

Discussing the School Financials

The School Association Committee will be presented with the school financials once a term. This is a requirement of the School Associations constitution - section 17(a).

The idea of sharing the budget is so the school association can see how the school allocates their School Resourcing Package (SRP), it provides an opportunity to discuss the restraints of the funding and openings for potential School Association assistance through grants or fundraising or through advocacy.

The SRP is allocated from the Department for Education, Children and Young People (DECYP) and comes from a calculation that takes into account the Schooling Resource Standard (SRS); a federal derived sum of money funded by the federal and state government, with any educational adjustments, Student Assistance Scheme (STAS) and federal and state education initiatives.

So, what do you need to know and understand about the school budget being tabled at the meeting?

The revenue, or money into the school account comes from these main sources:

1. SRP
2. Levies
3. Uniform shop
4. Any addition costs for subjects
5. Any school events with charges (major excursions, sporting fees, school driven fundraisers)

The expenditure, or money spent, can be understood by understanding the coding system. **When considering the first 2 numbers of the code it means...**

- 11 – Classroom Budgets
- 12 – Priority/Strategy Learning
- 13 – Library
- 22 – Mathematics/Numeracy
- 23 – Health & Wellbeing
- 24 – Society & History
- 25 – Science
- 26 – Arts
- 27 – Subjects
- 31 – Staff Related Activities
- 32 – Student Related Activities
- 41 – Administration
- 43 & 51 & 52 – School Funds
- 53 – Grounds
- 56 – IT
- 57 – Equipment
- 61 – Trading Accounts (like uniform shop)
- 63 – Suspense Funds
- 82 – Exempt Funds

Things to consider when considering the budget in a School Association Committee meeting:

Levies are often quite a small portion of the revenue.

The main source of funds is the School Resource Package, mentioned above, derived by DECYP.

Most schools run with a staffing that is between 65 and 85% of their SRP. If you're curious, you can add the figures in the budget column starting with item codes 31 (to give a fair assessment remove catering (3101), general expenses (3102 & 3106)) and divide by the SRP (4501), then times by 100 you'll be left with the staff percentage for the school.

DECYP determines the staffing of the school, but the school can purchase additional staff as it deems appropriate to delivery of the education. For example, a school might add a teacher to reduce class sizes or boost an AST from 3days to 5days and pay the difference. This is for information only, these are school driven decisions, and fall into day to day running of the school that the association and committee cannot interfere with.

The remainder of the revenue is for administration and educational resourcing.

Inviting the School Business Manager (SBM) to the committee meeting where the school budget is tabled is a nice idea, they are best placed to answer any questions you might have.

The big questions are always, where are the pinch points within the school budget and how can we as a School Association support the school in achieving their priorities. TASSO recommend having these as standard questions.