



# BRANDON SCHOOL DIVISION

## Finance and Facilities Committee Minutes

Monday, February 27, 2023 – 6:00 p.m.  
Boardroom, Administration Office

Present: C. Cramer C. Ekenna  
K. Fallis B. Foley  
J. Murray D. Ross  
L. Ross

Also Present: D. Labossiere  
E. Jamora  
M. Gustafson  
J. Zilkey

Regrets: J. Gobeil  
B. Sieklicki  
S. Gilleshammer

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### 1. COMMITTEE ITEMS

#### A. 2023 School Bus Order

Mr. Denis Labossiere, Secretary-Treasurer, advised that four (4) propane school buses, including one (1) accessibility school bus, are being recommended for purchase using funds from the School Bus Capital Reserve. Mr. Labossiere spoke on the letter received from the Province regarding the 2023 School Bus Order.

The cost of the four (4) school buses is \$918,591.52. This is a significant increase since the last school bus purchase, with the base price increasing by 26%. Mr. Labossiere compared the costs of a propane bus to a diesel bus, including purchase price and fuel costs. The average annual kms travelled by a bus in a school year is approximately 25,000 kms. The fuel costs for a diesel bus is approximately \$20,272 per year, whereas for a propane bus, the cost is \$12,287 per year, which is a difference of \$7,900 in fuel cost savings per year, per bus.

Diesel buses cost the Division \$0.3194 more in fuel per km than a propane bus for fuel. This would equate to a diesel bus costing an additional \$105,400 over the lifespan of that bus (12 years) based on 330,000 kms. This savings does not include other benefits of a propane bus, which result in lower maintenance costs, better environment for drivers and students, less work demand on mechanics, and fewer issues starting in cold weather.

The Secretary-Treasurer added that there is currently \$1.5 million in the School Bus Capital Reserve, which would purchase 6.9 buses. He answered Trustee questions and the Committee agreed to the recommendation as presented.

**Recommendation:**

That the purchase of four (4) Blue Bird propane school buses, which includes one (1) accessibility school bus, for the 2023-2024 school year in the amount of \$918,591.52 (including taxes) be funded by the School Bus Capital Reserve.

**B. Monthly Reports (December & January)**

The Secretary-Treasurer provided the Reports for the months of December and January.

Summary of Forecasted Variances

Mr. Labossiere reviewed the Summary of Forecasted Variances and noted that the Division has not received the 2022-2023 A1 Report (Funding Adjustments) from the Province, which is typically received in January, or prior to Budget.

For 2022-2023, he is anticipating an increase in base support due to the increase in students, however, the increase will be offset with decreased in categorical support and equalization. Forecasts will be revised once the Division receives the funding adjustments for 2022-2023.

Trustees asked questions for clarification.

The reports were accepted as circulated.

**2. OPERATIONS INFORMATION**

**A. Additional Information:**

- i. Donation request letter from the Western Manitoba Science Fair

Respectfully submitted,

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K. Fallis