

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Date: June 29, 2009
Subject: Balanced Budget Approved
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Balanced Budget Approved for 2009-2010 School Year

Kemptville, ON – The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario’s Board of Trustees has approved a balanced budget of \$149.8 million for the 2009-2010 school year, an increase of \$5.3 million from 2008-2009.

The budget process begins early in the year and involves all CDSBEO departments. Previous expenditures, possible new initiatives, and areas with cost pressures are all examined.

Board Chair, Ronald Eamer, thanked Executive Council and the Board’s Finance Department for their efforts, “Delivering a quality Catholic education to our students, while remaining financially responsible, continues to be our focus. Our staff works tirelessly to ensure that we remain true to this goal.”

Elementary Class Size

The 2009-2010 financial estimates allow the Board to continue to remain 100% compliant with the provincially mandated primary class size plan and will also allow the Board to reduce class sizes in grades 4 to 8.

Staffing

The balanced budget calls for the addition of a full-time Aboriginal Consultant, a member of the curriculum team, who will focus on the areas of literacy and numeracy with particular emphasis on the goals of the *Ontario First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education Policy Framework* at the elementary and secondary levels.

CDSBEO will also hire an additional two teachers beyond the 2008-2009 level for increased elementary preparation time, reduced class sizes in grades 4 to 8, and expand on secondary programming and the Student Success Initiative. The Board will also hire 2.56 additional custodial staff.

Furthermore, the budget includes provisions to address elementary supervision and professional development in accordance with the Provincial Framework Agreements.

Other Increases

The budget also includes a 3% salary increase for all employees and an increase of 10 minutes per week in elementary Teachers' preparation time.

Capital Projects

The Board has received capital funding in the amount of \$16.5 million to begin two major capital projects in the next year. St. Michael Catholic High School in Kemptville will receive a \$10.6 million, 21 classroom addition and St. Thomas Aquinas Catholic High School in Russell will receive a \$5.9 million, 12 classroom addition. Both projects are funded under the Ministry's Energy Efficiency Program and will eliminate 31 portables that are currently on site.

Footing for the Future

Director of Education, Wm. J. Gartland, stated, "I am grateful to all our staff for their dedication in serving our students' best interests. This budget allows us to continue to serve our students and provide quality Catholic education while being good stewards of our financial resources."

For more information, please contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Bob Perreault at 613-258-7757 or 1-800-443-4562 ext. 206 or 613-859-0678 (mobile).

The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario operates 40 elementary and 10 secondary schools across 8 counties. The CDSBEO offers excellence in Catholic education through provincial-leading programs to approximately 15,000 students.