

TAHAYGHEN ELEMENTARY PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 5, 2019

Parents and staff present indicated the following points to be important to them:

- Support for split grade classes, increase Education Assistant hours
- Reduce pressure on parents asking for volunteers
- Regular schedules for staff that work at more than one school
- Homework support/after school support
- Some students really benefit from 3/4/5/6 classroom splits
- Support for teacher's key for students to be successful
- Winter activities
- Mt Moresby Adventure Camp opportunities
- Structured activities for primary students during recess and lunch, less free time
- Food: hot lunch available to students daily

GIDGALANG KUUYAAS NAA Y SECONDARY PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 12, 2019

Parents present indicated the following points to be important to them:

- Distributed learning or alternate delivery models

SK'AADGAA NAA Y ELEMENTARY STAFF MEETING FEBRUARY 19, 2019

Staff present indicated the following points to be important to them:

- Mentorship and collaboration opportunities
- Professional development
- Increase speech language pathologist supports
- Resources for parents
- Reduce catering expenses
- Increase counselling services
- Reduce amount of staff that only work at school one or two days per week, combine positions if possible for continuity
- Partnership opportunities with other districts
- Small classes: < 20 preferable
- Collaboration opportunities across district as well as with other districts
- Regularly scheduled meetings to be held with non-enrolling teachers
- After school transportation for students
- New curriculum resources

- Maintain and improve provincial networks
 - POPARD- provincial outreach program for autism and related disorders
 - POPFASD- provincial outreach program for fetal alcohol spectrum disorder
 - SET BC- this is the provincial program that helps implement technology
 - BCCASE- British Columbia Council for Administrators of Special Education
 - POPEY- Provincial outreach program for early years

GUDANGAAY TLAATS'GAA NAAY SECONDARY STAFF MEETING FEBRUARY 25, 2019

Staff present indicated the following points to be important to them:

- Full-time counsellor
- One high school for entire island
- Join teams from both secondary schools
- Improve collaboration opportunities between schools for students and staff
- Athletics key to supporting kids with mental health and exposure to other opportunities outside our communities
- Resources, purchase textbooks
- Teacher collaboration program
- Share resources amongst schools
- Transportation to get students together
- Increase elders hours in classrooms
- Schedule meetings with Haida teachers and Band Education Coordinators
- Mandatory Haida language for all grade 8s
- Increase instructional time
- Stability and predictability of teaching assignments and appointments
- Increase academic supports in elementary schools

SK'AADGAA NAAY ELEMENTARY PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
FEBRUARY 28, 2019

Parents present indicated the following points to be important to them:

- Foster sense of community
- Safe walking path from road to school
- TRC calls to action
- Educate parents in Haida language instruction

- Evidence-based innovative approaches and policy
- Attuned to community
- Track record for piloting ideas
- Increase independent learning at high school
- Trades
- Steep learning curve to understand community needs
- Transparent decision-making processes, improve trust
- Leadership to build trust
- Experiential education
- Schedule a meeting with parents to share new curriculum, assessment, etc.
- Engage staff
- Need to heal
- Educational symposium
- Hire an inspiring leader
- Use pottery wheel and kiln at GKNSS
- Hot lunch program
- Grade split challenges
- Educational benefits of large split classes vs. travelling to another school

AGNES L. MATHERS ELEMENTARY PARENT ADVISORY AND STAFF HELD ON
MARCH 5, 2019

Parents and staff present indicated the following points to be important to them:

- Full-time Principal
- Education Assistant support in each class during instructional hours
- Safety concerns, need to increase amount of supervision
- Field trips
- Improve communication with parents via newsletters
- School spirit low over past three years
- Outdoor education
- Greenhous/gardening projects
- Field maintenance: remove rocks, install greenhouse, fix fencing
- Hire a behaviour support consultant to observe, plan and suggest plans
- District is in state of flux, no leadership/direction
- Continue to support student transportation, bus to GKN appreciated
- Hire a grant writer
- Increase speech language pathologist support

ON-LINE 2019/2020 BUDGET SURVEY FEEDBACK

Are there any programs, services, activities or district initiatives we should maintain as a high priority as we develop the budget?

Haida language, all the fine arts, sports

Improving quality of education in Masset schools with taking into account feedback from Masset teachers, students, administrators, and community members. Finding ways to meet community needs so that residents do not consistently feel ignored or that their needs are not as important as other communities. One thing to consider is that there is only one community without a new school building in the past number of decades: Masset.

District initiative to upgrade all classrooms with more updated technology. Eg. whiteboards, teleconference units, projectors. The classroom of the "future". With the ability to connect to other "off island" classrooms

Reading recovery, changing results for young children, student services (including a full time resource teacher to coordinate services)

Hot lunch program should go back to 2 days a week and a bigger budget as food is very expensive on the Gwaii and Sandspit is very expensive

Trades and technical training and the infrastructure that supports it

Supporting Indigenous learners.

Pupil teacher ratio and teaching assistant time. More support for high school sports travel.

The Foods Program is feeding our students healthy and consistent meals. I think this program is very valuable. We could have a better focus on Coast Days and the possibilities we could have with these days.

no

I don't think so

no I don't think so

Team sports

coast, sports

Team sports

the boiler being fully operational, minimal loud disruptive construction while school is going on and keep funding going to our awesome foods program. Also sports

More hands-on learning programs

Mental Health is vital and becoming more of a concern within the schools and communities. Having a full-time counselor at EVERY school in the district should be the top priority! Learning Haida, having outdoor ed opportunities etc are great, but without strong mental health support, the students CAN NOT learn!

EA Assistance for students with exceptionalities. Semestered courses so that students can obtain all courses needed for University as DL courses are not accepted by some universities if done in grade 12 year (was told this second hand...myth or truth) more sports and do north and south as kids once per month.

Food's Programs, Gardening, Athletics, Student Support Services (Mental health & Wellness)

I am not sure as I was never included in the programs, services, activities or district initiatives (I would need to learn about all of those before I could say which would be a high priority). But I would say the Haida language should be a high priority, the language teachers should be put in the core budget and not come out of targeted funds.

Keep instruction portion as high as possible. Currently the admin portion takes 10% which is very high when similar district budgets are compared to ours. (i.e., other districts have admin costs at 4% or 6%)

Are there any programs, services, activities or district initiatives you would like us to consider adding as we develop the budget?

-re-add French Immersion language to enrich rather than impoverish our curriculum
-hire a full-time counsellor for each end of the island

A District Event Planner

Enhancing supports for Haida language, outdoor education, and the farm to school program.

Full time resource teachers and counselled at each school. Students are wait listed and prioritized for counselling. Also more speech and language support - students are wait listed for services and students that do receive services are for 1/2 hour a week every other week.

Perhaps funding innovations and tracking impact over time would be worth the investment. What do schools want to try that could use some funding.

There should be a higher priority on outdoor education.

Bouldering wall in the gym. This will develop jobs, a sport and a promote a healthy active lifestyle. The upkeep for a bouldering wall is very easy and minimal. We have the space for it on the gym stage - we just need to plan it out. This bouldering wall could be a great way for students and the community to exercise and become a unified group through this sport.

boxing club,

I don't think so

no not really

not that i can think of

A new school would be cool.

Introduction to jobs in the fields of paramedics, or other first responder jobs

Mental Health services at EVERY school EVERY DAY with a qualified, certified counselor!!!!

Accounting, retail management, retail skills (entry level work), mentorship from community members...business persons. Reading program...math program (primary) ie Times Tables especially those with exceptionalities Haida Immersion (start primary). Presence of RCMP in our high schools to engage and promote community leadership skills to our youth. Take a student to work day might include auxiliary work. Fire department, ambulance...etc. More support for the students..needs vary. Support education of all staff (professional development that will help to increase our skills). Bring back lunch program for students at GKNS, feeding nutritionally helps...better then large bag of Lays Chips and 2 litre bottle of pop or energy drinks!

I want to see more happening between the high schools. There are very few things that help bring our island youth together. More sports competitions, joint teams, etc.

Put our language teachers in the core budget, not out of targeted or early leavers funds. Also add bussing for all our students (no 5 km limit), busses for the elementary students that have to walk to Sk'aadga Naay.

More transparent reporting to public about actual class sizes across the district. Instead of just the average, give the highest and lowest numbers as well.

Are there programs, services, activities or district initiatives we should consider eliminating or reducing as we develop the budget?

no

Not that I can think of.

When considering a tight budget, classroom teachers and keeping small student ratio in the classroom is key for student learning. Having innovative grants are great but not at expense of removing teachers from classrooms. With high trauma histories we know relationships are key to student learning and that is capable when class sizes are kept low.

I think reducing strong start days I know at ALM some days no one comes also volunteers I think are taking away paying jobs for staff

Catering lunches for meetings should be eliminated. People with jobs bring their own food or go out to eat, why is the SD spending so much money on free lunches? and now they are feeding people for Board meetings?!

If the Extra curricular transit assistance is going to be taken back at each year end, the money would be better off being allocated to each school's general budget. It can be used for travel assistance with sports and other programs and field trips. Unless of course we are allowed to use this budget line for such things.

I understand and respect why food is offered at Board meetings. I don't want to criticize or target Board meetings. Having said that, I wonder about catering in general. How much does the SD pay for catering every year on various meetings? Are there alternatives? Could money be spent more efficiently on services for students?

Red Alder, science fair, elementary sports should all be dropped.

I have no idea what to reduce.

no

I don't think so

no

no

the construction while we are trying to work

Mileage, travel, dinner expenses, water bottles, styrofoam plates, etc with exempt staff, Principals and board meetings, etc. They can pack a bag lunch, or go out for lunch, carpool or use the online meeting system like everyone else when they attend meetings! This is also bad for the environment!! Lead the way in recycling! Also, the board office seems overstaffed for such a shrinking district, that should be the first to be cut! The board office staff should be paid based on education, rather than the role they fill, etc.

District Board Office Finance Department. Maintenance supervisor position to half time. Travel reduction by all staff unless there is reimbursement from a ministry, etc. Put meetings back to 6:30 or 7 pm so more people getting off work may attend. Mount Morseby, scrap it and put the money into one session per year for the grade nines from both high schools.

I would need to learn about the above before I could say what to eliminate.

Trim the board office. What's the normal ratio of board staff to teachers across a variety of districts? Why are the teachers numbers going down when board staff numbers stay the same or are slightly increased?

Are there other efficiency measures or cost-saving ideas we should consider as we develop the budget?

Install automatic shut off switches for most, if not all, office areas, classes, gyms etc in each school

I think often, the cost-saving measures so far leave Masset schools wanting, so I would not encourage this frame of questioning.

Seek "shared" training for certificates that will help the students be gainfully employed seasonally after they are 16. First Aid, SVOP, Radio Operators etc. Great for summer jobs

I don't have the experience to comment in this area

Yes I think students should be involved MORE in fund raising for their off island trips as in skiing ect.

Also It would be nice if we could put some sort of notice out for giving the schools fish ect last year we had some which really help but not this year

As student enrolment goes down so should the administrative staff numbers. While SD 50 student enrolment has gone down, the board office has hired more staff and given themselves a 15% raise for less work.

We seem to be increasing top-heavy in terms of district administration.

I believe the foods program could be run a lot smoother. The teacher running the program is in charge of a broad scale of tasks. There should be a paid position to help the teacher plan the foods program, so money can be saved on equipment and food with better planning. A paid assistant could help with tracking inventories on fridges, freezers and equipment, plan meals that are healthy and cost efficient, and track the budget. Giving the teacher time to focus on the student learning and improvement.

more funding for school trips

I don't think so

no

idk

Yo

Rooftop solar panels, sensor lights when not in rooms, phone system (everyone has a cell phone), travel and meals for meetings, etc

Shared services with other districts, ie payroll and accounts payroll. Hire teacher subs on salary and reduce sub costs from the present amount. 8 hour custodians under supervision of Principal, cost saving measure, eliminates need for full time maintenance Supervisor and gives Principal more control over his/her school.

One central high school. Save the elementary schools. There are only ~200 high school students on the Island.

I would need to learn the budget before I could say to cut anything.

* Have lights and heat "powered" down during non usage hours/ days in school year. * Charge after school groups a fee to use buildings and equipment. * Shut down unused rooms to bare minimum heat and power. * Have janitorial staff sanitize desk tops/ work tables and high contact surfaces (door knobs, light switches, tap handles, soap dispensers, paper towel handles, etc) DAILY without exception. Currently this is NOT being done or is only partially done or is done to a very low standard. Proper cleanliness should reduce sick time which will save the District money on TTOCs.

What other information would you like us to know that will help us establish this year's budget?

-provide yearly, in-depth and open documentation, using spreadsheets sent via internet, regarding how much money comes into the district and from where and what its allocation might be. -provide detailed spreadsheets explaining where this money has been spent.

Please look at past budgets and habitual cut backs, and where those cut backs take place, before initiating the same measures that negatively affect education in Masset.

Invest, invest, invest! Plan a career and life skills fair for mid March with booths for students to visit and see what type of job options they have locally

Teachers work extremely well to deliver quality, caring instruction on Haida Gwaii. More resources to support a changing curriculum are essential for teachers to stay current.

Start with students in classrooms, as the highest priority for funding. The further away from students learning a person is, the lower the priority for funding them should be. That is diametrically opposed to the priorities now, where the trustees and administrators are given the most preferential treatment and funding priority instead of the kids.

Our district lacks an overall vision of what we stand for. Let's get all the stakeholders together and develop something that we could do really well as an on-going program.

I think that the school should be given a very detailed budget plan and what money can be spent by teachers, departments etc.

more jerseys

None

nothing

none

even though classes are shrinking it seems that this does not make the teachers/SEA less busy!! Consider keeping this current ratio and making it better at smaller schools by cutting back on unnecessary costs as listed above!

Keep it on a needs based budget for the students. Report on annual cost of running buses...can we use as a public transportation. Counselling a must and doctor visits (maintain support)

I would like to learn about the budget and what programs are paid for with funds in the SD 50

Compare our district spending allocations to other districts of similar size to check their spending percentages.