



*School District #49 (Central Coast)*

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August 23, 2010

Paul Straszak  
President and CEO  
Public Sector Employers' Council  
PO Box 9400 Stn Prov Govt  
Victoria, BC V8V 9V1

Dear Mr. Straszak:

This will confirm that the Board of Education of School District No. 49 (Central Coast) is aware of the total compensation paid to executive staff during the 2009-2010 fiscal year and further, that we verify the amount of compensation paid was within the compensation plan as approved by the Board and as reported in the Summary Compensation Table .

Yours truly,

Robyn Willis  
Board Chairperson - School District No. 49 (Central Coast)

## **School District No.49 (Central Coast) Public Sector Executive Compensation Reporting for 2009/10**

The Board of Education encourages and adopts practices that enable the district to attract, retain, incent, and reward qualified, high-performing employees, who are critical to the delivery of quality public education programs to students in School District No. 49 (Central Coast).

A key component of this approach is the development and maintenance of a framework for executive and exempt staff compensation that is rational, defensible, competitive and able to be effectively administered.

### **Compensation Philosophy**

The Board's compensation philosophy is based upon a set of principles that guide development, maintenance, and decision-making. At its core is an integrated view of compensation and rewards — not only traditional, quantifiable elements such as salary and benefits (compensation), but also more intangible elements such as career opportunities, learning and career development, work challenge, and supportive culture (rewards). This total rewards model further integrates with plans that establish the Board's overall education, business, and human resources strategies and objectives.

Inherent in the Board's compensation philosophy are the following objectives:

- To attract and retain qualified, experienced, motivated, and high-potential employees who are committed to the Board's overarching goal of delivering a high-quality public education experience to our students.
- To support employees through the provision of meaningful career growth and development opportunities, and a performance-based organizational culture.

### **Labour Market Comparators**

Key to the compensation philosophy is the need to maintain a meaningful level of competitiveness with the external labour market. Consistent with industry standards, "labour market" is defined in the British Columbia Public School Employers' Association (BCPSEA) sectoral exempt compensation management plan (Policy 95-06, *Compensation and Employment Standards for School District Employees Not Subject to a Collective Agreement*) as:

- The recruitment pool for these employees
- The destination sector for these employees.

The following considerations guide articulation of the relevant labour market:

- Degree of recruitment from these jurisdictions
- Transferability of skills
- Comparability of qualifications and experience
- Comparability of authority and consequence of error.

For executive and exempt staff positions in the BC K-12 public education sector, the relevant labour market is:

1. Other BC school districts (primary labour market)
2. Other Canadian school districts (To the extent that BC school boards recruit from and lose employees to these jurisdictions, this segment of the labour market is weighted to Alberta and Ontario (and to a lesser extent, Saskatchewan) consistent with the industry-standard definition of labour market.)
3. Other public sector organizations
4. Selected private sector organizations.

The Board's approach includes:

- Consideration of all components of the total rewards model.
- Consideration of the relevant labour market for compensation comparison purposes.
- Linking pay ranges to neutral, relevant factors (e.g., required skill level, required competencies, job content, required qualifications).
- Ensuring appropriate relationships exist between positions in the district's compensation hierarchy.
- Considering the ways in which appropriate organizational and individual performance measures may be linked to the administration of the compensation system.

In balancing external competitiveness with internal equity, the Board typically has determined that the reference point for executive and exempt total compensation is the median (*or, for example, the average or 60<sup>th</sup> percentile, or 75<sup>th</sup> percentile, etc*) of the relevant comparator labour market.

The Board's total compensation package for executive staff is comprised of the following elements.

### **Cash compensation**

Total cash compensation includes annual base salary and monthly (*or annual*) vehicle allowance (*or leased vehicle or employer-provided vehicle, etc.*).

- Annual base salary

Annual base salary is considered in the context of the total compensation package. Generally, base salary is targeted at the (*median, average, 60<sup>th</sup> percentile, etc*) of the comparator labour market. The base salary structure is a three-step pay band using the 1990 Scale as base year.

- Vehicle allowance is \$350.00 per month.

Due to the diverse geography of the district and the need to visit schools and other district worksites, the Board provides a monthly vehicle allowance to the Superintendent. The monthly vehicle allowance is set at a level competitive with the vehicle allowances provided to Superintendents in districts of similar size and geography.

- Executive annual re-earnable performance-based incentive compensation plan:

The concept of an annual re-earnable performance-based incentive compensation plan was introduced to the K-12 public education sector in the fall of 2007. The BC Public School Employers' Association provided guidelines for development and administration of Incentive Plans that are consistent with industry best practice and the guidelines established for such plans by the Public Sector Employers' Council.

The objectives of incentive plans generally are to:

- effectively communicate organizational goals and objectives
- align individual and organizational goals and objectives
- reward effort and results
- provide competitive compensation
- provide a clear, consistent basis for determining compensation.

The Incentive Plan clarifies what the individual needs to do in order to influence the amount of their annual re-earnable incentive payment. It allows individuals to set objectives aligned with overall organizational targets and measure success based on achievement. It will evolve in future years as executives and Boards become more familiar with the identification of objectives and the development of key performance indicators.

The annual re-earnable performance-based incentive, where approved by the Board of Education and the employers' association, results in a modest lump-sum annual re-earnable bonus as a percentage of annual salary.

- The Board shall pay to each Exempt Staff member and Administrative Officer on staff in the Bella Coola Valley for the full year an amount equal to one return airfare to Vancouver. Payment shall be in December and will reflect the airfare then in effect.

### **Non-cash compensation**

The non-cash elements of the total compensation package include:

- **Health and welfare benefits**, such as basic medical, extended medical, dental, group life, short-term and long-term disability, employee and family assistance program, etc. consistent with such benefits as offered in the K-12 sector generally.
- **Pension benefits** — executive staff are enrolled in either the Teachers Pension Plan or the Municipal Pension Plan.
- **Long Service Recognition** - In addition, upon retirement executive staff are eligible to receive a long-service recognition award (or retirement allowance) based on the following criteria:

Commencing 1992 September 1<sup>st</sup> all Exempt Staff members and Administrative Officers will be credited with one year's service for each year they remain in the employ of the District for the purpose of establishing service under this provision.

The proportion of any gratuity payable shall be determined by the ratio of full time equivalent service accumulated. Upon retirement, each Exempt Staff member and Administrative Officer

with a minimum of ten years accumulated service to the District will qualify for a gratuity, multiplied by the factor determined above, of the following amounts:

- 10 to 14 years service \$10,000.00;
  - 15 to 19 years service \$15,000.00;
  - 20 plus years \$1,000 for each year of service.
- **Paid time off**, including an annual vacation entitlement of 30 days. Pursuant to the *Public Sector Employers Act*, with a carry-over of 10 days per year which may be carried forward into succeeding year. Vacation may be carried forward for one year only and at the end of that year, the unused accumulated vacation must be used in full, paid out, or a combination of the two.
  - **Other vehicle-related payments**, the Board shall pay the cost of insurance, license and gas in addition to the \$350.00 per month toward maintenance costs to the Superintendent of Schools.

## Compensation Administration

The Board engages in consistent and ongoing administration of the compensation structure to ensure that reality matches philosophy and that equity is maintained. An ongoing system of compensation review ensures that total compensation levels are benchmarked externally against the appropriate labour market and internally against appropriate job evaluation criteria.

The Board works with BCPSEA to obtain information and advice relating to the executive and exempt compensation structures. In addition, the Board utilizes the BCPSEA *Report on Total Compensation Paid to Exempt Employees* — the results of BCPSEA's triennial survey of total compensation paid to exempt benchmark positions in BC public school districts as well as school districts in Alberta, Saskatchewan, and Ontario, and other relevant public sector employers.

- **Annual base salary administration**

The salary structure for the position of Superintendent of Schools (and other management positions) is based on placement at the appropriate pay band in the structure reflective of labour market competitiveness and internal equity. Placement and progression through the steps on the pay band is dependent upon competency growth and performance. The maximum point on the pay band typically represents the job rate for the position, defined as the salary that should be paid to an incumbent who has established him/herself as meeting all the goals and expectations of the position in a fully satisfactory manner. New hires are generally not placed at the job rate on commencement of employment, although due to the key leadership roles and responsibilities, such individuals are generally recruited at a highly competent level and are often placed at the mid- to maximum point in the pay band reflective of the required competence, qualifications, and experience.

The decision whether to grant a salary increase is at the sole discretion of the Board. In determining whether a salary increase is warranted, the Board considers such factors as performance, competence, external competitiveness, and internal equity including the maintenance of appropriate salary differentials through the organization. Increases are considered within the Board's overall compensation budget.

The Board shall pay the Chief Executive Officer a monthly salary determined as follows:

- a) As per category 18 year 1 of Schedule A – Management Salary Scale.
- b) The scale will be adjusted upward on the anniversary date to Year 2 and then Year 3 of category 18.
- c) In year 4 the salary terms of the contract may be renegotiated by both parties.

## **Accountability**

Underlying the Board's compensation philosophy and approach is the understanding that legal and regulatory mandates are considered a baseline for implementing any compensation plan or practice. Compensation administration in the K-12 public education sector operates within the following context:

- the *Public Sector Employers Act*, which establishes the legislative policy framework for exempt staff compensation administration in the public sector
- the BCPSEA exempt staff compensation management plan (Policy 95-06, *Compensation and Employment Standards for School District Employees Not Subject to a Collective Agreement*), which is an approved compensation plan under the legislation, and
- the *Public Education Negotiating Framework Compensation Plan – Exempt Staff (2006-2010)*.

Under the current compensation administration system in the K-12 sector:

- the Board of Education is solely responsible for the establishment and maintenance of compensation levels for the position of Superintendent of Schools. As elected school trustees, we are accountable to our public and therefore ensure that we adhere to proper human resources practices with respect to executive and exempt staff compensation.
- the Board must submit proposed compensation adjustments for all other executive and exempt positions in the district to BCPSEA for review and approval prior to implementation.

**Summary Compensation Table: Fiscal 2009-2010 (year ending June 30, 2010)**

Name and Principal Position (a)	Salary (\$) (b)	Bonus (\$) (c)	Incentive Plan Compensation Paid (\$) (d)	Pension (\$) (e)	All Other Compensation (\$) (f)*	Total (\$) (g)	Previous 2 Years Totals (h)**
Denise Perry, Superintendent/ Secretary Treasurer	\$142,236	\$648	\$0	\$19,485	\$13,840	\$176,209	07/08 = \$141,665 08/09 = \$199,814

Notes:

\*This amount includes:

- vehicle allowance/lease of \$350 per month or \$4,200 per annum,
- employer-paid CPP and EI benefits premiums of \$3,138, and
- employer-paid health and welfare benefits premiums of \$6,502

\*\*The first reporting year is fiscal 2007-2008.