

Audit Committee Meeting

Date: January 28, 2025
Time: 4:00 pm
Location: Abbotsford School District Administration Office

TRUSTEES IN ATTENDANCE: Jared White, Chair
Rupi Kanda-Rajwan
Korky Neufeld
Stan Petersen
Preet Rai
Mike Rauch
Shirley Wilson

STAFF IN ATTENDANCE: Sean Nosek, Superintendent
Ray Velestuk, Secretary-Treasurer
Beth Penney, Executive Assistant

GUESTS: Mark Vinnish, Office of the Auditor General (via MS Teams)
YiLing Miao, Office of the Auditor General (via MS Teams)

1.0 CALL TO ORDER

Chair White called the meeting to order at 4:00 pm.

2.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

We acknowledge the Abbotsford School District is located on the traditional and unceded territory of the Semá:th First Nation and Mathxwí First Nation. With this, we respect the longstanding relationships that Indigenous Nations have to this land, as they are the original caretakers.

3.0 ADOPTION OF AGENDA

The Committee adopted the agenda as presented.

4.0 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

4.1 The Minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting held September 17, 2024, were approved to be presented for approval at the February 11, 2025, Public Board Meeting.

5.0 OLD BUSINESS

6.0 NEW BUSINESS

6.1 Enterprise Risk Management Plan

The Secretary-Treasurer reported on the top five risks in the Enterprise Risk Management Plan and budget risks that were identified in the last school year.

The first key risk discussed was the difficulty in recruiting employees, with ongoing struggles in hiring specialty teachers and district management and the need for additional strategies. Discussion ensued on how all districts in the province are facing similar challenges, UFV's added teaching cohort and new facility in Mission, and how teachers prefer flexibility in their roles which on call positions offer.

Trustee Rauch joined the meeting at 4:08 pm.

The second key risk discussed was student and faculty safety. The district has put an increased focus on health and safety including updated emergency procedures, improving security at district sites, and effective communication procedures. The trustees discussed employee's rights to a safe workplace and increased WorkSafe BC costs not only in the Abbotsford School District, but around the province.

The third key risk discussed was privacy and cyber security along with our current mitigation strategies. Multifactor authentication will be rolled out this year.

The fourth key risk discussed was financial continuity and stability. The district's ERP system, SparkRock will be fully implemented this spring which assists with cyber security.

The final key risk discussed was facility maintenance. The district has completed seismic upgrades in most schools and has planned facility upgrades. The Secretary-Treasurer reported that the capital planning branch has moved to Infrastructure BC from the Ministry of Education.

6.2 IT Security

The Secretary-Treasurer presented a review initiated in 2017 in partnership with IBM on ten essential practices intended to strengthen the district's overall cybersecurity posture, resilience, and ability to protect against evolving cyber threats. Significant IT advancements have been made. Accordingly, the board commended the IT team's efficiency and reliability.

7.0 ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned 4:42 pm.