



Report from the Business Committee
April 12, 2017

TOPICS:

Lead in Water Testing
2017-18 Budget
VAST and CTC Relocation

WATER TESTING –The district has initiated a project to test drinking water in schools in accordance with Ministry of Education [Policy](#) for testing lead content in drinking water of school facilities. Brian Hackwood, Maintenance Manager, provided an [overview](#) of the district’s water testing program.

Mr. Hackwood’s presentation included test results taken from a third of the district’s schools that were built prior to 1990. The district will continue to develop a process to advance the testing schedule as set by the Ministry.

The engineering firm hired to conduct water testing has provided recommendations and remediation works for the schools that were tested. District staff will complete the work by the end of April 2017.

Details can be found on the district [website](#).

2017-18 BUDGET – The district is currently in its second year of the *Becoming Sustainable* budget. The goal over the past two years was to establish an operating budget that didn’t require the use of surplus money to balance the budget. This process allowed the district to direct capital and grant funding into student support, educational programming, facilities renewal, and vulnerable students.

Last night, Superintendent John Blain and Secretary-Treasurer Carrie McVeigh provided the 2020 Vision: A Three Year Plan budget [presentation](#).

Next year’s status quo budget will continue to support: Kindergarten to Grade 9 curriculum and assessment; Focus and Community Schools; Active Transportation; the Updated Facilities Plan; technology in schools; enhanced network infrastructure; and social justice, among many other initiatives.

A continuation of the 2017-18 budget development process will take place at next week’s Special Business Committee meeting on Wednesday, April 19, 2017.

PROGRAM RELOCATION – Superintendent Blain provided staff’s [findings](#) on the relocation of the VAST and CTC programs from NDSS to John Barsby Community School.

District staff met with parents, teachers, support staff, and community partners (DPAC, CUPE, NDTA and Snuneymuxw First Nation). The majority of those consulted were in

favour of the relocation and appreciate the need to relocate and recognize positive implications. Superintendent Blain expects the transition to take place between May and August 2017.

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