



**BUDGET FORUM #2**  
February 18, 2010  
Kipp Conference Centre

**Summary**

Approximately 75 participants attended the second budget forum on February 18<sup>h</sup> at the Kipp Center. A summary of restructuring changes to date was provided. The Secretary-Treasurer shared budget information that compared Chilliwack to other districts of similar size. In addition, the district achievement challenges were reviewed in relation to the new strategic plan.

Participants were then asked to respond to the following question in relation to each of the four areas of the strategic plan. A summary of the responses is provided.

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

**Strategic Goals:**

**ENGAGING ALL LEARNERS**

- class size and composition must be maintained
- EA support is essential and must be focused on students not paper work
- reduction in admin time and non-enrolling teacher time is a concern
- maintaining child and youth workers is a priority
- strong instructional leadership and mentoring is important
- effective, appropriate professional development is needed
- differentiated support for high needs schools must be maintained
- diverse needs means the need for a variety of programs
- expand ideas for parent engagement
- focus on early learning is important
- continued focus on collaboration and curricular support is key to change

**TECHNOLOGY INTEGRATION**

- the need for a consistent platform was identified
- up to date and reliable equipment
- systems need to be easy to operate
- professional development is essential
- staff need to become more skilled at using multi-media
- there needs to be a dependable support system for end users
- recognize the most effective technology at each level
- ensure print and technology work together

## **EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION**

- there is a need for broader use of technology - blogs, email, distripedia, communication tools
- support staff are key to good communication
- need to reduce paperwork
- create a link on the website on "How to Help my Student"
- ask parents how do they want to be communicated with
- effective use of local paper
- reduce paperwork sent home
- work with parents
- maintain the community connection

## **SUCCESSFUL TRANSITION**

- need to continue to build supports for students who transition back to regular school
- need for alternate structures to be maintained
- better ways of measuring success than just completion rates
- include students in planning
- evaluate some pullout programs - are they making a difference
- evaluate dollars spent on resources
- focus efforts on Language Arts and Mathematics
- standardize programs across the district
- use technology carefully and thoughtfully
- in house professionals to meet student needs
- importance of reading by Grade 3 for later success - preschool and early learning programs key
- maintain vertical integration meetings
- supports - LAT, Library, resource, counseling, speech - are critical
- enhance family of schools relationships

NEXT Budget Forum – **April 15, 2010**

**3:30-5:00**

**Kipp Conference Center**