is that the Board retains a Contingency Reserve, if possible, to ensure full funding of our restored language; to restore teaching positions and FTE eliminated in past budget cuts; to provide adequate funding of our Collective Agreement to address safety and non-replacement issues; and, to help improve teacher working and student learning conditions:

Full Funding of Restored Language Including:

1. Full funding of all restored Class Size Limits.

2. Full Funding of all restored Class Composition language and any potential recommendations made by the Teacher Board Education Resource Committee to which we highly recommend appointment of at least one Board Member to review administrative staffing and resource allocation decisions referred to the committee.

3. Fully Funded release budget for teachers for planning meetings with support staff and School-Based Team meetings.

4. Funding for potential dispute resolution process outcomes in the now ratified LOU #17 Agreement-in-Committee.

Restoration of Teaching FTE Eliminated in Past Budget Cuts:

1. Clinical Counselling Psychologist Position

2. Gifted Education Teacher FTE allocation at each School Site

3. French Coordinator Teacher Position

4. Russian Coordinator Teacher Position

5. Computer Resource Teacher FTE at each School Site

Funding of Collective Agreement Provisions

1. Additional funding for teacher in-service and professional development.

2. Funding for OH&S site inspections during normal operating hours.

3. Funding of an Early Retirement Incentive

4. Hiring of TTOCs and all teachers on full-time Continuing Contracts as a Retention and Recruitment Incentive and to help address teacher non-replacement issues

5. Funding for On-Timetable Collaboration Time

Non-replacement of Support Staff

Non-replacement of Support Staff is an almost daily occurrence and has a very serious effect on teacher working and student learning conditions.

We believe the root cause of this problem is the continual budget cuts that have reduced support staff hours to a level that does not attract long-term applicants to these positions. The

Board needs to address this long-standing issue and to allocate funds to provide additional Recruitment and Retention Incentives to alleviate this chronic non-replacement problem.

Our members have also provided suggestions for utilization of any increases in funding of District Capital and Resource Budgets in the following manner:

1. Applied Design, Science and Technology

All elementary schools need to be supplied with class sets of resources and teachers need to receive some training in teaching students tool use. Almost all of the modules will require investment in resources in order for teachers to teach this required course.

2. Glenmerry Elementary School Upgrades

“I think it’s safe to say that our school building is in the worst shape in the district. We have been patiently waiting for a rebuild for years. In the meantime, our numbers have continued to grow while the supporting facilities remain in a dismal state.

We are all concerned about the safety of students entering and leaving the grounds. There are no designated sidewalks for the students.

With the high snow banks this year it has become very dangerous for walkers.

Parents with strollers had to walk with the flow of cars as there was no room at the edge of the road. Cars often block the view of the crosswalks.

We are not sure if it is the district’s responsibility or the city’s (or a combination), but something really needs to be done to make things safer.

Safety is also a concern for students and teachers walking to the portables. The area is rarely cleared properly of snow. More often than not the route to these classrooms is either icy and slippery or straddled by a deep puddle.

Students at our school are also lacking in outdoor play opportunities. There is very little for our older students to do and we would like to have some sort of basketball/activity court for them like the other schools have.

Finally, we really do not have the washroom facilities to support the ever-growing number of students that we host. Illnesses run rampant in the building, no doubt due to lack of custodial time to clean washroom facilities and the barely trickling water fountains.

Here is our list:

5 – Most important to 1= Least Important*

- Install sidewalks along drop off /pick up zone in front of school 5,5,3,,5,5,2
- Multi-purpose court (basketball etc.) 5,5,5,3,4,5,4
- Covered walkway to portables 5,5,4,5,5,5
- Replace single pane windows (safety glass, energy efficient) 5,4,1,1,2
- Upgrade boys and girls change rooms 5,3,3,2,2,1
 - Bathrooms (need more and need more custodial time to clean them!)
- Financially support a portion of the new playground 4,4,3,3,0,1,2
- Install 2 water stations along the drop off/pick up zone 3,4,4,3,3
- Hot water to classroom sinks / more classes need sinks 5
- Upgrade breakfast room wiring to support addition of a stove 4,1,1,2
- Trees for shade 5,5
- Garden space/greenhouse 4, 5
- New flooring in older portables 3,1,2,2"

3. Fruitvale Elementary School

- Increase cleaning budget - custodial, supplies.
- Furniture for classrooms (bookshelves, teacher desk).
- Increase resource budget.

4. SHSS/Twin Rivers

- Outdoor Covered Spaces: At the primary end, in the Kindergarten quad and at an intermediate location
- Paint interior and exterior
- Upgrade to Kindergarten and Primary Entrances (signage, walkway)
- Upgrade to the Library – paint, new flooring, new furniture
- New PA system for the school (for classroom communication)
- Furniture for alternative designed classrooms (i.e. standing desk, low tables...)
- Build outdoor learning area
- New intermediate playground
- Covered stairway leading to bottom field and upgrade of ball diamond
- Landscaping with benches along hillside
- Upgraded drop off zone for parents
- Open access at the back of the school for parents with strollers and students with bikes

5. JL Crowe

LA Room ideas:

- Another filing cabinet to store reading program

- A lockable charging station for laptops/IPads (currently we can't charge tech during school hours due to high traffic in the LA room - theft concerns).
- Privacy/study consoles in the LA room.
- Put up a wall and create an office in the LA room to meet with students confidentially, to provide a quiet space for students who need to dictate, or to provide a quiet space for students who struggle to stay focused.

Athletics ideas:

- Can we put money towards team travel costs and TTOC costs instead of downloading the cost onto students?
- Uniforms
- Can we staff the workout room all day (or parts of the day) to students can drop in (help foster healthy living).
- Upgrade on Crowe's cardio equipment, i.e. spin bike, tread mill, plate rack etc.
- Upgrade in Crowe's weight room, newer machines, update the old ones etc.
money for PE supplies
- refinish gym floor

Distance Learning room/drafting room (113):

- couch or two, with a few chairs and a couple tables to pod kids to work together.

Thank you for your consideration of our submission.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew M. Davidoff
KCTU President