

Fin HO8: Optional scenario response guide

Key issues	Possible response
<p>Council's governance function of approving the annual budget and monitoring expenditure.</p> <p>Two of the objectives of a school council are to ensure that decisions affecting students at the school are made having regard as a primary consideration to the best interest of the students, and to enhance the educational opportunities of students at the school. The Budget is the 'money plan' that shows how the school will use its financial resources to support the goals and priorities in the school strategic plan which sets the direction for improving student learning and wellbeing outcomes.</p>	<p>School council president to ask the principal to lead a discussion on the link between the budget and the SSP and the AIP</p> <p>Remind council that they endorsed the School Strategic Plan via the school council president.</p> <p>Also remind the finance sub-committee that they are charged with making a recommendation for school council to approve the budget.</p> <p>Seek to understand what those opposing the budget believe has changed since the School Strategic Plan was endorsed and what the evidence for this is.</p> <p>At finance sub-committee level, sub-committee members are encouraged to ask questions, especially if they don't have a financial background. The principal / business manager will clarify any aspects of the reports, with common use language and explanations. If there are misunderstandings, ask the principal to provide information and evidence as needed. This should then allow the one dissenting parent member to make an informed decision to approve the budget as all other FC members have. This should then have a flow-on effect on the 2 (similarly influenced) SC members to approve at SC level, therefore allowing the budget to be passed as approved.</p> <p>Reinforce that the budget must reflect the strategic priorities of the school.</p> <p>Suggest that the contentious issue be taken off-line but the rest of the budget passed and explain the implications of not passing the budget.</p> <p>Seek support from the SEIL early in the discussion and seek further support from the Regional Office if this looks like not being able to be resolved.</p>