



BUDGET FORUM #1 January 28, 2010 Kipp Conference Centre

Summary

During the budget forum, feedback was obtained from participants on both budget issues and the proposed calendar. An opportunity for online feedback is now available on the district website. The following represents a synopsis of the main themes in the feedback.

Budget questions and comments included:

- how and why the surplus was spent
- how the fees for transportation will be implemented
- concerns about the level of advocacy for more funds
- how carbon offsets and taxes impact the district
- the impact of the technology review
- the need for incentives for retirement
- the impact of the loss of AFG and what will happen if there is no return
- suggestions for where reductions should or could occur
- suggestions for generating revenue
- concern regarding work load as a result of reductions
- executive compensation levels
- concerns about the impact on particular employee groups

Calendar feedback and comments:

- in general there was significant support for the calendar proposal that includes a two week spring break (over 70% of respondents indicated support).
- the uneven impact of the calendar change on employee groups raised concerns - CUPE is most impacted
- concerns around the impact on casual staff and TOC's
- concerns around the impact on parents who require childcare
- suggestions that this was long overdue
- the positive impact of a longer break for staff and students
- convenience for family holidays
- need to consider a long term change and some assurance that this is not a one time event
- considerations for a year round calendar or more or longer breaks
- concerns that this might lead to further reductions in funding from the ministry
- impact of closure on Community schools

NEXT Budget Forum – **February 18, 2010 3:30-5:00 Kipp Center**

The Future We Want – Achieving the goals of the Strategic Plan through long term planning

Key Question: ***What are the supports and services that must be sustained if we are to achieve the goals of the Strategic Plan?***