



Staff Report to the Board of Education

February 18, 2026 Regular Board Meeting

2026/27 BUDGET – FEEDBACK RECEIVED TO DATE

Adrian Johnson, Secretary Treasurer

BACKGROUND

The timeline for the creation of the budget for next school year is outlined on the SD22 website, with supporting documents: [Budget Process 2026-2027 - School District No. 22 \(Vernon\)](#)

So far, the Board has received input from:

- Student Trustees
- The Indigenous Education Council
- The community, through a public session on January 28th and through an online feedback form.

This document provides the feedback received.

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Student Trustees (grades 10-12) identified several priority areas for consideration in future budget planning, with a focus on student wellbeing, equity of opportunity, and preparation for post-secondary pathways.

Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion

Students emphasized the importance of continued investment in diversity training and education, including guidance on how to respectfully and effectively support minority students. Reference was made to the value of work currently being undertaken in this area, as well as opportunities such as symposiums that promote learning and dialogue.

Nutrition and Food Programs

Concerns were raised about the nutritional quality of food available to students, particularly through vending machines. Students suggested offering healthier options, such as increased protein choices and fewer highly processed snacks. There was also interest in expanding access to affordable, healthy lunch options and maintaining the importance of breakfast programs to support student learning and wellbeing.

Post-secondary Preparation

Students highlighted the need for earlier and more structured preparation for Grade 12 students applying to universities. Suggestions included earlier and increased support for navigation to post-secondary options, as well as increased transition support.

Applied Skills and Career Programs

Feedback indicated that shop and foods programs are constrained by limited budgets, which restricts both the scope of learning and the types of learning opportunities students can engage in. Students expressed interest in enhanced funding to support more comprehensive hands-on learning experiences.

Science Resources

Students noted that some science equipment is outdated, limiting the ability to conduct meaningful laboratory work. In some cases, only one full lab per course is possible, with activities such as dissections relying on donated materials.

Use of School Funds

Concerns were raised about the perceived value of spending on guest speakers at assemblies, such as high-profile athletes or speakers, with students indicating that these expenditures may not provide strong educational value relative to their cost. profile athletes or speakers, with students indicating that these expenditures may not provide strong educational value relative to their cost. profile athletes or speakers, with students indicating that these expenditures may not provide strong educational value relative to their cost.

Athletics and Extracurricular Equity

Students suggested reviewing sports funding to ensure more balanced support, including greater investment in smaller or lower-profile teams (e.g., rugby), rather than concentrating funding primarily on high-profile sports teams.

In addition, students emphasized the importance of equitable access to non-sport extracurricular activities across schools, including clubs focused on robotics, STEM, theatre, and the arts. These activities were identified as critical for promoting belonging, friendship, and engagement, with noted inequities between schools.

Advanced Academic Opportunities

Students expressed strong support for expanding access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses. Suggestions included transporting students to schools that offer AP programs and facilitating inter-school study groups to support academic rigor and smoother transitions to university.

INDIGENOUS EDUCATION COUNCIL

Staff presented a brief overview of the School District's finances at the February 10, 2026, Indigenous Education Council meeting.

A member of the Indigenous Education Council expressed support for the expansion of Indigenous-focused learning opportunities across the district. There was interest in establishing Indigenous academy-style programs at additional secondary schools, like the model currently in place at W.L. Seaton Secondary. The Council member noted that these programs support Indigenous students in developing a strong sense of identity and belonging. focused learning opportunities across the district. style programs at additional secondary schools, -focused learning opportunities across the district. -style programs at additional secondary schools,

The Council member also emphasized the importance of ensuring that all schools are adequately resourced to support Indigenous students, regardless of whether a formal academy is in place. This includes visibility of Indigenous languages, cultures, and ways of being within school environments, so that Indigenous identity is reflected, respected, and valued across the district.

SURVEY RESPONSES

A survey was published on January 28th, to coincide with the public presentation. The SD22 website and social media advertised the availability of the survey, and all staff and SD22 families received an email invite to the public presentation.

The survey received 15 responses. Responses which refer to specific individuals have been anonymized. Otherwise, all responses are reproduced here as written. The responses cover a wide variety of matters.

A further four responses were written on a paper form at the public budget consultation session. These are reproduced here as responses 16 to 19.

Response 1

Your primary role:

Staff

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

Spend money as close to the classroom as you can, find ways to access CEF money to provide additional supports to "sped" students.

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Spend more money to make classrooms function better (EA support, chromebooks, field trips)

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Find ways to support new teachers for mentorship, give people the time and collaboration to bring their expertise- instead of having itinerant teachers.

Response 2

Your primary role:

Parent or caregiver of a student

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

-improving students numeracy and literacy
-close achievement gap

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Committing to human rights code. Focus on success of every student and student wellness. Prioritize this by hiring EA where needed.

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Transportation access. Consideration of busy roads or safety risk. Increased logistical planning for working parents just to get children to school. Unfair allocation of resources. Fair is everyone getting what they need, not everyone all getting the same thing.

Is there anything else you would like to communicate to the Board of Education about the School District's budget?

Ask all the Frontline teachers what they need. Dont be top heavy. Building and maintenance upgrades are great, but id rather see a teacher recieve an EA or needed classroom supplies.

Response 3

Your primary role:

Staff

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

Building maintenance

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Building upgrades

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Staff wellness

Is there anything else you would like to communicate to the Board of Education about the School District's budget?

Support staff need more financial support and job stability.
Lack of this now will hurt the school system in the future.

Response 4

Your primary role:

Community member

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

Increase collaboration between community, regional, provincial, national, and global partners

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Increase strategic engagement with external partners.

Look outside the school framework to local organisations that provide dedicated learning about important factors affecting the local and national environment and ecology. Directly fund schools engaging with learning opportunities that these organisations provide. Don't let the cost of a bus stop students getting outside to learn.

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Empower students to support climate action and have a positive impact on the environment.

We are situated in an ever-decreasing grassland eco-system. There are less than 1% of BC's grasslands left and we need to ensure that future generations understand this picture, because as 'un-sexy' as grasslands are, they are (for example) one of the biggest carbon-sinks on the planet. We are literally surrounded by a dissapearing eco-system, and only by changing how future generations view the natual resources we have (e.g. not simply as 'cash' opportunities) will there be any chance of stopping this ecological disaster that is happening right here on our doorstep today and every day.

Response 5

Your primary role:

Parent or caregiver of a student

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

Student mental health and learning support

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Increased teacher support

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Increased professional medical support counseling, occupational therapy etc

Response 6

Your primary role:

Parent or caregiver of a student

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

Students success - the focus should always be on the student. The rural students need to have access to the same advantages as the urban students. We need to remove barriers to learning and do better with literacy and numeracy.

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Leadership excellence - improve transportation, rural kids should not be covering the cost for all who require services. Staff need to be able to do their jobs and not have hands tied by regulations. They need to focus on basics and not letting kids fall behind.

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Community connections - not be limited to First Nation connections but connections to industry, agriculture, seniors, and all aspects of community.

Is there anything else you would like to communicate to the Board of Education about the School District's budget?

I would like to see the food program expanded to allow for breakfast for kids. Kids will learn better with access to nutritious foods and there are opportunities to connect with local agriculture associations, BC Ag in the classroom and even private citizens or PACs to deliver the programs. Kids should have access to food whether they identify as struggling or not. We need to reduce the stigma of food accessibility among our families.

Response 7

Your primary role:

Staff

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

If I have to choose, despite the plan being incredibly vague and not impactful on actual schools, I would say Student Success, but that is far too broad.

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Leadership excellence - primarily staff wellness, positive experiences, and professional growth. This district is doing very poorly in this area given how frequently staff are on medical leave, burning out, dreading coming to work, being refused reasonable professional development, and the constant downloading of more and more work, assessments, reporting, paperwork (i.e. busywork that does not support students) that increasingly devalues the real and important work teachers do everyday. EAs are being violently abused by students in every school and receive little support or opportunity to collaborate and be part of planning for the students they work with. We need more supports that actually show up in the schools, responsive leadership who will respond to problems, and a district that cares about the employees. The school system will continue to struggle the more we ignore the needs of the staff. Improving access to equipment that aligns with worksafe and ergonomic needs without requiring employees to jump through hoop after hoop to 'prove' they deserve such equipment, especially when every single employee at the board office has the ideal ergonomic set up. Employees with disabilities are required to pay out of pocket to prove they have ongoing disabilities even when it is obvious they are not going to be 'cured' of their challenges. All these things create a toxic and uncomfortable work environment, especially when we are regularly reminded to differentiate and provide opportunities and movement breaks and various seating options where possible, etc. for our students. Those things apply to staff as well and we deserve to be treated as human just as our students are.

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Equity. The difference between schools and their resources is stark and horrifying. Look at buildings like Coldstream, BX, or VSS and compare them to Fulton, Harwood, or Seaton. The equipment, the technology, the access to different programs is fundamentally different and it could not be more obvious that the economic differences of the different neighbourhoods is reflected in the funding and response to needs. When one school has electronic blinds and smartboards in every room while others still have chalkboards and blinds that don't work, that should be a clear indicator that some students and staff are receiving far better treatment than others.

Is there anything else you would like to communicate to the Board of Education about the School District's budget?

Do better. You spend too much on admin and too little on students and staff. Inclusion is failing as a result of budget allocations and the incredible lack of oversight by the board and district staff over what is happening in schools or by departments at the board. Students deserve a quality education and this board is not providing that on a consistent basis. Staff deserve a healthy and respectful workplace that actually demonstrates care and this district is certainly not a shining example of that either, except for the 'favourites' who have no problem getting what they need.

Response 8

Your primary role:

Parent or caregiver of a student

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

EAs need to be full time employees so they earn a living wage, which would help with the retention of them and increase the support for our most vulnerable students

Response 9

Your primary role:

Parent or caregiver of a student

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

Inclusive education and support with more EA time and resources available.

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Inclusive education and support with more EA time and resources available.

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Inclusive education and support with more EA time and resources available.

Is there anything else you would like to communicate to the Board of Education about the School District's budget?

Transparency on how designated funds are being spent

Response 10

Your primary role:

Parent or caregiver of a student

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

Student success - Properly funding special education and indigenous education. When you have a child supported by both but there are inadequate supports, why would I continue to fill out form after form to get my kid a designation?

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Leadership excellence - when there isn't enough money in the schools, why do we have extra PVP staff at the school board office? Was an assistant superintendent required after the last one left? What is their actual role, or are they just additional fluff at the board office? 76 PVP, with 26+ at the board office seems extraordinarily wasteful. For a student population to 9000 to 26 PVP, that is a better ratio of students:PVP in our actual schools.

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Community Connections - some of the eliminated staffing at the school board level should be reallocated to an anti-racism office. Put your words into practice and combat increased racist attitudes and actions in our schools.

Is there anything else you would like to communicate to the Board of Education about the School District's budget?

Proper funding of equity issues is key to creating a successful school district. Reducing school board level admin, regardless of the "percentage of staff" should be a priority. Emphasizing equity hiring practices and making the invisible visible is one step
In reconciliation.

Response 11

Your primary role:

Parent or caregiver of a student

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

Success for middle grades and transitioning to secondary school. Sending 12 year olds to high school does not achieve this goal. Instead of dumping all the money into a childcare facility at JWI utilize whitevale school for childcare and middle school.

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Support for students needing extra resources. Kids that don't struggle academically but have problems socially and emotionally seem to slip through the cracks. They need to be challenged and taught in a manner that works for them.

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Is there anything else you would like to communicate to the Board of Education about the School District's budget?

MIDDLE SCHOOL for Lumby!! Stop sending grade 7 to high-school!

Response 12

Your primary role:

Staff

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

Staff wages

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Students

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Staff

Response 13

Your primary role:

Parent or caregiver of a student

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

increase hours of EA's to full time so they are not required to get a second and sometimes 3 job. As important it will increase direct support to students, which is needed. This creates a ripple effect to the rest of the staff.

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Look for shared procurement ie: school supplies through the provincial procurement section, or look to neighbouring districts to buy things in greater volume for realized savings.

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Do not renew any 3rd party child care on school district property. Have SD22 staff be hired to staff them.

Response 14

Your primary role:

Staff

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

I urge you to do the right thing and follow our past Superintendent's recommendation to have the District Principal's salary come out of CORE funding instead of the Indigenous programs and services targeted funding budget. Our most vulnerable student population has been negatively impacted by the budget being slashed. All of our summer programs for youth at risk as well as many afterschool cultural programs ceased to exist! These programs not only bolstered self-esteem, cultural pride and identity for students, these valuable teachings helped to improve student attendance, success and engagement at school. I am calling upon the Board to fulfill your public responsibilities to Indigenous communities and commit to the TRC calls to action to close the achievement gap by supporting this "call to action"

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Mental health/counselors

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Behaviour specialist

Response 15

Your primary role:

Staff

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

The Meals program through the Feeding Futures initiative in my experience needs more hours added for the position. This is my third year working in this role; with 4 schools the first year, 2 the second year and this year one school. The position I have this year at ALP with 5 hours on one day along with an EA (who is also invested in preparing fresh food) with an hour each day is the most workable and fitting arrangement I've seen so far. In the positions I held prior to this, I would work very hard endeavoring to get food prepared for the week, however the EA's were not always able to facilitate the food program for the balance of the time. Ultimately, my 5 hour positions were replaced with 1/2 hour jobs serving breakfast and lunch, 5 days a week. Ideally each school would have an EA hired who also is a meals coordinator along with a 5 hour position who is responsible for sourcing local ingredience to make fresh nutritionally dense food.

Is there anything else you would like to communicate to the Board of Education about the School District's budget?

I worked as a volunteer for many years at Kidston Elementary, helping to develop a garden in which the students were engaged in planting, harvesting and enjoying the food they had a hand in growing. I invested my time and expertise as I was greatly encouraged with the enthusiasm of the students (and teachers), along with knowing the link with gardening and healthy minds and bodies. The research is proven. I am very much aware of the diverse needs of students as an ECE (for many years). It is my understanding that the Feeding Futures program would also support gardens. Supporting school gardens with time to tend to them, teaching students the skills

and in the process improving overall health is an invaluable investment in our students.
Thankyou for your time

Response 16

Your primary role:

Staff

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

Allocating more of the budget to EAs, support staff, councillors and others in terms of # of staff. Revenue from coded students should go directly to more EAs.

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Increase contingency fund to replace old equipment at older sites.

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

More budget allocations from other admin categories to provide more EAs on the ground.

Is there anything else you would like to communicate to the Board of Education about the School District's budget?

Well being indicators should include more than FSA, literacy and numeracy data. Kids need more support workers.

Response 17

Your primary role:

Staff

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

All funding for diverse students needs to be allocated to them first.

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Every Kindergarten needs EA to offset the diverse learning and bring them closer.

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Putting more resources into math, reading, especially in the elementary levels to assist with catching up.

Is there anything else you would like to communicate to the Board of Education about the School District's budget?

Allocate funds to assist members with in house counselling to promote better health and wellbeing. Therefore less sick days.

Response 18

Your primary role:

Staff

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

All funding for diverse needs students goes to classroom support for these students.

What should be the Board's second priority for allocating resources?

Funding towards extra support in classrooms for reading and math (regarding declining FSA scores).

What should be the Board's third priority for allocating resources?

Having full casual board of EAs and clerical so all absences can be filled as schools are already tight with EAs and clerical, running at a minimum level.

Is there anything else you would like to communicate to the Board of Education about the School District's budget?

Understand maintenance department was under provincial budget average, but why is a teacher indicating their shops are at a safety risk with outdated equipment and venting services, proposing health risk?

Response 19

Your primary role:

Not provided.

After reviewing the Board's strategic plan, what should be the Board's top priority for allocating resources?

Subsidizing transportation for rural schools, eg Cherryville.

Cost of internal services than contracted out service, eg trades, transportation

Replacement of equipment costs/ maintenance eg shops

Increase levels of SBRTs as caseloads are increasing. Teachers don't have the same access to SBRTs due to increase case loads and paper work.

More resources towards early intervention in primary grades as a proactive approach.

Retention of psychologists, SBRTS.