

## **PUBLIC INQUIRY RESPONSES**

- **Sports Travel** – Many feel that sports are the other half of education and that it motivates students to attend and work harder in academics at school.
  - How much funding is allocated to sports travel?
    - *The 2021/22 Allocation for School Travel was \$25,181. \$18,281 was for Sports related travel.*
  - How does the board value the worth of extra-curricular school sports?
    - *The board recognizes the importance of physical education and sports in educating students and the additional challenges facing local sports participants regarding travel costs. It has long been argued that the distance aspect places an undue hardship on northern school divisions.*
  - Shouldn't school sports come before wish list (low priority) capital items when considering budget allocation?
    - *The Proposed Capital projects listing includes input from different levels within the School Division and contains all requests for consideration. It also includes projects that are pending specific grant funding requests made by the School Division. These projects are only likely to proceed if funding is captured to finance them. This funding would not be transferable. The board will discuss and weigh all requests that depend on available funding at a later stage in the budget process.*
  
- **Capital Requests**
  - Card lock system
  - What is the purpose of the system? Concerns that it will be used for tracking employee's activities or tied to HRS system.
    - *It is simply a lock mechanism.*
    - Does a system already exist at MBCI or Mary Duncan or is this a pilot project?
      - *This system currently exists and is working well at Mary Duncan.*
    - What is the cost benefit to card lock vs. current keyed locks system?
      - *Cardlock system provides a more secure, more adaptable system for each location. Limitations can be set based on the requirements for individual access to specific areas and location and lost ID cards can be deactivated to reduce risk that they provide unauthorized access.*
  - Priority for MBCI intercom for safety reasons (not a question, a suggestion)
  
- **Staffing**
  - MBCI
    - Prioritize 1 FTE Secretary and 1 FTE Teacher.
      - *Staffing decisions are typically made later in the budget process. The Board will weight all staffing requests when considering the budget and funding as a whole.*
  
- **Discontentment With How Public Budget Consultation Was Completed This Year**
  - Preference for a local in person forum, the type of engagement isn't sufficient.
    - *The online method for this year was driven by the late timing in addressing the budget, which was due to unforeseeable internal KSD changes occurring and the desire to reach as many people as possible within the community to allow for feedback. The information was similar to that provided at earlier in-person meetings.*

## Public Inquiry Responses

### Page Two

- Felt that insufficient information was presented in the public information packet to make clear what choices or strategies the board is considering regarding the current year budget or how a member of the public can help.
  - *The public consultation data provided would typically be released in January and would not normally include funding figures from the province. This is an opportunity for the public to participate and provide input into what they would like to see in the upcoming year. Since funding data is not available at the time of public consultation, discussion regarding funding challenges would be premature.*
- Suggestion that the Board should have taken a more active approach by:
  - Generate public outcry regarding shortfalls in funding or potential cuts to service to create pressure on provincial government (Directly and through MLA)  
*This has been done for months via media releases, dialogue with our MLA, the Minister of Education and Education officials. These efforts to negotiate continue.*