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Project: Budget Consultation 2024-2025

SurveyTool: Share your Voice! Budget Consultation 2024-25 [2021-03-01 to 2024-04-30]

Question: In what ways do you think the school district can improve financial transparency and engage the community in budget discussions throughout the year? (Showing 206 of total 206)

No. Contribution

- 1 Stop fighting with the City of Abbotsford Mayor and Council over who pays for what. Simply can't understand why the two entities are separate.
- 2 Be more open on the crisis schools are facing
- 3 Publish information in newspapers, social media, etc.
- 4 Public publications of how money is spent, community meetings to answer questions
- 5 Create a financial dashboard on the district's website that provides real-time updates on budget status, expenditures, and revenue. This can help increase transparency and keep the community informed.
- 6 Provide more specific breakdowns for each category.
- 7 Input like this is a good start, also publishing the budget in advance of the school year.
- 8 Be clear about where the money is going. Allow administrators to have more control over where the money is spent in their own schools. It does not make sense to have the district controlling everything when each school is unique, and the principals will have more knowledge of what the school needs.
- 9 By sending out emails to families outlining the financial budget and planning at the beginning of each year. Surveys like this one are a great way to engage the community as well as open discussion nights.  
  
If you are going to ask for feedback, provide a more detailed breakdown of the budget. The questions in the previous section are difficult to answer with so little detail available. For example, the average person, including myself, has little background knowledge to assess whether 5.6 or approximately 7 million is an appropriate surplus. Some questions that come to mind are, "would the federal or government provide emergency funding if something went wrong or would that be up to the district?", "what portion of building costs or other costs is the provincial government responsible for?". Without an understanding of these issues, I think my answer to the question about the surplus is useless.
- 10 When engaging the community, I think it is important to share the reason why we are spending on certain things when that it not obvious. The average community member has a limited understanding of organizational leadership and the education system, so I think we should proceed with caution in this regard. For an example of our community's lack of understanding of the education system, recall the anti-sogi protests (based mostly on disinformation and misinformation), and the public outrage in the news about admin retreats in Whistler. I think informing and including our school community avoids polarity, but there is a reason why informed people are given power to make decisions.
- 11 You can ask the teachers what they actually need in their classrooms. Admin are gatekeeping the money and not allowing supply purchases that are meaningful.
- 12 Na
- 13 By informing parents time to time & how money is being used & what changes can be made?
- 14 Explain why we end up with less funds in the school compared to the past. We now regularly hear that there is no money to do things at the school level compared to a number of years ago.
- 15 Free lunches  
  
When major decisions about technology are made, there is very little (or no) consultation with teachers and community members. For example, the move away from
- 16 Google to Microsoft. BYOD programs save the district a lot of money. It might have been prudent to talk to families about their needs before phasing out Chromebooks for more expensive devices that require more maintenance and support.
- 17 I think parents would be shocked at the small amount individual schools are given to operate.
- 18 Funding Sports & Other Extracurricular Programs
- 19 Not sure anything can change this.
- 20 more question and answer forms
- 21 I think that the district needs to be more open about how their funds are working towards their goals like working on improving literacy.
- 22 Improve financial education and literacy amount students
- 23 While there is adequate spending on Educators, there needs to be more spent on Support EAs. Some of our EAs are feeling over ran. Hire more so there is less burnout.
- 24 Relaying how much goes to wages/benefits as well what the surplus has been used for.
- 25 understanding that designation funding does not cover the needs of the student
- 26 Listen to the survey answers.
- 27 We need more discussion about where funding from a student's designation goes. It doesn't always directly go to the needs of the student and there seems to be a lot of confusion and misinformation about that. As a whole there is so much need for more EAs and LSS teacher support!
- 28 Advertise
- 29 Perhaps showing us a comparison with other lower mainland districts, indicating how we allocate funds compared to other districts.
- 30 ?
- 31 Share projected and actual budgets at staff meetings and meetings with the community and be ready to explain your choices.  
  
Show where every per student dollar goes, not an overall budget, but what gets pulled off at each level until it reaches the classroom. How much per student gets pulled for senior administration, how much gets diverted for operations, transportation, and things like CORE, curriculum and other levels before they even get to the school. Please show the exact amount of the per student funding the school gets. The instruction part of the Pie Chart includes so much outside of the school, so it's very unclear how much of the per student funding actually get to the school.
- 32
- 33 Stop funding non teaching positions. Top heavy administration at the board office. They justify their positions by creating make work initiatives that add to teachers work load. This adds to frustration and less effective teaching time for teachers with students in the classroom. Less "helping" teachers vice superintendents etc.
- 34 determine a max percentage for surplus agreed upon in consultation of ministry prior to sharing surplus intentions. Have always been told that ministry funds are for the school year and not next.
- 35 Let us know what the district staff (outside of schools) are making/what are their roles. I feel like it's a little heavy on that end and I would like to see more transparency. If we don't have enough teachers to fill classroom positions, why do we continue to add upper level positions? Is it at a higher cost than a classroom teacher position?
- 36 show us where to \$\$ flows within each category. the feeling is there is more and more build office staff at the expense of teachers, or resources in the class. be clear about collective agreement requirements (this is transparent) and people need to see that there are more teachers at the expense of less resources.
- 37 Nothing is transparent except the pie chart in this survey.

38 Keep everyone in the loop by emails or other media

39 By having an independent accounting firm perform a financial AND operational audit every 4 years, and report their findings directly to the public.

Stop placing any emphasis on budget spending for instruction. That is a REQUIREMENT. Focus on the spending of monies after paying for DIRECT instruction. That would be interesting for everyone to see. In other words after the mandatory dollars are removed for teachers who are in front of students, where does the money go? What percentage of \$ after direct instruction goes to NON ENROLLING teachers? Eliminate District office bloat and return teachers to the classroom.

41 discussions re: budget for things like ready, set, learn and other 'extras' in which the funds could be better allocated for extra support for teachers in the classroom (ie: EAs)

42 Continue keeping us informed. Encourage interested candidates to participate in focus groups or collaboration opportunities.

43 People are invested or not invested in learning what the district is doing. I look at what is posted and review it when its available.

clear, regular communication to all stakeholders that is transparent would be a good start. For example, all of the special programs that were removed from middle schools in the name of inclusion was not communicated directly and clearly to those affected. Removing programs with no increase in support within the classroom. I think parents would have liked to know this. It is important that families understand the financial decisions being made in their schools and how these decisions will affect their student's education experience. When communicating any financial decisions being made it must be clear, concise, and outline the reasoning and plan going forward.

45 By breaking down the costs, they seem a little broad the categories. The public and staff should have total access to all expenditures.

46 I believe that the school district has done a great job communicating with and trying to engage the community in budget discussions.

47 Be more transparent. Some DPAC meetings, parents were not even permitted to attend without a link to go online, and that depended on parents being able to even get that link.

48 Show where every dollar and cent go

49 Provide sub categories and values for the pie chart, specifically for "instruction". The majority of the budget expenditure is extremely vague.

50 How about showing the actual budget from the previous year to what it was projected to be, so we can see where deviations were necessary. Many times we are told there isn't money for something, and money gets spent on things that maybe weren't as important.

51 Newspaper, Social media, public forums

52 none

53 districts should not run a surplus - that money needs to be spent on the students and equipment

54 Post ALL public salaries

Post ALL public expenditures - not just a line item

55 Hold meetings regarding these matters. Also only parents of students should be able to input!

56 Schools that need new playground to keep kids safe

57 Social media, pay meetings, etc

58 Publishing numbers quarterly on schools districts website

59 The school district should be more transparent about actual costs to families/students over the school year - i.e. just the actual cost of sending a kid to school is unknown (i.e. yearly fees).

60 Just be transparent. Some truths are difficult to hear, but we can talk about them when respect, trust, and care are at the fore.

61 Make allocation of funds the same across all schools in the district.

62 Communicate with community more.

63 Budget should be discussed with parents more money should be spent in increasing the infrastructure as class sizes are increasing.

64 Provide a detailed budget, showing where money is spent.

65 Uncertain.

66 Raising funds and government needs to provide more funds and make some arrangements for our kids for play Soccer and other games and charge from parents because we pay outside and it's great of you guys arrange at school

67 Newsletters

68 Mid Year report on spending

69 Not sure

70 I don't feel the budget is the problem - the mismanagement of funds and where the funds actually go is a problem. Teachers are under paid - and lack enthusiasm for their job in this era. There is no accountability in the school districts.

71 Detailed reports of spending and budgets allocated for specific student supports i.e. what amounts are being spent on students with designations for their specific supports and programs.

72 Invite and share more information

73 Survey and post results of public desires for funding allocations.

74 Show budget spending throughout the year.

75 Biannual email breakdown with feedback area.

76 Have translated and simple documents that teachers can push out to families

77 What the future plans are for funds and community voices being heard and also changes made based on necessities of schools and needs in community

78 Identify and report on how much financial resources are being funneled from traditional education expenditures versus newer district initiatives, such as truth and reconciliation day, green or environmental initiatives, etc.

79 Presenting quarterly updates by email about the budget, and future priorities for the coming year.

80 These surveys help and maybe sharing trial balances

81 budget should be done and shared before first day of school for the year

The survey doesn't have enough transparency. How is anyone supposed to determine if spending is allocated correctly or is "enough" without understanding the current issues? How would I know if the district was spending "enough" on maintenance? You have provided no context. For example: Maybe they should spend more if schools need to upgrade air filtration etc.

83 Display costs for AOs, District Assistant Supers, etc. for hotel rooms, flights, conferences and justify how they make a difference for our student success.

84 Stop cutting budgets in schools...look to cut other services in district

- We need greater transparency on the amount of money spent on non-enrolling staff who do not work directly in schools. We have way too many helping teachers and 85 district principals, and not enough resources for staffing in schools. We need more transparency on the amount of money being spent on remedy for the classes in violation of the collective agreement.
- 86 I don't know that it matters either way to me.
- 87 Yes
- 88 Host events.
- 89 through use of tools like this and the public meetings
- 90 Monthly news letter
- 91 By arranging more public meetings.
- 92 Disclose how many students should get special needs funding and how many actually do - there are too many students in our schools who drive funding, but don't get adequate support.
- 93 You cannot accurately answer this question without more details.
- 94 More details on what's being spent on
- 95 Send emails with the information and explanations
- 96 Have more surveys for employees to voice their concerns.
- 97 Our district has been very private and not open to discussion about how money is going to be spent in the past. They have just done what they want. This money should be spent on more teachers and resources for students. Call a meeting or give the information to schools to discuss district needs.
- 98 Website
- 99 They can email out and post expenses and revenue streams.
- 100 put out detailed lists outlining where budgets are being spent
- 101 billboards
- 102 surveys like this, be up front about spending
- 103 All good.
- 104 Meetings at schools for staff and parents, public meetings, emails, surveys online.
- 105 Quarterly updates
- 106 Parents should receive regular emails updating about the major expenditure approved.
- 107 Being honest in what our needs are instead of trying to sugar coat everything
- 108 Share costs compared to actual spending
- 
- 109 Transparency on where each school spends their budget
- 110 Online Surveys and Questionnaires forms.
- 111 Use language all people can understand.
- 112 Unsure at this time. Will research current transparency. Everything should be completely transparent.
- 113 Board meetings, surveys and posting documents on web site.
- 114 Be open and honest about why some schools get beautiful upgrades and equipment and others don't. Be open and honest about how much certain projects cost.
- 115 Make information easy to find. Be open to feedback and explore options to increase resources i.e. community grants, playground grants, etc.
- 116 It seems sufficient right now
- 117 More detailed financial reports on funds allocated to special needs children.
- 118 Continue to allow parents the review the set budget and help make decisions for schools their children attend.
- 119 The district can be more clear about where the money is specifically being allocated rather than just general categories such as "Instruction".

Regular Public Meetings: Hold regular public meetings throughout the year specifically dedicated to discussing the school district's budget. These meetings can provide updates on financial status, upcoming expenses, and opportunities for community input.

Online Budget Portal: Create an online portal where community members can access detailed information about the school district's budget, including expenditures, revenues, and future plans. This portal should be user-friendly and regularly updated.

Budget Workshops: Organize budget workshops or forums where community members can learn about the budget process, ask questions, and provide feedback. These workshops can be held at different times and locations to accommodate diverse schedules and demographics.

Transparency Reports: Publish regular transparency reports that outline how taxpayer dollars are being spent within the school district. These reports should be easily accessible to the public and include breakdowns of expenses by category.

Budget Surveys: Conduct annual surveys to gather input from community members about their priorities for the school district budget. This feedback can help inform decision-making and ensure that the budget reflects the needs and values of the community.

Collaborative Decision-Making: Involve community members in budget decision-making processes through advisory committees or task forces. This can foster a sense of ownership and accountability among stakeholders.

- 120 Open Data Policy: Adopt an open data policy that ensures financial information related to the school district's budget is available to the public in machine-readable formats. This promotes transparency and allows for independent analysis by interested parties.

Social Media and Newsletter Updates: Use social media channels and newsletters to provide regular updates and highlights about the school district's budget, upcoming meetings, and opportunities for community engagement.

School Board Engagement: Encourage school board members to actively engage with constituents regarding budgetary matters, such as hosting town hall meetings or participating in community events where budget discussions can take place.

Education Campaigns: Conduct education campaigns to increase awareness and understanding of the budget process among community members, including students, parents, and taxpayers. This can help demystify complex financial concepts and encourage greater participation in budget discussions.

By implementing these strategies, the school district can enhance financial transparency and foster meaningful engagement with the community in budget discussions throughout the year.

- 121 Be clearer about what reallocation entails (pros and cons of taking money from Ministry funding and putting towards building new schools, etc.). It's hard to agree when you don't know potential impacts of other decisions.

First, get some school board, trustees and school board members and principals to go, and sit in some of the disastrous classes and look at how the children behave and then reallocate all the funds to getting those children services outside of the classroom and only integrate them when it's appropriate. It's time to stand up for the average student. They deserve to learn in a safe and happy environment without kids screaming and throwing staplers. I think that could drive some budget discussion. Stop spending on anything except making classrooms teachable again. And make them an environment where the average child can learn without fear or listening to children, scream, and act violently.

123 N/A

124 A lot of people I feel don't think they know anything about budgets. Help them understand. How does a balance sheet work. What do the terms you are throwing about mean. Perhaps host a series of school budget 101 classes

125 Provide more access to all of the things that the school district is spending money on in an easy to read and understand way, for example nowhere can I find how you are giving teacher cash for extra kids/IEPs in your budget

126 Give the real numbers of how much is going in and how much and where it is going out.

127 You are doing good on that.

128 Through a robust PAC. The PAC is the parent's and caregiver's voice

129 All schools need to have a PAC and communicate through it.

130 Send out quarterly budget updates to stakeholders.

This survey should have options to explain why yes or no are selected. Without this, the survey information participants provide is not enough to validate action. Pie charts graphics breaking down expenditures at granular level, teaching staff satisfaction results with spending would be a great indicator of good decision making to help parents understand. This would be a very honest and transparent approach.

132 Show how funds are allocated. Where does the money go? How much money comes in?

133 stop the free lunches for management and "staff meetings".

We had a lot of trouble understanding the information provided in question 5 and are not well informed on how the budgets and financial decisions are being made.

134 More details should be provided at a lower level to show how funds are being allocated to the different spending areas. I.e. If a VP is only part time, how are savings from the part-time position being spent? (Books, maintenance, etc) similarly, if IEP funds are provided to the district, are those funds allocated to the specific student

135 Get teachers to directly vote or discuss on ideas or suggestions and how it will affect them/students

136 Let people know about it, talk about it more, offer options and detailed plans, brochures.

137 Send the plans and decisions to families through email - will increase our engagement and understanding when the information is very easy to see/access

138 Way more information provided without having to search. It's an outdated system there PACs are the representative to the parent body, everyone needs access thought consistent communication in email or some other way.

139 Email minutes from board meetings to those who are interested.

140 try not to spend in on unnecessary things and try to spend it more towards saving it and making a better school year for the kids

141 Make everything public.

142 By double surveys and engaging community

143 The graph you had on previous page available in an easy area but you can drill down into it so for example press the maintenance section and it shows e.g. Snow removal \$20,000 and lawn maintenance \$15,000

144 by sharing reports and discussing them with the community.

145 Post publicly

146 Provide a short video explaining the budget, at a high level.

147 Email stakeholders the full budget and financial statements

show us numbers of new hires for teachers, show us numbers for new hire rejections, show us the understanding of support needed (EA's) in particularly primary classrooms, show us some ideas on how you might financially address this, give us more opportunity to input (brainstorm) possible ideas also. . . let's try to work together to solve problems

149 share a detailed report of where the money goes

150 Work in partnership with teachers and students at the high school level and develop a SD34 app which can provide detailed breakdown of budget decisions for the public to easily reference.

151 Infrastructure for specialty use rooms for arts integration can prevent the safety issues of unmonitored aging electrical and almost dead equipment.

152 The efforts the district is currently making are reasonable.

153 Keep offering these surveys. They are great.

154 Explain the rule of how funding occurs. How planning for the future is possible. Eg how schools can only be built based on current enrollment on projected.

155 not sure

156 Truly be honest

Financial transparency is either there or isn't. Be totally transparent. It's not about budget DISCUSSIONS throughout the year as much as just letting the community know how the funds are being spent. Then discussions can happen during budget time.

157

I recently learned that our purchasing department has an agreement with a supplier that donates to a portion of their proceeds to a VANCOUVER charity. How does that help our community?

158 Having meetings or surveys at a school level, where parents and staff are more inclined to participate. Giving percentages on spending allocations is great, but I still do not know what 1% is. That would be an easy fix that would make things more transparent.

159 The school board has doubled its size in the past 20 years. There are more positions, higher pay, expense accounts, etc. What needs to be transparent are these numbers. Meanwhile, teachers are funding the classroom.

160 Better communication on major spending and more feedback from staff on what schools actually need instead of spending on what higher ups agree to

161 I think more details list of what is spent where, it seems big sections do not show what we are really spending for important educational tools

162 I think sending out information each year and holding small group meetings (at your own designated school) could help parents and employees get any extra information they want from these meetings and mail.

163 Spend what is allocated on students/staffing

164 Quarterly meeting with open door policy or some forms for people to be able to express their views or input.

165 Not sure

- 166 On-going sharing of information, continued use of engagement portal and budget surveys, ensure that financial information is easily accessible by community members, etc.
- 167 Be honest about how student services are funded, or underfunded in this case. For example, publish real #s so we can see how specialist services are being denied to our most needy students. How many ELL students does SD34 have? How many ELL teachers does the contract require? How short is the staffing in this area, how much \$ is the district saving by doing this, and where is the \$ being spent? Transparency is merely a buzzword here.
- 168 Waving school bus fees for all students. Some of these families are having to pay for the bus which is choosing food or their children to go to school. We should have them waved and not charge families for bus transportation.
- 169 None it is fine as is.
- 170 This survey is a good start.
- 171 Teacher and school personnel input on the needs of the school, collect teacher input via open-ended questions (qualitative data). Share financial information regularly in neutral language with rationale for spending.
- 172 Surveys like these help. Publishing budget info publicly is helpful too.
- 173 By completing more capital projects and equipping the schools/extra curricular activities
- 174 Hire more support staff
- 175 Surveys like these are great
- 176 Publish the budget, email link to parents.
- 177 They talk a good philosophy, but putting their money where their mouth is, would be good. We need Child & Youth Care Workers in every elementary school. We need more elementary school counsellors. We need more LSS teachers.
- 178 Your Engagement focus and meetings with secondary teachers is a good start.
- 179 Ask better "Budget Consultation" questions and give more specifics to help support the question. Survey lacks facilitated feedback from community, meaning no real input or accountability for budget
- 180 Communicate with school staff to let them know where and how budgets are spent
- 181 Na
- 182 Not sure

183 A simple way I feel the school can engage the community in budget discussions is through a simple way of google forms as it is easier to access for anyone.

184 Break the budget down even more. Saying instructional cost and teacher salaries make up the majority of budget and then there is no money in the schools. Doesn't add up

185 Break down the budget for each school

186 teachers salaries are somewhat high, infrastructure is on decay

I feel there is a bit of a shell game going on with the budget. What happens to the income generated from the international students? How is that money accounted for in the operations budget and why are schools constantly underfunded and budgets cut every year? Schools are asked to do more with less money. This seems like a recipe for burning out administrators and teachers.

187 Big decisions regarding finances should have opportunities for all to give input, whether a survey or town hall meeting. As long as opportunities are provided, then it's up to the staff/community/parents to get involved. Perhaps a newsletter/highlights page could go out once a term or twice a year or whatever makes sense to give insight into how the finances are being used.

Clear and Accessible Budget Reports: Provide easily understandable and readily accessible budget reports online, detailing expenditures and allocations in a user-friendly format. This transparency would allow community members to comprehend where funds are allocated and ensure accountability.

Regular Updates and Communication: Host periodic town hall meetings, webinars, or informational sessions throughout the year to update stakeholders on budgetary matters, including revenue sources, spending priorities, and any changes or challenges faced by the district. Consistent communication fosters trust and engagement within the community.

Interactive Budget Tools: Develop interactive budget visualization tools or software that allow community members to explore the budget in-depth, simulate changes, and provide feedback directly to the district. This hands-on approach empowers stakeholders to actively participate in budget discussions and understand the implications of financial decisions.

Regarding community engagement in budget discussions, the district could employ the following strategies:

189 Formation of Advisory Committees: Establish advisory committees composed of diverse community members, including parents, teachers, administrators, and local stakeholders. These committees could meet regularly to review budget proposals, offer input, and provide valuable perspectives from various constituents.

Survey and Feedback Mechanisms: Conduct surveys or solicit feedback through online platforms, community forums, or focus groups to gauge the priorities and concerns of different stakeholders regarding budgetary matters. This inclusive approach ensures that the voices of all members of the community are heard and considered in decision-making processes.

Collaborative Decision-Making Processes: Encourage collaborative decision-making processes that involve input from all stakeholders, including teachers, administrators, parents, and students. By fostering a culture of collaboration and transparency, the district can build consensus around budget priorities and initiatives.

In summary, enhancing financial transparency and engaging the community in budget discussions requires a multifaceted approach that prioritizes clear communication, accessibility, and inclusivity. By implementing these strategies, the district can foster greater trust, accountability, and participation among stakeholders, ultimately leading to more informed and effective budgetary decisions.

190 I'm not familiar enough to comment

191 N/A

192 Offer more services

193 Don't carry a surplus.

194 No idea

195 Several public consultations, for example: at the end of school year, in September, in December.

196 Not sure

197 More newsletters

198 Not sure. Seems pretty transparent already.

199 Actually listen to community advice, and change when needed!

200 Break down of what "instruction" refers to.

201 Emails and virtual meetings

202 Pay teachers more. More Neuro divergent supports

203 This survey is a good start.

204 Ed teachers and ea teachers so kids that need the extra help can get it and it takes some stress off the teachers too. Plus more child care for after school for working parents

205 Report to parents via email with updates quarterly

206 Offering more opportunities to connect, in person, virtually, and provide inclusive access for community to engage in discussions.

END OF REPORT

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Project: Budget Consultation 2024-2025

SurveyTool: Share your Voice! Budget Consultation 2024-25 [2021-03-01 to 2024-04-30]

Question: How important is it to you that the school district invests in sustainable and green initiatives as part of its operations and maintenance budget?

(Showing 243 of total 243)

No. Contribution

- 1 No important at all. Please consider education not side projects.
- 2 Important
- 3 Very important.
- 4 Somewhat important, but would depend of what initiatives.  
Investing in sustainable and green initiatives is crucial for several reasons. Environmental Impact: Implementing green practices reduces the school district's carbon footprint and environmental impact. This includes reducing energy consumption, water usage, and waste generation. Cost Savings: Sustainable practices often lead to cost savings in the long run. Energy-efficient buildings, for example, can significantly reduce utility bills over time. Health and Well-being: Green initiatives can improve the health and well-being of students, staff, and the community. This includes better indoor air quality, access to natural light, and green spaces.
- 6 Not at the expense of "in-class" operations where the money is needed more.  
Sustainable and green initiatives do not have to be a large financial investment as adjusting and changing current practices and replacing current items with greener alternatives does not have to necessarily be more expensive. There is plenty that can be done to reduce waste and decrease our districts carbon footprint.
- 8 Extremely important.
- 9 I do believe it is important but also needs to be practical. Ex. Removing garbage cans from classrooms doesn't eliminate the garbage.
- 10 Very. There must be grants and initiatives that can also be used for this?
- 11 I think it is important to take advantage of government incentives for sustainable and green initiatives. It is also a good idea to invest in these when they have long-term savings. One of the green initiatives I have liked is the EV charging stations at schools.
- 12 Not important.
- 13 Not at all
- 14 It is important, but we want these funds to be use more towards outdoor sports & music therapy.
- 15 Not if it takes money away from current students education
- 16 While the district likes to promote green initiatives, there is A Lot of wasteful spending and practices that are unsustainable/harmful to the environment. Any school based initiatives have suffered from a lack of resources because there is almost no discretionary spending at the school level.
- 17 Student need should come first.
- 18 Somewhat important. Depends on costs.
- 19 It is somewhat important.
- 20 very
- 21 Yes
- 22 Not at all
- 23 If it costs less, then sure. Budget is just that. Money. At this point, someone needs a pay cut.
- 24 Important
- 25 Somewhat important. Some buildings are in poor condition so repairing or replacing those would be a higher priority.
- 26 important but not at expense of current student needs being me
- 27 Well, they haven't seemed to do this as yet so not too important
- 28 Medium - it is important to continue to take action against climate change, but not at the expense of vulnerable populations recieving an education.
- 29 Not at all
- 30 This is very important.
- 31 somewhat
- 32 Very. Green energy needs to be implemented sooner rather than later.
- 33 Although nice, putting in electrical charging stations and not charging users when classroom funding has been cut, isn't something that the board should do. Green initiatives should be at the expense of the student needs.
- 34 No
- 35 Initial costs for some green initiatives are high and benefits may not be realized for many years. Best to invest only when a new building is being constructed rater than retrofit.
- 36 Not
- 37 Very important
- 38 Very important to find sustainable ways to run our district.
- 39 not important to me, personally.
- 40 it is not iimportant at all. Investing in instruction is what you need to spend your money on.
- 41 They should definitely do their share
- 42 Green initiatives must be financially sound otherwise they are just "greenwashing."
- 43 zero
- 44 I think they should be environmentally aware and make decisions that are based on the future and look into grants that the province may offer.
- 45 Highly important
- 46 Important as long as they make sense in the context of the school system.
- 47 Very important
- 48 Its very important! We need to be as green as possible. We have shouldn't have as much waste as we do in the schools. There should be more recycling, solar technology and less use of papers that get lost or thrown out.
- 49 I think green initiatives are a good idea and should be a part of future planning, as long as it is not at the expense of the educational experience of the kids who attend Abbotsford schools.
- 50 We have to set an example in green initiatives which is also an educational opportunity for students.
- 51 very important
- 52 Somewhat important. For instance, electric chargers should be more available to staff.
- 53 Very little importance
- 54 Moderately important.
- 55 It depends on the specific items. I would like to see plastic recycling, including bags and wrap. I do believe sustainability is important but sometimes the associated price tag is just too high.
- 56 Neutral
- 57 Thoughtful investments are important--Eq install electric vehicle charging stations and include user-pay systems to recoup costs.
- 58 not important when education and discipline standards are collapsing and way too much money is wasted on SLOs and ProD days that are not useful with overpaid speakers who often are not knowledgeable or useful.
- 59 It's more important to keep the school clean. Keep bathrooms clean and accessible. Have bathrooms where kids can go and there aren't any kids vaping and being q disruptive. Every kids should be able to use the bathroom.
- 60 yes as long as it is not to the detriment of education
- 61 NONE AT ALL. THIS IS EDUCATION, NOT AN IDIOLIST MANTRA
- 62 Get back to teaching basics. NOT IDIOLOGY. NOT DEI
- 63 Life isnt fair. the sooner kids figure this out, the sooner they will stop looking to someone else to provide for them
- 62 Somewhat
- 63 Agree

- 64 Of zero importance.
- 65 Somewhat important
- 66 Very important and reduce carbon foot prints
- 67 Not as important as ensuring the kids are learning what they need to know to be successful when they enter post-secondary education, the job market and life.
- 68 It is important if it saves money.
- 69 Important
- 70 Not at all
- 71 Not at all
- 72 Not worth to increase the cost as of now as it will increase property tax. We are already dealing with high inflation. Please postpone some of the expenses and keep your budget in check. Use surplus money until govt fix inflation. We don't have unlimited money to pay in all the taxes and your green projects. Not wanted to move to tent on street.
- 73 More focus should be on improving student teacher ratio.
- 74 As long as it does not affect quality student learning.
- 75 Not at all. I prefer that the budget be used in the most effective manner possible. If that's "sustainable and green", then great.
- 76 Neutral
- 77 Very important
- 78 Very important
- 79 Somewhat important
- 80 It's important as long as teachers still have what they need to teach effectively - ie. don't ask for photocopying cutbacks unless teachers have access to reliable ways of working with students.
- 81 would love to see children learning farming and planting techniques
- 82 not important
- 83 Not
- 84 School districts need to be in the business of teaching kids academics and providing extra curricular sports and clubs. Sustainable green projects should be the responsibility of the government with their funds. The maintenance should be in part the government and the district input.
- 85 Moderately important
- 86 V I
- 87 It is a duty to respect our world and keep the community clean and green. This includes land erosion to developers.
- 88 Where it's reasonable and not much more cost to choose a more sustainable option, they should. (i.e. no styrofoam, compostable cutlery). All other decisions should still look at ROI or payback (i.e. electric buses, heat pumps)
- 89 Very important.
- 90 If it can be done without taking away from classroom needs then I support it but if it costs more and takes away from classroom supports including staff then no.
- 91 Not high on priority.
- 92 More on education curriculum, teachers & school safety
- 93 I think it's important to demand that all custodians properly dispose of recycling/compost/waste
- 94 I think we're doing what we need to.
- 95 Important as long as they're also maintained- too often the funds are spent and then not up kept so it seems wasted
- 96 Not Important whatsoever. Efficient use of financial resources to run the schools and provide the best education experience should be the mandate.
- 97 This is not very important. Investments in this area should be done in instances where initial investments payoff within 3 to 5 years.
- 98 8/10 - 10 meaning very important
- 99 not very important if at a cost
- 100 Important. Only option for future generations
- 101 It's only important if the basic needs of children are being met first or could create more time or funds to be directed towards other things.
- 102 Low priority. Get help to the students.
- 103 Some of it is a waste of funds
- 104 Not
- 105 Green initiatives are not cost-effective and they take away resources from classrooms that are already over-stretched.
- 106 Would be ideal, but if the need is desperate enough I don't think it needs to be 1st priority.
- 107 Don't do it.
- 108 somewhat
- 109 Very important
- 110 I would rather the district invest in more support for students rather than green initiatives. We need more EA's, more resources, and shouldn't be spending money on experimental initiatives.
- 111 It's important.
- 112 Quite important.
- 113 I agree. Hopefully the ideas of sustainability spreads through faculty and students.
- 114 Not important.
- 115 Until you can show how these investments are actually creating ROI vs sinking money into an ever populating hole I will never support it.
- 116 Not much
- 117 If it's cost effective and sustainable then great. I don't think things should be « green » just for the sake of it.
- 118 not at all
- 119 I think that it is very important and to have more recycling bins, paper towel recycling bins in the washrooms.
- 120 Important
- 121 Neutral
- 122 It is very important to invest in sustainable and green initiatives, but these should prove to be a benefit to the overall ability to provide education to the children. Also would be a great idea to share these initiatives with the children to help teach them about this.
- 123 very important
- 124 not important. save the money and upgrade/rebuild/build new schools
- 125 partly important
- 126 Very important
- 127 It is very important to me
- 128 Very important.
- 129 Important, as it keeps costs down
- 130 Very important as we are headed towards more sustainable and renewable initiatives.
- 131 Somewhat important
- 132 Important.
- 133 It's important to invest in green initiatives to reduce the pollution.
- 134 This is a high priority.
- 135 Very important. The use of paper is astronomical.
- 136 Sustainable is very important.
- 137 Yes....a balanced approach and build momentum.
- 138 It's not.
- 139 This is important for everyone in all areas of work and play.
- 140 It seems responsible
- 141 Somewhat important.



140 No thanks. Let's focus on education and teaching our kids about life skills. Don't waste money on what is not important to many people.

141 Not important. Needs of kids are more important than green sustainable initiatives.

"As a member of the community, I believe it is extremely important for the school district to invest in sustainable and green initiatives as part of its operations and maintenance budget. Not only do such initiatives promote environmental stewardship and sustainability, but they also contribute to creating healthier learning environments for students and staff.

Investing in sustainability measures can lead to long-term cost savings through energy efficiency, reduced water consumption, and lower maintenance expenses. Additionally, by incorporating renewable energy sources and implementing eco-friendly practices, the school district can demonstrate its commitment to addressing climate change and reducing its carbon footprint.

142 Furthermore, integrating sustainability into operations and maintenance aligns with educational goals by providing opportunities for students to learn about environmental conservation, renewable energy technologies, and sustainable practices. These initiatives can inspire students to become responsible global citizens and advocates for environmental sustainability in their communities.

In summary, prioritizing sustainable and green initiatives in the school district's operations and maintenance budget is not only financially prudent but also essential for fostering a healthier, more environmentally conscious learning environment and preparing students for the challenges of the future."

143 Very important. It will save money in the long run. Many of our buildings have lots of inefficiencies that cost money.

Now is not the time for green initiatives it's time to use every bit of money to hire EA helpers at half the cost of an EA. Get more adults in there to help with these behaviour issues so teachers can teach children again. Integration is great when it's done well and right now it's not being done at all. Most of the classrooms are complete zoos out there.

145 Not important

146 Top notch priority

147 Very important, however I would say that providing teachers with more in class support is more important because there is not enough as it is

148 Very important.

149 Not at all. Unless you guys share what you plan to do?

150 It is important. This way we model our children what matters

151 Very

152 It is very important.

Green education through signage and text throughout inside and outside of buildings is a low hanging fruit. All new school buildings and renovations should comply with green building standards like LEED resulting in greater upfront costs but cheaper operations costs over time having a break even point. Green buildings will support mental and physical health for students and staff and educate students whom will be dealing with the climate crises at heightened levels in years to come.

154 Important

155 yes

156 We feel that sustainability is very important, however a priority should be placed on the core education improvement of students.

157 I don't think this is a priority as long as we do not have enough EAs to support classes or enough non-enrolling teachers to support students.

158 Very

159 Very

160 Neutral.

161 Somewhat important

162 Not important compared to supports needed for tea Hers and students

163 Let's care about the environment but focus on educating our kids. I see soooooo much lacking and so little opportunity in some schools. Our kids need experience and field trips, community engagement, not paper straws to somehow save the world.

164 Somewhat.

165 Somewhat important

166 Really important

167 If it will save money over the long run and if the children can learn from it yes.

If it takes away from the kids learning and will not save money over the long run then no.

168 neutral. Kids in Gaza do not have food or water let alone treatment or resources. This is all because of funding weapons and bombs. More than 15000 kids have been killed in less than 6 months. How can we talk about the environment and the government's funds genocides?

169 Somewhat important

170 Not important. A lot of those initiatives seem to be fads that come and go. Recycling is great, but don't invest in huge green programs. Eventually there will be tried tested and true initiatives that work for the long haul.

171 None at all. Resources need to be used on facilities, staffing and materials for students. This is already underfunded and do not have the funds to spend beyond what is necessary.

172 not that important quite frankly

173 important

174 This is extremely minor when students are without support that they need and schools have "permanent" portables. There are much higher priorities at hand.

175 If the sustainable and green initiatives provide future savings for the district, then yes.

176 This is very important. There should also be more electric vehicles and charging stations.

177 Somewhat. Too much focus is on that due to media exposure. It is important but carbon tax debates are throwing all other issues in the shadows.

178 I believe in future proofing our infrastructure, but decisions should be based in solid cost benefit, not pandering to public/political opinion.

179 great

180 Somewhat

181 Not as important as just plain old maintenance. Infrastructure will last way beyond its years when its maintained

I highly value this idea. I think it should be mandated in classrooms every single year to teach about things as simple as recycling. I see so many

182 recyclable items in the garbage in our schools. It is also going to make things cheaper in the long run and more sustainable. We should be trying to prep our schools with green roofs to help with cooling and finding more sustainable energy sources.

183 Not at all. We don't have books or basic supplies to run courses. Being green doesn't matter if the resources aren't there to educate children.

184 I don't feel it's important, although I understand green initiatives, there are better ways to spend funds

I think it's important to evolve with the changing world. However I do think that what we need right now should be the focus over initiatives for the future.

185 We need larger schools, more funding for special needs, more teachers etc. I understand the importance of these green initiatives but right now we need to look at what is currently suffering and find solutions.

186 Very important

187 NA

188 have to have all departments buy in

189 Very, important. We need to provide green spaces for reconnection to earth, nature and forests.

190 low

191 Very

192 Moderately important.

193 Not important

194 Somewhat

- 195 Not very important.  
 196 They have already put in place enough green initiatives, that i believe any others would be wasting finances that can go to other things.  
 197 Moderately important.  
 198 Is Re-using collected water feasible?  
 199 Where possible, sustainable and green upgrades should be a priority. Very important.  
 200 Important.  
 201 Important  
 202 Sustainable development in the future, yes it's important  
 203 Very  
 204 It's good, but not always possible  
 205 A little. Not a lot.  
 206 it's important, but not at the cost of not hiring enough people for "the trenches"  
 207 Important

- 208 Obviously very important  
 209 Perhaps an investment in an electric bus would be a good plan. EV charging stations at every school  
 210 Very important. That's what the kids are being taught so the district should lead by example.  
 211 Na  
 212 Somewhat important  
 213 To me it is not very important to invest in sustainable and green initiatives.  
 214 Not important  
 215 None  
 216 depending on what initiatives are there, hard to answer without context  
 217 Somewhat important but this should not take away from the core operational budget needed to fund and run the schools with adequate funding.  
 218 for new building and needed repair  
 219 Sustainable and green initiatives are very important. However, I think we need to move towards this wisely and slowly so as not to take important funding away from the direct teaching and support of students.  
 As a parent deeply invested in the educational development and accountability of our students, I believe it is essential for the district to maintain a primary focus on teaching and holding students accountable for their education.

While sustainable and green initiatives undoubtedly have their merits, I prioritize the allocation of resources towards initiatives directly related to enhancing the educational experience and academic outcomes of our students. It is imperative that the school district remains steadfast in its commitment to providing quality education, fostering a conducive learning environment, and promoting academic excellence.

- Investing in sustainable and green initiatives, while commendable, should not overshadow the core mission of the school district. Our primary responsibility is to ensure that students receive a well-rounded education that prepares them for success in an increasingly competitive and complex world.  
 220

Therefore, I urge the school district to prioritize investments in initiatives that directly impact teaching, learning, and student achievement. This may include enhancing curriculum offerings, providing professional development opportunities for educators, implementing evidence-based instructional strategies, and bolstering support services to address the diverse needs of students.

While I recognize the importance of sustainability and environmental stewardship, I believe it is paramount for the school district to maintain a balanced approach that places the highest priority on educational excellence and student success.

- 221 Important to meet industry standards  
 222 Essential.  
 223 Very important, we need to think about how we treat where we're living before we can't live there any more.  
 224 Minimally important  
 225 Very. As long as investmets are not excessively expensive and are spent beyond our districts means.  
 226 Fairly important  
 227 Very important  
 228 Somewhat important  
 229 Very important but the Board should explore partnerships with post-secondary institutions or other non-profits to look at initiatives that are cost effective and support knowledge growth locally. For example the SFU Sustainable Energy Engineering School.  
 230 Very much  
 231 Very important.  
 232 Yep.  
 233 Lower end - the importance of providing supplies for the students and their learning are priority...this can be done in an environmental manner.  
 234 Significantly less important than providing appropriate supports for students in classrooms, ea support is extremely underfunded and students learning is suffering (both those with exceptional needs and those without)  
 235 High cost to begin, what is the longer benefit?  
 236 Very important  
 237 Pay teachers more. More Neuro divergent supports  
 238 Stop using paper planners would be a great way to show green initiatives.  
 239 This should be our goal as climate change is negatively affecting the entire planet and students are our future.  
 240 Don't know  
 241 Not a top priority at all  
 242 Most important  
 Absolutely Not. It is a large investment which will take decades to pay off, if ever. This will inevitably surge the operational budget at no benefit to anyone. Further, the toxic development of these technologies cannot be overlooked. Students pushed on these ideas should be toughed the full scale and lack of reliability these technologies bring to a system, not be blindly pushed towards this unstable future to feel better without understanding the immense repercussions these system bring.  
 243

END OF REPORT

Report generated at: 2024-05-01 12:48:41 by Ray.Velestuk

Project: Budget Consultation 2024-2025

SurveyTool: Share your Voice! Budget Consultation 2024-25 [2021-03-01 to 2024-04-30]

Question: How should the district balance investment in technology with traditional educational resources?

(Showing 227 of total 227)

- | No. | Contribution   |
|-----|--|
| 1   | Please define the question so I'm able to answer, i.e., an example.  |
| 2   | We are turning into a tech only future and it's not healthy  |
| 3   | Technology is fine but it DOES NOT replace a well trained professional being able to give a child the individual attention that child needs.   |
| 4   | In language classrooms, technology is a great investment as it provides a lot more variety and opportunities to engage with material beyond traditional resources like textbooks. I would like to continue to see a large investment in technology.  |
| 5   | Conduct a thorough needs assessment to identify the specific technology and traditional resources that will best support student learning and achievement.   |
| 6   | Less technology; put the money where it is needed in the classroom with the teachers and the students. More technology is NOT the answer. I strongly believe with more technology available, so that all students have access routinely, we would not need as many traditional resources like  |
| 7   | textbooks, as there is a lot available online. This may require diverting some of the traditional resource budget to cover online licenses and hardware. Also a more universal effort to encourage B.Y.O.D. from a full district stand by can help.  |
| 8   | Engage with teachers and administrators to see what they need. Likely, there should be a reasonably even balance between tech and traditional resources.   |
| 9   | Perhaps if the district stop changing educational platforms every couple of years they would probably save a lot of money to be spent on physical resources. There is a time and place for text books. At most schools it is more than likely the books need to be replaced or more added and haven't been due to budgetary constraints.   |
| 10  | Computer replacement is too frequent and there should be a similar program to replace equipment, for example stoves and shop equipment. School budgets are not big enough to support replacement of ageing equipment.  |
| 11  | Investment in technology should strive to be equitable. There are some schools that have lots of access to technology, and others that have very little. I am answering the rest of this question with the understanding that traditional educational resources refers to tangible resources and human resources. I think it is kind of a scam that so many digital resources are on a subscription basis, and when that subscription ends, they are inaccessible. I wonder if this is a worthwhile expense as opposed to district-created, and district-housed resources. Or rather, ministry-housed, ministry-created resources for learning. I do think we need to continue to invest heavily in traditional resources. Since the most recent curricular change, there have been few resources available to secondary teachers, which has impacted the quality of instruction. Teachers should not just teach from a textbook. However, the background knowledge and jumping point that resources like textbooks provide allow consistency across classrooms now that we have fewer standards across subjects and schools regulating or assessing what students learn. Also, despite the advances in technology, human resources require investment. Trust and relationships are at the center of healthy organizations, along with high standards and high support to achieve them. All of these require spending. |
| 12  | There needs to be a balance. With parents being expected to supply the student laptops, where is the money for the technology going? We are being told to stop using post its, white board markers, and aren't supplied pencils, paper, or anything for our classrooms. So what types of resources and supplies are being purchased? My classroom budgets and supplies have never been lower.  |
| 13  | Na   |
| 14  | Both are important.  |
| 15  | Invest on online courses   |
| 16  | I'm not sure there where the balance lies between tech and traditional resources - it isn't 50/50. What I do know is that the District technology department is extremely disfunctional. Spend any amount of time talking to district techs or classroom teachers and you will find that the needs of students and staff are not being met. The communication between district departments and staff/students is lacking and borders on disrespectful/patronizing.   |
| 17  | First a foremost, teachers need access to resources- be they physical and tangible or technological. At this point, teachers lack access to both due to spending constrictions.  |
| 18  | Technology investments are more important  |
| 19  | Focus on staffing in schools.  |
| 20  | We need more integration of technology and new equipment. We need students to have less technology available to them in the early years so they can work on their fine motor skills and writing skills.  |
| 21  | yes  |
| 22  | There should be a 50/50 split between investing in technology but also building up our libraries. The district has been saying that improving literacy is one of it's main goals but yet libraries are constantly underfunded and under valued in this district.   |
| 23  | Some technology is essential but resources should be focused on traditional resources as technology rapidly becomes obsolete and requires replacement.   |
| 24  | I believe that there is too much screen time given to elementary school students. While that is the way of the future, they need to be taught to play and have an imagination.   |
| 25  | We have moved to fast on technology. There needs to be a balance. Students are too often wasting time on computers. To much set up.  |
| 26  | Perhaps by ensuring that the technology that is purchased/leased is of decent quality so that it lasts. As well as carefully considering tech projects such as smart boards that are no longer in use and seem to appear as a "waste of money" to the public.  |
| 27  | unsure   |
| 28  | Once traditional has appropriate resources then think about technology.  |
| 29  | Investment should be focused on support and professional development in up-to-date best practice. The materials themselves don't make much of a difference when every student has access to effective teaching and early intervention.   |
| 30  | Use both   |
| 31  | We should invest more in technology, but not only hardware and software. Staff need proper training to ensure utilization is seamless.   |
| 32  | provide more trades programs   |
| 33  | It would be beneficial to do school community ethnography scans and determine the needs at different sites and making decisions on technological vs. traditional resources.  |
| 34  | technology is the present and the future - we have to invest in it   |
| 35  | Have a clear path and not change operating systems that make technology obsolete or difficult to integrate with a new platform.  |
| 36  | Students need to be familiar with the tools of the work place. We need to be on the cutting edge not lagging.  |
| 37  | Carefully.   |
| 38  | Better technology available for students.. and the help for teachers to use it in their classrooms. An onsite tech person would go a long way in a high school setting both for staff and students.  |
| 39  | Both need equal amounts of funding   |

- I would ask teaching staff. What are they using, what would they like? As a teacher, technology has been a constant source of frustration for me this year. From laptops not working, to the password reset that did not work for over half of my students, and the steep learning curve of learning Microsoft Teams has been difficult. Several staff from my school have chosen to not to use Teams as a tool because it has not been student friendly and they keep running into glitches, errors, and other issues that have not yet been resolved.
- 40 If we don't invest in technology, we fall behind in student learning.
- 41 invest in leased technology over resources that are one and done (for example, the cost of photocopying and paper could be allocated to computers for students at the middle/ secondary level). This could also support more pedagogical shifts like the move to blended, online platforms, etc.
- 42 You have few books in your libraries. This question has already been answered.
- 43 Technology should be top of the list
- 44 Find out what the school staffs (admin, teachers, EAs) and budget that way. Don't make technology a solution in search of a problem.
- 45 school based decisions
- 46 Less tech. Kids are on screens far too much.
- 47 Technology should stay stable for as long as possible.
- 48 Stick to the most user friendly technology even if it is more expensive as you will spend less on training.
- I believe that accessing the whether students will benefit in the use of technology in their learning experience is one way of deciding if technology is useful for the classroom, not all added technology is a benefit to the learning outcomes. If technology can help streamline processes, making things quicker and easier for teachers, admin, and support staff I think technology is useful. If technology is making the workplace more cumbersome and difficult it is not a good investment.
- 49 You have to be very careful in investing in technology that will be obsolete in short order. Maybe the removal of tech like AI from the classroom go back to measurable results, literacy and numeracy would be cheaper.
- 50 technology should be used to enhance student learning, not over take student learning
- 51 I think it should be a balance for sure. Technology is great, however kids in elementary should not be relying on technology. Elementary is about the basics.
- 52 BYOD programs stretch family budgets in some communities. More devices are needed at those sites so digital and online programming/instruction can be done effectively.
- 53 Go back to some basics such as mathematics timestables and learning spelling so that students as adults don't rely on only technology E
- 54 Cautiously.
- 55 There has to be a tradeoff; it's impossible to always have the newest technology for students. Can't ignore the needs of support staff that also rely on technology to do their work effectively and efficiently.
- 56 Unknown
- 57 Investments in tech must be supported with training and IT expertise to ensure foundational understanding for application. Continuity with tech--both hardware and software--leads to broader application and efficiency.
- 58 ditch most tech except for those with designations. it just allows kids to goof off. Hand writing is crippled, attention spans in class are already bad, goofing off out of control. Phones are a huge problem and not enforced.
- 59 as needed
- 60 not sure
- 61 Computer are good in school but kids should be printing more then using technology
- 62 Favour technology
- 63 Students should have introduction to AI classes and programming classes. Keep the bc governments job outlook report and start investing in those professions which will be in demand by 2030 to 2040 and this will need the schools to invest in related technology
- 64 The focus should be on what the kids are going to have to be familiar with once they are out of school - a focus on technology ensures that they are prepared to enter and contribute to society with more than a rudimentary knowledge of playing a recorder and how to identify a parallelogram.
- 65 Check to see what industry is using so students leave better prepared
- 66 Less technology, more hands on and outdoor learning
- 67 Upgrades are needed to all technology and should be standard and available to all children
- 68 What good is technology without the staff to use it?
- 69 Need a combination of both.
- 70 Kids should stay up to date with technology so all efforts should be made to be with the world
- 71 Technology quickly becomes out of date, or is not supported appropriately by IT department. There needs to be a balance of traditional resources that are updated yearly.
- 72 Build greenhouses so students can use horticulture for both therapy (E.g., ADHD, Autism, PTSD, and motor skills development) and developing subsistence farming skills on a year-round basis. Incorporate an emphasis on drought tolerant vegetables, attracting pollinators, companion planting, etc.
- 73 We need to provide more books as campsite to computers. Because with books kids or children learn more
- 74 There has been a lot of spending on technology tools in the last 10 years. Classrooms at the elementary level need more traditional tools such as art supplies, manipulatives, classroom books.
- 75 Only acquire tech equipment that are necessary for learning
- We live in a technical age - funding technology should be a priority.
- 76 It concerns me that my grade 4 daughter has hardly used a computer at school at all, while in two years, she will be moving to a bring your own device school where she is expected to use a computer daily. She needs more access to technology in meaningful ways (not just listening to audiobooks and playing games.)
- 77 Lean slightly towards traditional. Technology is great but the kids get enough as is.
- 78 not sure
- 79 50/50
- 80 Technology is the future always has been and always will be - their needs to be a constant upgrade on it for educational purposes. Except most of the teachers can not keep up they are not tech savvy
- 81 Ensure that what you are investing in is TEACHER-led, so that it is actually used. Any technology or educational resources should only be purchased if they have scientific support for their efficacy in supporting student learning.
- 82 I strongly believe that we should be educated to function with and without technology. Technology is not always available, functioning and relays in electricity. We must know how to function when there is no electricity or during tech failures and hacking.
- 83 We should move away from technology at the elementary level. We should concentrate on literacy and numeracy skills without technology. Use the resources for other things.
- 84 Read: Childhood Unplugged by Katherine Martinko.
- 85 With autism diagnosis climbing, alternate teaching methods should be explored and if these involve technology to do so it should be explored
- 86 60/40 in favour of traditional
- 87

- 88 I think that technology should continue to be funded, but some emphasis on curriculum based textbooks, so that teachers aren't inventing the wheel for each unit/subject
- 89 More textbooks are needed; new teachers need a tested resource - the internet is helpful but overwhelming in scope- and they put the cost onto families for tech, and cause sts to rely on screens too much. Sometimes simpler is better.
- 90 Kids need the resources and teachers need the training to support the kids for such technology- if they're bought and never used what's the point and too many teachers are uncomfortable with learning or supporting tech so they sit there collecting dust
- 91 Priority should be traditional educational resources. If too much resources go to technology, hand off is that quality of hands on teaching will diminish over time.
- 92 Technology should be used more sparingly in younger classrooms, increasing as children get older.
- 93 should look to have technology for staff/ teachers but all school iPad and computers should be coming from PAC
- 94 It should be a balance and it should be about creating efficiencies. I don't think every child needs access to an iPad, for example.
- 95 More tech is needed - both in actual devices and in strategic time and training for teachers. AI is a new reality and we need students to become more AI and digitally literate and responsible.
- 96 Technology is great but students still need a balance of physical materials too
- 97 We need money for both. Right now we don't have money for physical textbooks and we also don't have money for effective learning management systems. Microsoft Teams is not nearly as effective as moodle or google classroom.
- 98 I think it should consider ways to give students access to technology in order to reduce paper cost and usage. It would give both the district and schools more room in their budgets over time.
- 99 50/50
- 100 thoughtfully, and with an eye to AI and future readiness.
- 101 Not sure
- 102 A balance of both
- 103 Technology used well is great, but should be used to enhance and elevate...and not be a crutch.  
The district should do what any business would do. What is the return on investment. There should be a 10 year plan on all parts of the curriculum. What are the traditional courses that are the backbone to education, and then what are the nice to haves that our students should learn about that allows them to be successful post high school. IE - What is the plan to introduce AI? Where is the growth in the current job market going? Instead of thinking about today, where do we want the school to be in 10 years and then reverse engineer it backwards - it is only that way that you actually end up at your destination in the timeframe desired.
- 104 allows them to be successful post high school. IE - What is the plan to introduce AI? Where is the growth in the current job market going? Instead of thinking about today, where do we want the school to be in 10 years and then reverse engineer it backwards - it is only that way that you actually end up at your destination in the timeframe desired.
- 105 Get input from students and teachers that are balancing and have the struggles themselves with what areas are lacking and need priority first
- 106 I'm not sure
- 107 Every student should have access to a laptop.
- 108 Technology is important but so is learning how to read, write and research without a computer. A computer is just a tool for learning. We need a variety of resources.
- 109 As needed
- 110 Forward thinking is a must.
- 111 traditional resources offer students hands on opportunities and should take priority over technology
- 112 technology is important but make it equitable!
- 113 determine the needs for each individual school and figure out the budget from each school needs
- 114 Work on them on behalf of needs and support
- 115 Most students have their own computers. Invest in programs for these computers and make them available for student use. Classes on how to effectively use the devices and programs they have to supplement their other courses.
- 116 That's tough. 50/50. I'm concerned about the impact of AI and too much screen time
- 117 Students should be given the opportunity to sign out technologies from schools if need arises.
- 118 Technology changes, invest in what lasts
- 119 Prioritize traditional resources
- 120 Technology is the future. However traditional teachings have been lost. There needs to be a better balance.
- 121 If the technology means devices then make some kind of lab for students and then classes attend the lab once or twice in a week if possible.
- 122 I'm concerned that not enough goes into capital expenses for maintenance and repairs of existing infrastructure.
- 123 25% tech and 75% books, toys, SEL, furniture etc
- 124 Balanced approach.
- 125 It feels like traditional resources have been abandoned and unless it is technology, teachers are on their own to purchase it on their own or create it themselves. Technology is important but it's not everything. Especially in elementary.
- 126 It is important to keep up to date with evidence based teaching tools and resources to better prepare our students.
- 127 Everything seems in order here so I wouldn't know what more to add
- 128 There should be some funds set aside for future growth alongside technology.
- 129 There should be investment into helping students get what they need as well as teachers, to properly teach students as the world changes.
- 130 Should be balanced because although technology is important, there is also value in learning analogue methods and practices such as good hand writing and spelling/grammar without the use of spell checkers.

"The district should strive to strike a balance between investment in technology and traditional educational resources to provide students with a comprehensive and adaptable learning experience. While technology offers valuable tools for enhancing engagement, collaboration, and access to information, traditional resources such as textbooks, libraries, and hands-on materials remain fundamental to a holistic education.

Investing in technology can enhance teaching and learning by providing access to digital resources, interactive learning platforms, and personalized instruction. Technology also plays a vital role in preparing students for the digital age and equipping them with essential skills for success in a rapidly evolving global economy.

However, it's essential to recognize that technology is not a substitute for traditional educational resources but rather a complement. Traditional resources offer unique benefits such as tactile learning experiences, critical thinking development, and opportunities for creativity and exploration that cannot be fully replicated through digital means.

131

Therefore, the district should prioritize a balanced approach that integrates technology into the curriculum while also ensuring equitable access to traditional resources for all students. This might involve investing in a variety of educational tools and materials, fostering a blended learning environment that combines digital and traditional methods, and providing professional development opportunities for educators to effectively integrate technology into their teaching practices.

Ultimately, by striking a thoughtful balance between investment in technology and traditional educational resources, the district can create a dynamic learning environment that meets the diverse needs of students and prepares them for success in the 21st century."

132 Prioritize. We have lots of shop equipment that need replacing but it is a school-based expense. With shrinking budgets, this will impact programs that could help to influence kids to take up career programs. Most kids have technology. How do we leverage that to save costs of replacement? We are in a crisis. So many of our classrooms are complete disasters. There are not enough supports in place for special needs children and behaviour problems. Time to make some tough choices and stop spending on technology and get humans in the classroom to help these poor children. Bring back the resource room and schools to assist our behaviourally challenge students. You'll save on teachers because they won't be quitting and burnt out. And the average child will get an education again.

134 N/A

135 Technology is very important but must be balanced with more outdoor education. Early Learning Framework now applies to up to grade 3 and talks a lot about this. Each school needs a viable school veggie and herb garden.

136 Traditional resources should take more president

137 Every classroom should have technology, but there should also be resource funds for the teachers. It doesn't matter if there are ipads if there aren't enough books and manipulatives for the classrooms! Also, teachers need different lighting and seating and more!

138 No need to balance or anything. Support the traditional educational resources as much as possible. Keep too much technology away unless absolutely needed.

139 It depends on the school level. More schools go to middle and high school.

140 According to student's needs.

141 supply more modern computer stations, install digital projectors (screens) in each classroom.

142 Technology is key. It's a tool the kids need access to as the future is Technology based on many levels.

What do you mean by traditional educational resources? Books? Textbooks, readers, etc. It is important that there are books to use, not just

143 computers, especially since there are never enough working computers available for each student in the class at a time. Both are important and valuable.

144 kids bring their own technology to school. How about kids can bring text books and other books home so they can actually read them.

145 Technology has a place to give improvements for some things, such as essay writing or instructional videos. However, we feel that technology can also be disruptive and distracting when understanding basic concepts. Ie. Our children indicated that using computers to complete math assignments were not helpful, but instructional math videos are helpful to learn certain concepts.

146 50/50

147 Have surveys out before making major decisions such as switching report card platforms or Google etc.

148 Look for what is more needed at the certain time and situation.

149 Why did the district take things away from some schools? Why does a small

School not have the same technology as a large? Every single school deserves state of the art equipment for access from each student.

150 Tech will always be a part of life. Those skills seem to come naturally to children.

151 Reading from a book, writing by hand, using both internet and textbook resources is still a valuable skill that isn't taught elsewhere.

152 get what they need

152 Planning

153 traditional educational resources are your base and technology is the next step up.

154 I am not sure. Provide kids with what they need.

155 neutral.

156 Keep revitalizing book inventory, but also allow some funds to be spent on educational innovation technology.

157 Where large return/value is seen on the investment by teachers and parents on a specific case by case scenario

It is hard to answer this question because my information comes from my experience. My experience tells me that traditional educational resources have only come my way as I have enrolled in an after school PRO D, or if our school administrator has allocated funding for traditional educational

158 resources. Traditional resources have taken years to build up and as the grade to teach keeps changing, so do available resources. As a primary teacher, 6 ipads isn't adequate for a class full of low/emerging readers and trying to use programs like RAZ Kids to support reading (also considering no classroom support and not enough availability of LSS to help in this area). More iPads in this instance, for me, would be helpful.

159 equal

160 The district should continue to invest in future technology to help support student learning. More resources should be considered for assistive technology.

161 The issue isn't necessarily that the funds need to be balanced better between technology and traditional resources. The issue is that the way in which the current technology we have is supported at the classroom level and at the report card level (Myed). The technology is already there. It's how it is supported that needs to be fine tuned and improved.

50/50 as I believe that students need to be well rounded in all disciplines, and be aware of technology, but also appreciate agriculture, ecosystems and  
162 knowing how to take care of themselves through knowing about hygiene, cooking, cleaning, taxes, investments, mortgages, how to use a bank to your  
advantage, insurance, and all the things they don't seem to teach when they are part of our every day life as an adult.

163 If the district is not investing in technology the students will suffer, although it would be nice to be able to provide a hand written note to a student and  
not watch their face trying to read legible hand written information.

164 The district spends far too much on photocopying and printing which is used for traditional education resources such as worksheets and workbooks for  
students. There should be a limit to how much teachers can print. Most middle and secondary students have cell phones and educational apps could  
replace some of the printing.

165 Keep offering hardcopy books. The best connect us to conventional learning and offer a reprieve from the digital. They are expensive so few will invest  
in them outside of school. How to get kids to read them? No idea.

166 Paper, pens, books should not be replaced but added to. Just because everyone has a calculator in their pocket doesn't mean we shouldn't learn to do  
math without it.

167 The reduce of access to textbooks is okay but now we have an inequitable distribution and access to technology across the district which makes things  
difficult.

168 not sure

169 More sustainable technology with room to upgrade current y

Don't fall for the trends. Traditional educational resources have been an effective tool since the beginning. The professionals are discovering that there  
170 should be a limit to exposing children to technology so limit the investment in technology. Students will learn about it in college, trades, university and  
the work world as well as off school time.

I think it is important to have functional technology for students, however I prefer a tradition resource focus in most classrooms. More often than not, I  
171 see abuse of technology. Screentime is already high for most of our youth, we should refocus on off screen activity and move kids outside. Research  
suggests that kids who spend more time outside have higher patience and lower stress.

172 We cannot keep up with new technology; never have. Most teachers are moving back to pen and paper due to our district's ever-changing  
unwillingness to spend money on programming - Check My Progress and Google Classroom.

173 I fell there should be far less technology in schools, I do not agree with classroom laptops and the access kids have to technology is too much.  
Technology is not being used as a proper learning tool but instead causes a distraction and dependency.

It is really hard to understand what spending is being done because there is no breakdown of how this spending is happening. The switch to Microsoft  
174 is a good example, we do not really know what the benefits or costs of this move. Also the cost inside the classroom and school has not truly been  
taken into account. Also the loss of instructional time and learning time this cost are never accounted for. More money needs to be spent organizing  
resources that are out there that teachers should be using there are many resources but the time it takes to know what ones are the best take more  
time than it should to find. New teachers can easily get lost in the world of finding the right resources.

175 I think with the world evolving with technology it is important to provide our students with the opportunity to explore and develop an understanding for  
new technology.

176 Investment in technology every year is vitally important!

177 There needs to be enough in the tech budget to support upgrades to tech.

178 Trust the content knowledge and professionalism of classroom teachers. They know the best resources for students and the best way for students to  
engage in their respective subjects. Speak directly with teachers regarding this. They know how to balance these resources in the best possible way.

179 By using equity as a guiding principle and ensuring that there is equitable access to technology across sites and demographics, continue to invest in  
technology, however also support non-technological related resources.

180 Technology is a great tool

181 Ask the teaching staff what is needed in real classroom situations and use that as your guide. The people working most closely with kids are the ones  
who know best what is needed.

182 Yes.

183 More investment in technology. It's the way of the future.

184 Make tech tools available for students to complete work. Also, provide teachers with professional development opportunities that allow them to use  
technology in the classroom with each student.

185 I think that should be handled in collaboration with teachers and school personnel to determine the needs of the schools, not the needs of the district  
as a whole. The district should balance funding based on needs.

186 Physical books are excellent resources and are less distracting than computer searches/research. Some information does not change drastically  
enough to warrant getting rid of physical resources. Balance is key

187 More tech needs to be available in classrooms for learning. Not cellphones it is destroying their education, especially in highschools.

188 More on technology resources; promote debates and extra curricular activities that build a resilient BC students to confidently compete with any  
student across the globe

189 We need early intervention for reading more than anything

190 My son is in grade 11 and would love textbooks over the terrible photocopied handouts. He has no textbooks to reference when trying to figure out a  
concept he didn't fully understand in class. This becomes particularly pronounced in math and science. Textbooks are fundamental.

191 Online learning to complement classroom. Every child has some tablet. Khan Academy or similar could complement in class instruction.

192 n/a

193 75:25

194 This should all depend on the teachers and frontline's needs and suggestions. It varies with age of student, how should I know what is needed for older  
students

195 It should be balanced, but it should also include training if the digital platform is changing

196 Restrict the use of cellphones in the classroom until grade 5 for the students , students should not be rely on calculators for calculations.

197 Unsure

198 The district should balance the investment in more traditional educational resources and a little lesser in technology as main technology is already  
provided in the schools but there is a decrease of more traditional educational resources.

199 We need less technology, kids are on technology all the time need to get back to traditional learning

200 We need to go back to traditional learning

201 I don't know

202 The district needs to take a long hard look at what technology is necessary to support the curriculum. The district also needs to listen to educators  
when it comes to making decisions about what investments are needed and required.

203 technology is needed in each classroom

204 Tech is important - more spending on that is crucial

Technology is great, but I think trials of new technology need to happen on a small scale before a big, district wide investment is made. However, both  
205 technology and traditional resources are only as good as the teachers/staff implementing these tools. Training and support need to be provided for  
whatever model is chosen.

As a parent deeply invested in the quality of education provided to our students, I believe it's essential for the district to carefully consider both modern technological advancements and traditional educational tools while also emphasizing accountability measures for teacher performance.

In finding this balance, the district should:

**Assessment of Needs:** Conduct a comprehensive assessment of the educational needs and preferences of both students and educators. This includes identifying areas where technology can supplement traditional teaching methods and resources effectively.

**Strategic Investments:** Invest in technology that aligns with educational goals and supports student learning outcomes. However, it's equally important to allocate resources to traditional educational resources such as textbooks, manipulatives, and hands-on materials. These investments should be made with a clear understanding of their impact on student achievement and engagement.

206 **Professional Development and Accountability:** Provide ongoing professional development opportunities for educators to effectively integrate technology into their teaching practices. Additionally, establish clear performance standards and accountability measures for teacher performance and attendance. This ensures that educators are held responsible for their role in delivering high-quality instruction and supporting student learning. Regular evaluations and feedback mechanisms can help identify areas for improvement and professional growth.

**Monitoring and Support:** Implement systems for monitoring the effectiveness of technology integration and teacher performance. This may include classroom observations, student feedback, and data analysis to track student progress and teacher effectiveness. Provide support and resources to teachers to help them meet performance expectations and continuously improve their practice.

By balancing investments in technology with traditional educational resources and implementing robust accountability measures for teacher performance, the district can create a learning environment that maximizes opportunities for student success while ensuring the responsible use of resources and fostering a culture of continuous improvement.

207 I'd need more information

208 20% technology to 80% traditional educational resources

209 Continue to update technology as needed

210 Ensure both staff and students have adequate access to current technologies. There needs to be a balance between traditional and new. What happens when new technologies fail or lose access?

211 That would depend on if your staff is capable of good utilization of the equipment. Your staff should dictate it because if they can't use it it is a waste.

212 More technology

213 What are the benchmarks in the sector? We aren't the first school district to need a strategy - how are you seeking collective information to set a benchmark. Providing feedback in this context feels misleading.

214 Not sure

215 As suggested in the first part of the survey, I think setting aside resources in a fund for new and changing technology is a good idea.

216 Our kids are inundated with technology at home all day long, let's focus on relationships.

217 Technology should be considered traditional. Students and teachers (all staff) are required to have access to this technology to be prepared for post high school with adequate skills. Technology is no longer optional in day-to-day life.

218 Technology is nice but also significantly less important than providing appropriate supports for students in classrooms, ea support is extremely underfunded and students learning is suffering (both those with exceptional needs and those without)

BYOD has eliminated the amount of technology schools from the level of direct technology needed for schools

219 Stop changing platforms every few years

Technology becomes obsolete so quickly- there needs to be funding for it

220 Technology gives voice to children with disabilities. Investing into training staff and purchasing apps, and hardware that allows children to express themselves and demonstrate their knowledge should be prioritized.

221 Pay teachers more. More Neuro divergent supports.

MORE NEURO DIVERGENT SUPPORT

222 Technology is the way of the future and needs to be a large focus area.

223 Less librarians and more PE teachers in Elementary and Middle; encourage families to have students bring their own devices to school and supplement where needed.

224 Yes

What is meant by 'traditional' resources?

225 My daughter is graduating this year and she hasn't used a textbook during her entire time in high school. So my thoughts are that there is very little use of 'traditional' educational resources already.

226 What does the research recommend for learners? What is better for environment?

Focus on traditional standards making sure our kids can read, write, do math whilst learning about new technologies that will be an asset in their lives. Learning video and editing will be an asset for anyone.

227 Debate, defending one's ideas and the ability to reason and understand others.

Learning to market their skills. Skills that are not marketed are not helping them. Understanding finance, wealth management and creation. Helping them set themselves up for the future, rather than not know how to manage their life choices and finances, only to then complain about others that managed their earnings. Worked with direction and dedication and have it better off then then, demanding that others pay more for them.

END OF REPORT



Report generated at: 2024-05-01 12:48:59 by Ray.Velestuk

Project: Budget Consultation 2024-2025

SurveyTool: Share your Voice! Budget Consultation 2024-25 [2021-03-01 to 2024-04-30]

Question: What areas do you believe require more funding within the school district?

(Showing 274 of total 274)

No.	Contribution
1	Support for students with disabilities, accessibility, equity, diversity, inclusion, teaching assistants (see above), fix sport fields like Mouat, hire more full time teachers vs laying them off each June and then having to wait for a call in September to see if they've got a job. This list isn't exhaustive, but rather a sample of ongoing concerns.
2	Special needs, designations, playgrounds, bussing
3	The district needs to look at having adequate numbers of Educational Assistants (EA's) to meet the students' needs versus looking on a ratio of EA's/student. Funding for EA's based strictly on the number of students in a school DOES NOT WORK.
4	Compensation for preparation coverage when a teacher or TTOC is reassigned during a prep to cover another class
5	Support Services: Increasing funding for counsellors, social workers, and other support staff to address the social, emotional, and mental health needs of students.
6	Sports fields. Fix the turf at Mouat, upgrade the field at Bateman (turf? new sod?)
7	Class size reduction and more student supports.
8	I would like to see more funding for online resources and technology. Also an increase in the money allocated to cover students academic fieldtrips and experiential learning
9	Classroom resources such as novels and short story/poetry anthologies for English classes across all grade levels. We need to be investing in resources that reflect our student population, including but not limited to works written by Indigenous, queer, female, and Black authors. Many students do not feel that they are being represented in the classroom, and this is unacceptable.
	Teacher/staff training should also be prioritized. As teachers have a very low limit of pro-d funding that is allowed to accumulate, it is hard to save our pro-d for training. Furthermore, if the district/ministry is requiring new initiatives, training should be paid for by the district, not by individual staff members.
10	Cut from the top to feed the bottom. We are WAY too top heavy in admin salary costs. Why do we need so many upper management when they are completely unaware as to what the boots on the ground are doing. Employees should be paid better. Programs are constantly being cut or underfunded. Many schools need upgrades to continue as functioning school. More funding for EAs to have more support for students in each building and classroom.
11	Elective course budgets. It is important for funding to be provided for mentorship, peer collaboration, district meetings, department meetings, etc. when staffing shortages resolve. I understand the current limitations with these. I would like to see funding for administration increase. Administrators can not currently lead to their best ability because they are so busy with management tasks that they don't have time for relationship building or instructional leadership.
12	Lastly, where possible, it would be valuable to add administrative funding to increase teacher accountability. Currently, teachers get away with a lot because administrators do not have time (or can not prioritize), or can not risk their relationship by holding them accountable. For example, many teachers take a day off on ProD days - that is a waste of money. This is worth spending money on addressing because the lack of accountability has changed teacher culture. As long as we are relying on school administrators' strength of will to change this, it will continue to worsen.
13	Transportation. There is not enough bussing for field trips. Departmental budgets within schools need to be increased, and administration needs to have more discretionary spending ability. The centralization of the district budget and spending over the last few years has made teachers and admin feel as though they have less autonomy and less decision making skills. It's demoralizing to ask a principal to buy a box of white eraser markers for oneself.
14	Swimming, outdoor sports & music therapy, camps & towards food.
15	The school level. We can no longer do the things that we use to do at the school level because school admin has very little funding to work with.
16	Stationary items & lunch programs
17	I know we shouldn't spend any more money on district principals, administrators, managers and people that don't directly work with students in schools. If more money can be spent, I would spend it on retention and incentives to attract more teachers. BTW: the gifts provided to staff with long term service are often scoffed at and considered an insult for the time and effort they have committed to serving students/staff.
18	The "emergency fund" is interesting because when we were teaching in Covid and needed online resources, there was a spending freeze. So what is that contingency fund for?
19	Learning support for neurodivergent students
20	Teachers and the supplies that they need, also sports program and extracurricular programs. Focus on funding classroom staff and reduce overstaffing in non school positions.
21	We do not require 4 Assistant Supts. Our district has managed fine with 3 AS's for years.
22	Helping teachers can be more helpful when in classrooms working directly with students. Just my thoughts.
23	Mental health support. More FTE for school counsellors and mental health clinicians.
24	families in need
25	Libraries
26	Staff
27	EAs. Support. Stop padding the pockets of everyone hirer up. Join us on the front lines.
28	We need more funding for academic support in the classroom. Inclusion and immigration from all parts of the world have made the classroom to diverse for any one person to teach. Students learning is being greatly affected and educators are burning out.
29	Wages/benefits for educational staff, building projects/maintenance.
30	Special education - students need access to more specialist positions such as OT and SLP
31	Special needs student supports/housing/transportation/ training. Housing for students - more classroom space
32	Early intervention in learning support services, specialty positions to support complex students, more EA support and LSS FTE in schools.
33	Or less funding
34	More support staff to support the idea of inclusion support staff should be based on need and not on student designation.
35	technology
36	Basic classroom resources used for learning like cuisinaire rods, word walls, pocket charts, pencils, markers etc. No teacher or parent should have to spend out of pocket for materials students need to support their learning. Less layers of people working outside of the school level and more resource allocations directly into schools. Follow the example of Winnipeg and move non-enrolling staff (teachers, directors, managers, principals of whatever) from a central location and directly into school buildings where they work directly with students and staff.
37	

- 38 Classroom teacher with special needs and ELL students.  
Clean up and paint the buildings.  
Athletics and other extra curricular support. Coaches time after school should not involve major fund raising required for transportation and referees.
- 39 Teachers get compensation to cover a class for 80 mins but coaches spend 100's of hours working with kids and are still expected to fund raise. Does not seem fair. Benefits from athletic involvement for youth in our schools cannot be underestimated.
- 40 School Sports-rather than the parents continually funding our sports teams.
- 41 Books and classroom resources
- 42 Support staff. EA's. Invest in people who are in the classroom.
- 43 Setting aside funds for parents that struggle to cloth and feed their students. There should be a money given from the budget to school that have families in need of extra support.
- 44 why does it feel like we are being micromanaged financially (where we can purchase from, how much we can purchase etc.)  
I think the funding is going to areas that don't support instruction (board office staff) vs resources in the classroom.
- 45 Police liaison and truancy officers in the schools.
- 46 EA support for those who need it so that students don't fall through the cracks
- 47 Reduce head-count in areas that the operational audit deems marginal in terms of education and give that funding to the schools were it can have an immediate and direct impact.
- 48 greater funding per specific students. If the money comes in for student X and student X is at school Y, then School Y gets the money. See: international student \$. Schools hosting these students don't necessarily get the \$.
- 49 Supporting our primary students as they are arriving at school with complex learning needs.
- 50 EAs deserve a liveable wage.
- 51 Funding alternative education options for students with unique needs.
- 52 Upgrades where necessary; making sure students have access to clean filtered air, safe drinking water, etc...  
I am probably biased but have a firm believe there are too many "higher" paid earners than there needs to be. Certain positions need to renegotiated for wages because their position does way more than the job description. We need to review these more closely so we can have better job retention. I have been with the district a very long time and my posting definitely does not fit what I do. I love what I do and the students and that is the main reason I have stayed so long. Its definitely not for my income.
- 53 Physical Education overall, especially in middle schools. I would love to see full-time PE teachers in every Middle School to support PHE curriculum and sport. Classroom supports and special programing for students who require more help needs to be improved. I am all for inclusion, but it has not been properly supported. Our EA staff are covering medical and safety and are no longer able to help academically in classrooms, this is a big gap in our education system in Abbotsford. Students who are struggling academically just get shuffled along and never improve as there is not enough support. Students who cannot learn in a traditional classroom, or who cannot handle being in a traditional classroom for an entire day have no other option and tend to give up, get frustrated and act out, or stop attending class and take up admin's time in trying to manage these non-attenders.  
Short answer - more in school supports and programs for all students.
- 54 Earlier intervention, no failure to grade 10 is passing the buck! We are filling up LSS, Anxiety, and Behavior programs. These costs could be cut with earlier intervention in the Middle school years.
- 55 Staffing
- 56 literacy and numeracy - pre K -12, with a greater focus on early growth and supports. So that all students see themselves as literate and numerate.
- 57 Higher pay/better benefits for support staff.
- 58 Education assistants support and teachers. New school in Central Abbotsford.
- 59 Technology for student use  
Education Assistants do not receive a liveable wage and no compensation such as remedy or seniority etc. Employment Insurance is very little or none now
- 60 so like other schools - increase time by 7 min a day to pay for Christmas and Spring Holidays. Help staff feel appreciated and not need to have 2 jobs to compensated. I don't think they should get as much as teachers but a liveable wage.
- 61 Transportation. New to Canada teaching resources and funding.
- 62 More EA support. As literacy is a major thrust in the schools, more student time with library technicians is needed. High schools need library technicians on a regular basis.
- 63 Special education Staffing of paraprofessionals such as psychologist and speech therapists etc.
- 64 Innovative strategies to address student support and safety needs should be considered to address ongoing staffing and student challenges.
- 65 EAs and solid textbooks.
- 66 Facilities staffing and equipment
- 67 Technology. This new teams system is terrible.
- 68 LSS, ELL, early literacy and numeracy interventions
- 69 NOTHING
- 70 Funding should be cut to all salaries. This bloated infrastructure needs to be privatized and run for profit.
- 71 Bussing/transportation should be at least partially covered/funded for students
- 72 More parking at schools as daughter goes to ten broek and parking is horrible there
- 73 Special educational teachers like speech pathologists and such not ea's
- 74 Teaching French and prepare them in high schools for standardized tests like SAT
- 75 Technology. I shouldn't be responsible for having to buy a laptop for a 13 year old so that they can transport it too and from school, on a bus, so the school doesn't have to shell out for it.
- 76 Mental Health/Behaviour supports in elementary schools....helping students and families before they reach the age when it's too late. We have little mental health/behaviour supports available for children under 12!
- 77 EA support
- 78 Transportation. Relying on parents to drive kids to mandatory school activities is not ok
- 79 Teachers and assistants
- 80 Games , need more teachers
- 81 Infrastructure and having small class groups so students can focus and teachers are comfortable in delivering education
- 82 The increase of student needs - EAs, counselling, LSS and other itinerant teachers need to be appropriately allocated to schools to match student needs.
- 83 The school district should have a better one-stop-shop solution for schools to reduce the amount of apps and portals and other areas that parents need to go to for information about the school and their children's education.
- 84 Admin Support staff (adequate staffing levels and competitive wages, we lose too many employees to stress/burn-out/ out-of-district & private sector wage disparity.
- 85 Games
- 86 More funding is required to hire more Educational Assistants to support students in elementary schools.
- 87 Food program

- 88 Technology  
Reducing class size to ensure students are well supported and have regular access to their teacher.
- 89 extra curricular activities
- 90 Before and After school care options within the schools. Leaving a classroom to run these programs, with a preschool program during the day.
- 91 Not sure  
Teachers salaries- sports funding - every single school elementary and middle high school gymnasium should have 3 gyms - those are rented out 24/7 and  
92 there is still not enough gyms to rent out. Money could be made on gym rentals. The schools don't release them enough and they always full with their own sports.  
Qualified inclusive education teachers and programming for students with exceptional needs. We need better programming for our most vulnerable  
93 students, which takes time and people to implement. Caseloads for teachers and EAs who are supporting these students are too high to provide quality learning opportunities.
- 94 Less students not more than 25 in a one class and more resources for mental health awareness.  
#1 is less administrative funding and more for practical staff funding, especially to address diversity among student needs - special needs, behavioural  
95 needs. We cannot rely on families nor on the social services to support our kids. School is and should be a haven for kids to function to learn. This world provides more each year for kids to learn about and understand. Tools, resources and teachers must be plenty and knowledgeable to rear educated children, not more hierarchy administration with school district cars and expense accounts.
- 96 Capital expansion where needed to accommodate district programs and catchment growth.
- 97 Fine Arts
- 98 Classroom supports, EA's, CSW's, LSS
- 99 Making sure we have full time teachers for all classrooms.
- 100 More EAs in the classrooms
- 101 educational assistance, resource teachers, more assistance for the classroom teacher since resource rooms have been eliminated.  
More EAs and support for the classrooms
- 102 More support for new teachers  
More concrete resources- like, helping teachers should say 'here are 5 resources you can use to plan your math curriculum, chose the one you want'
- 103 Landscaping, play areas indoor and especially outdoors - most fields in schools in Abby are mud pits and the therefore occasionally uninhabitable for play or recess/lunch times - what's the point of having the space if it's not maintained and cared for  
EA's should be paid more
- 104 -more Speech Paths, counsellors, OT's needed to support students  
-upgrades to schools that are looking rough (fresh paint goes a long way)
- 105 More instructional days for students. Too many days off during school year for kids.
- 106 Assistance for children who have learning challenges.
- 107 Staffing - different levels of EA and EA Support Staff with different pay for years of service
- 108 Education Assistants and resources for neurodivergent learners.
- 109 More teachers. More EAs. More enrichment programs. Instead of holding kids back, kids need opportunities to excel.
- 110 More help for teachers with student in the classroom.
- 111 Budgets for Libraries for literacy, more book resources and proper staffing for schools. More district funds to support school maintence and functionality.  
Less taken away from students learning budgets.
- 112 Some inner city schools are falling apart. Lack proper ventilation, even proper fountains.
- 113 We need to restore elementary and middle school PE specialists. We need to spend more money at individual schools and less money on support positions like district principals and helping teachers.
- 114 Some of our schools are over capacity, and loading up portables isn't always the answer.  
Granted, as the new OHS manager I'm biased, but my opinion:
- 115 Put resources towards achieving the Certificate of Recognition and maintaining it. The annual refund will more than pay for the FT person needed to focus on the project for the first 18 months, and then after the 18 months, this hired person will have productive hours to spare to work on other H&S needs, but the refund remains the same.
- 116 Classroom support people for every single classroom regardless of low or high needs.
- 117 Abbotsford
- 118 Expanding the curriculum to include things that will help the kids through their lives.
- 119 Support for complex classrooms; capital; technology
- 120 Food for kids who are not on the low income list.
- 121 We need more EA support for our students and resources to help our most at risk students.
- 122 Building and classroom
- 123 Special needs funding
- 124 I have a sheltered view only having 1 child in the school system and a fairly robust PAC at my child's elementary school. If I could see more funding it should be on sports fields and tracks at some schools.  
I do not - What I would like to see is where the SD is being FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE like any private sector company. Until you can show me how you  
125 are being fiscally responsible(IE where are cutting, where are you becoming more efficient, where investments show return, I do not believe in any additional funding.
- 126 Computer access easier for more students in class
- 127 Kids sports
- 128 Smaller classes more one on one time
- 129 Indigenous Support  
Better workers who Support the students they are assigned not just the students they choose to work with
- 130 The beginning of the year school supplies. Parents shouldn't have to pay for things like Kleenex boxes and pens. And anything teachers are buying out of pocket should also be covered.
- 131 student trauma
- 132 Physical Education is a must for all students. Every school should have a full-time qualified Physical Education teacher.  
More individual support for students. Class sizes are too large and diverse. Students are not getting the one-on-one support that they deserve or need.
- 133 The average child is hurting. The teacher just can not get to every student. Also more help or programs for students that can not handle the regular classroom setting. Students with anxiety or that just learn differently do not have any options.
- 134 Support staff!!!!!!!
- 135 Playground, and school ground improvements and maintenance
- 136 supplying classrooms with the essentials

- EA! A student with Autism is not only Autistic for 2.5h a day, often our designated G students need full support or at least an EA in the classroom to support them.
- 137 Build new schools. Some of the elementary schools are so old they are falling apart, while there are schools that have solar panels. My classroom is so hot, it has aspestice in the walls and I don't have a sink!
- 138 technology
- 139 Before and after school care and early years programs to help with K school readiness. Also transportation funding needs to be higher.
- 140 Support special need students
- 141 Special education. Gifted education.
- 142 I'm not sure
- 143 More books into the libraries to sign out. More paid and valuable programs accessed through schools.
- 144 Teaching. And support. We need more people.
- 145 Support staff, LSS, ELL students, classroom budgets
- 146 More funding for Education assistants and one and one help for students and accommodations for those that struggle so they can meet their peers in learning.
- 147 Education is the only essential part...
- 148 Infrastructure maintenance.  
more EA staff
- 149 - more money spent on teacher retention  
- updated furniture  
furniture
- 150 Prevention of SOGI and support of parents being parents.
- 151 Bus system
- 152 Maintenance Operations.
- 153 Some schools need projects done to make the buildings more usable. Ask the schools what they need. Let staff have input. Stop telling us "it's not in the budget".
- 154 More funding and resources are needed to build capacity in our teaching and support staff to better support children with special needs and ensure all of our students find purpose, inclusion and safety within our schools.
- 155 I have no idea I'm sorry
- 156 Children's mental health services and support. More support staff for children with designations.
- 157 Maintenance of the buildings, providing proper space for students in the classroom.
- 158 Staffing!!!! Serious shortage of specialist teachers and EAs!! There are so many vulnerable special needs students not receiving ANY support!!! It is horrible that a student with Autism receives support for only 15 min a day
- 159 Care and support for children with IEPs or special needs. Also staff who can be responsible for security within schools as there is increasing violence within school walls and things like vaping in washrooms. This needs to be handled in order for learning to occur.  
As a member of the Abbotsford City community, I believe there are several areas within the school district that require more funding to enhance the overall educational experience and support the diverse needs of students.
- Special Education Services: Investing in special education services is crucial to ensuring that students with diverse learning needs receive the support and resources they require to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally. This includes funding for specialized staff, assistive technologies, and inclusive programs that promote equity and accessibility for all students.
- Mental Health and Wellness Programs: Allocating more funding to mental health and wellness programs is essential for addressing the growing mental health needs of students and promoting overall well-being. This includes funding for school counselors, psychologists, social workers, and initiatives that promote positive mental health practices and resilience-building skills.
- Equitable Access to Resources: Ensuring equitable access to resources for all students, regardless of their socio-economic background, is crucial for narrowing achievement gaps and fostering inclusive learning environments. This includes funding for educational materials, technology devices, 160 extracurricular activities, and transportation services to support student participation and engagement.
- Professional Development for Educators: Investing in professional development opportunities for educators is essential for enhancing teaching effectiveness, promoting innovation, and keeping pace with evolving educational trends and best practices. This includes funding for workshops, training programs, and mentorship opportunities that support ongoing growth and learning among staff members.
- Facilities and Infrastructure: Adequate funding for maintaining and upgrading school facilities and infrastructure is essential for creating safe, functional, and conducive learning environments for students and staff. This includes funding for building maintenance, renovations, safety enhancements, and energy-efficient upgrades that promote sustainability and environmental stewardship.
- Extracurricular and Enrichment Programs: Supporting extracurricular and enrichment programs is important for providing students with opportunities for personal growth, skill development, and exploration outside of the traditional classroom setting. This includes funding for sports teams, arts programs, clubs, and experiential learning opportunities that enrich the educational experience and foster a sense of belonging and community.
- By allocating more funding to these priority areas within the school district, we can ensure that all students have the support, resources, and opportunities they need to reach their full potential and succeed in school and beyond."
- More funding to support our new immigrant families that are coming in throughout the year but aren't accounted for in our budgets because of when they come.
- 161 More funds to support food programs for needy students.
- Rethink funding to secondaries who have increased and different costs due to athletics and special programs tgan elementary and middle schools. 100% get more boots on the ground in regards to support for special needs children. The schools are turning into a zoo of high needs children where the average child is forgotten. We need to bring back special schools or resource rooms and only bring in high needs children for well thought out and 162 authentic learning opportunities. Our system is broken and we need to re-allocate funds to get people in the classrooms not more computers or more fancy buildings. Difficult to look at new schools being built with beautiful glass foyers and fancy workout rooms when there are classrooms with teachers quitting because the needs are so high and there's very little teaching going on.
- 163 Support aids  
Indigenous education ; we need more Indigenous Support Workers especially in the middle schools
- 164 Counsellors in elementary schools need more. All counsellors have over capacity case loads. Anxiety up in younger kiddos

In class supports! There are so many behaviours in classes know and not enough support! Our teachers are stretched so thin trying to support all of the needs and there is not enough EA support. I understand that part of it is that only certain kids bring in so much funding but that's not enough. Especially when many are not tested until they are almost out of elementary school. To think that they don't need support before tested or to assume there not there is laughable. It should be assumed there are kids in every class that need more support than one teacher can give. WE NEED MORE SUPPORT and our kids deserve better!

166 Teachers need more classroom funds to adequately teach. They can't be spending all their own paycheque to make their classrooms workable.  
"TRANSPORTATION"

167 "TRANSPORTATION"  
"TRANSPORTATION"

168 Support staff!!

169 Support staff for children with high needs, counsellors and psychologists

170 Hire more teaching staff, to reduce the size of the classes from over 30 to at least 20-25 students per class.

171 French immersion Teachers, auxiliary teaching equipment

172 Counciling. Student Counciling is significantly needed for the success and growth of the students. Food programs are absolutely necessary as well as small class size and support staff for teachers.

173 Adequate supports for students with complex needs at the elementary and middle level. Staffing!!! More ELL and LSS supports as well as EAs.  
Some buildings are in desperate need of upgrades. Shouldn't have schools with dozens of portables. That's a problem.

174 Reduce class

175 bathroom monitors so kids can actually go to the bathroom without being bullied and have to smell all the vape constantly.

176 Increasing teaching staff and EA staff to better support individual learners and not just problematic students. This will help make sure that middle-ground students are not flying under the radar if they aren't able to advocate for themselves.

177 staffing  
Student support- LSS for early learners not just for designated children

178 Teacher support for behaviour children which results in mental health struggles from issues and little  
Support in classrooms  
Transportation costs are out of control

179 EAs!!!!!!!

180 Textbooks and materials, sporting equipment.

181 Availability of EAs, music education, class sizes should be smaller

182 Teachers need more resources. Should be able to spend their pro d money or remedy on anything that aids students in the classroom!

183 Student services supports (psych-ed, SLP, counseling,...), EAs - diverse needs require specialized support and more than any 1 teacher can effectively teach to in any class.

184 Technology to EVERY school, not just the big ones .

185 PE class outings, healthy food options at school.

186 making the school more cleaner

187 Sports opportunity for all ages that is provided in school.

188 Ea's and kids with special needs designations should actually receive the money that has been allocated to them by the government rather than it stopping at the district level or it being received by other kids without a designation.  
Hands on learning experiences - eg. STEAM, learning in nature

189 Supports such a learning assistance, counsellors, music teachers, phycologists, assessment funding (phyc-ed)

190 ELL students have the right to be supported. My child in grade 2 yet does not know how to read . The teachers expect parents whose English is their second language to teach their children English. On the other hand, parents expect schools to teach their children how to read and write.

191 Transportation

192 100% on EAs and learning support. I have heard the phrase over and over again in our school, this child needs support. Can we meet this need, NO we do not have enough learning support resources! It's SO important!

193 More TAs and support staff to help with the ELS from the mass immigration Canada has just experienced  
EA support, EA support, EA support.  
I would like our district to advocate to our province this need. I would like to see EA support for students with ADHD. Some provinces have seen this and do offer full, 100 percent support to classrooms for this student need. Also, our Federal government has made a commitment to Indigenous and Refugee children for the right to education. I would like to see them provide full support for these students, particularly when their needs are evident to all upon entry into the classroom. These students may often also, and unfortunately, be very transient, so when numbers for support are calculated in Setempber and then a number of very needy students, needing 1:1 support arrive in October it is tough, tough, and even quite impossible actually to meet their needs and teach in a classroom of many other "ordinary" needs and struggling students.

194 teacher salaries

195 hiring more teachers  
hiring more EA's

196 With equity being a big focus for the district more should be do to allow all students opportunities to access playgrounds and school buildings.  
Counseling for students at the elementary level, increased Education Assistant roles, construction of spaces where students with high behavioral needs can find peace and regulation. Providing funds for primary elementary teachers who do not receive remedy, but put all the effort into getting children assessed and diagnosed.

197 Counselling, identifying students with emotional troubles, ADHD, Autism and making sure no student is left behind or not given resources to build up an education deficit.

199 Infrastructure for music, dance, drama and any other sort of program promoting the value of the arts and the many, many different skills and talents gained through school performances.

200 There should be more professional development opportunities for our support staff. Shared Learning is great but more opportunities would be beneficial.

201 Music and sports.  
Children that excel are no longer provided any support. Only those that struggle are funded or provided support or programs. We are left with children that are frustrated and board. We are not providing enough to meet their full potential, now or in the future. Unless you can pay for it, and then it becomes a class divide.

203 Funding for more psych-ed evaluations. Funding for more LSS teachers.

204 life skills need more teaching the children like banking ,loans ,investments,housing, every day life  
Transportation

205 Safety  
Support staff

206 Give the teachers tools for teaching.

I think that outdoor spaces (green spaces) are important to sustain. It is important to ensure that there is enough space for our student resources (LSS, Indigenous etc). These are important spaces for our students, and I know not all schools have big enough spaces for the number of students using them. I guess that would mean renovations in some cases.

207 Directly into classrooms. That means funding books and materials for teachers and students. We need to fund classrooms with high needs with more EAs and smaller classes. Teachers are funding literacy initiatives out of their pocket. We have a serious teacher shortage for a reason!! Start listening. Stop spending money on CORE

208 Funds to support staff in proper prep time before or after school instead of during the school day.

209 I know that the amount of needs in our students is going up and many classes have more students with exceptionalities and just giving remedy does not really support students or teachers.

210 Larger classrooms. Updated schools. MORE TEACHERS AND AIDS. AND MORE FUNDING FOR SPECIAL NEEDS.

211 Bussing ( mainly for field trips) I feel that kids aren't going on as many field trips anymore with the price and availability of the busses.

212

213 Support staff, that helps students

214 extra support for vulnerable students

215 Extra curricular activities should be paid and part of the budget. Get actual coaches and people with passion to teach and coach and keep children excited about learning. School should be interesting or engaging and socially fulfilling.

216 EA's

217 EA support for struggling students

218 - School-based budgets for secondary principals to allocate to programs and building maintenance

219 Support for students with significant behavioural and/or mental health needs within the school setting by increasing/enhancing the funding for staffing on the teams the provide support for them.

219 Maintenance

220 Resources, staffing of LSS and ELL specialists (including not pulling them from their jobs without replacing them. SIOP training in April 2024 had 63 ELL teachers pulled from schools for three full days, and the district replaced none of those teachers with TTOCs. That is 189 days of ELL service that the district chose not to provide. This is a shame. \$ saved at kids' expense)

221 Food Support in schools. I know they have them but now that we no longer have our pickup (Dunach Location) support as of this year, that's taking it out of the expenses of each school is not ok. Food is a big thing, and it is not only supporting the students, but also the employees that are short on food. I don't truly believe you know how many employees and students go without food, and these food pick-ups helped a lot of people.

222 Child support/counsellors.

223 Elementary school fields are UNDERMAINTAINED. They are uneven, ridden with potholes that cause injuries. The weeds and unkempt lawns are an eyesore in communities, and this discourages the public to use these recreation spaces after hours. Poor maintenance of field spaces and outdoor learning classrooms also hinders the ability to teach students during the day and supervised recess times.

224 People in learning support roles:

- trauma specialists to combat the rampant problem of trauma in our district
- LSS to work with students, not to manage paperwork and EA schedules
- TOCs
- Teacher recruiting
- improved designation assessment - IEPs are largely ineffective and require much time from the people required to write them, when they could be working with children

225 Music, visual arts, metal work, drafting and woodworking. Well funded, hands on learning is deeply important especially as kids are consumed by their phones/tech which are proven to worsen mental health. Making/creating in a physical way is hugely beneficial

226 More support staff, more teachers, less upper management and fewer helping teachers. Generally Abbotsford school district is way too top heavy. Money needs to be spent in schools who are actually working with kids daily.

227 more technology for classrooms and more budget given to schools so they can buy the necessary supplies for classrooms

228 Games outdoor activities

229 Clubs, games, literacy, public speaking skills should be developed, STEM

230 Hire!! More!! EAs!!

231 Purchasing of textbooks for grade 11 and 12 students. (All grades need them but these grades are particularly important.)

232 transportation

232 more elementary school counsellors

232 more Child & Youth Care workers

232 more LSS teachers

233 For special needs childrens

234 Secondary Schools need more per student than middle and elementary.

235 Phycology ED testing and assessments. Student's with possible learning issues aren't getting enough help.

236 staffing

237 With the complexity of classrooms, more training for EA's and social emotional learning for classroom teachers-- how do we support behaviours in classrooms. Perhaps bringing designated behaviour classrooms would be helpful. Or, increase the DIST team so they can support more classrooms

238 Allocate atleast few parkings for visitors and new moms.

239 Teacher pay, classroom supplies etc

240 An area I believe the district requires more funding is outdoor equipment such as in the park.

241 Middle schools- pe specialist, behaviour rooms, more counselling. Not enough supports in the middle school

242 Middle schools need more resources, more counseling services, bring back behaviour rooms and PE specialist.

243 Extra activities for students , field trips

244 learning tools for students

245 Schools need to have adequate budgets to supply and run the programs

246 field trips and EA wage scale.

247 Learning services and counsellors. EAs would also be an area to improve funding for.

248 Student supports: mostly in-class supports such as Educational Assistants, but also Youth Care Workers and Counsellors.

As a parent deeply invested in the educational well-being and accountability of our students, I believe it's crucial to prioritize initiatives that promote academic accountability, discipline, and respectful collaboration between parents, teachers, and school administrators.

To achieve this, I recommend allocating more funding towards the following areas:

**Discipline and Behavior Management Programs:** Invest in comprehensive discipline and behavior management programs that foster a culture of respect, responsibility, and accountability among students. This includes implementing clear policies and consequences for student misconduct and ensuring consistent enforcement by teachers and administrators. By establishing a supportive yet firm disciplinary framework, we can create an environment conducive to academic success.

**Teacher Training and Support:** Provide additional funding for professional development opportunities aimed at equipping educators with the skills and resources necessary to effectively manage classroom dynamics and address disciplinary issues. Training should include strategies for maintaining authority in the classroom, handling difficult parent interactions, and fostering constructive communication between parents and teachers.

249

**Technology Restrictions:** Allocate resources towards enforcing strict restrictions on the use of cellular phones and other non-approved electronic devices in classrooms across all grade levels. By minimizing distractions and disruptions caused by non-approved technology, we can create a focused learning environment that supports academic engagement and achievement. Additionally, invest in alternative educational tools and resources that promote active learning without reliance on digital devices.

**Parent Education and Communication:** Invest in initiatives that educate parents about their role in supporting their children's education while respecting the authority of teachers and school administrators. Provide resources and workshops that promote constructive communication, establish clear expectations for parental involvement, and address common concerns and misunderstandings. Encourage open dialogue between parents and educators, but also establish boundaries to prevent bullying or manipulation of teachers and administrators by parents or students.

By allocating funding towards these areas and fostering a culture of mutual respect and collaboration between parents, teachers, and school administrators, we can create a supportive educational environment that prioritizes academic accountability and student success. Thank you for considering these recommendations as you make decisions regarding budget allocations within the district.

250

Life skills, focus on students learning and increase the expected outcomes of their education. Too many students aren't learning and parents are not getting the progress updates they need to support their children. Bring back grades, no more arbitrary report cards!!!

251

More teachers and YCW/EAs in the schools working with students. Please - we need fewer helping teachers!! The LSS teachers seem to be so over-worked and it is difficult for them to meet the needs of all the students on their caseloads (elementary). This reflects on the load that the classroom teacher must carry.

252

Food programs for students and families.

253

More support for high needs students!!

254

Such a shortage of EAs. No designated spaces in schools for students to get what they need if they struggle in the regular classroom.

254

Allocate funds to students who experience hardship. Money should not be a reason for why a student can participate or play. Sports programs (field replacement and maintenance) and adequate, reliable and sufficient transportation to and from games. Invest in our music and art programs. Direct the funds toward programs that generate the income. Don't cheap out on our kids! Put your money where your mouth is! Stop bragging about how you want the best for kids. Invest in them!

255

Sports and physical education. What they learn in this school district is a joke.

256

You don't see the problem of transportation for you students. It doesn't require too much money, just a meeting with BC transit. So, you have congestions every morning in front of your schools. Why don't you speak with BC transit to adjust their schedule and arrive at schools more frequently half an hour (2-3 buses) before and after school. It will help parents and students if you encourage students to use public transport instead coming by vehicles. In my country that is completely normal and feasible here

257

Education assistants and custodians in all school during the days. Playground equipment at all grade levels.

258

Counseling and student mental

259

Health

259

Support staff

260

More field trips and home ec. Classes

261

More paid supervision during teacher break times (recess/lunch). There should be an adult with each class during these times. My kindergartener and grade two kids are currently being supervised by grade 4&5 kids while inside during recess and lunch (once outside there are a few adult supervisors). Grade 4&5 students are not equipped to look after entire classes on their own. My kids end up watching tv during lunch just so the older kids can manage the classes. And often they don't eat because they're in front of a screen. It's just not working.

262

Less on gizmos and gadgets, more on staffing.

263

Teachers and the resources required to operate a successful classroom. Teachers pay for many of the day-to-day supplies used in a classroom, including bringing in their own ipads or computers to complete their job. Providing adequate EA's to support those students who require additional support. Such as students whose math/language skills are below grade level (by multiple grades) require small group learning supports.

264

It is most important to be providing appropriate supports for students in classrooms, ea support is extremely underfunded and students learning is suffering (both those with exceptional needs and those without)

265

Ratio of teachers to youth

266

Special education for children with disabilities

267

MORE NEURO DIVERGENT SUPPORT

267

Counseling

267

School social workers

268

School youth care workers

268

Support for students, more programs, more staff, more access to services.

269

Less upper management and helping teachers, more educators on the ground in front of kids. It is crazy that there are no more public middle school PE teachers in Abbotsford and limited elementary PE teachers in a time when students are on screens and sedentary more than ever.

270

After school care, ea teachers, ed teachers and help for kids that really need it so it helps the teachers too

271

SE learning and support

272

More extra curriculum activities

More funding for inclusive programs, accessible classrooms, Indigenous education support especially in middle schools. Hire more First Nations, Inuit and Metis teachers. How has the district answered the TRC calls to action? Why did the Indigenous graduation rate decrease to 51%?

273 There are over 2000 self identified Indigenous students in this district. Only 3% of those students reside on reserve. 97% of the Indigenous students are underserved. Assess the retention of staff in the Indigenous department of the last 6 years.

Non First Nations educators made a lot of changes to the department that impacted the most vulnerable Indigenous students in a negative way. There needs to be a review of how funding is helping enhance all Indigenous students consistently.

Create more opportunities for antiracism and decolonization education for all staff and community.

274 Life prep, financial education for students.

END OF REPORT