

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

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Subject: CDSBEO Approves Balanced Budget
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CDSBEO Approves Balanced Budget for 2008-2009 School Year

Kemptville, ON – The Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario's (CDSBEO) Board of Trustees has approved a balanced budget of \$141.5 million for the 2008-2009 school year. Board revenue and expenditures are up 4.9%, or \$6.6 million, from 2007-2008.

The budget process, which involves all CDSBEO departments begins early in the year with an examination of previous expenditures, possible new initiatives, and areas with cost pressures.

Board Chair, Ronald Eamer, thanked Executive Council and the Board's financial department for their efforts. "We never lose sight of our main goal, to deliver the best possible Catholic education to our students. Through this budget, it is evident that we remain committed to that goal, while remaining financially responsible."

Primary Class Size – 100 Percent Compliance

The Board's preliminary plan, to be presented at the end of June, shows 100 percent Primary Class Size (PCS) compliance. The Province mandated that all Primary classes, from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 3 have 20 or fewer students.

Staffing Increases

The balanced budget also calls for the addition of two new consultants. An E-learning Consultant position will be created to help expand the current online learning opportunities provided by CDSBEO.

Another consultant position being introduced is the Continuing Education/Community Use of Schools Consultant. This position will ensure there are expanded continuing education programs in the CDSBEO, and will also enhance the Board's current use of schools program through community outreach activities.

CDSBEO will also add five teachers and 3.5 educational assistants to the current staff.

Technology to be Improved

The balanced budget also allots for the full deployment of Soft Grid technology which is currently being used in 50 percent of our buildings. Soft Grid technology installs software on multiple computers from a central location. The Board's software library can be updated on hundreds of computers in a matter of several hours. This allows students, staff and administrators to use the most current software available to the Board.

Ongoing Funding for Safe Schools and the New Teacher Induction Program

CDSBEO is pleased with the government's commitment to provide \$336,000 in ongoing funding support for the Safe Schools and New Teacher Induction initiatives through the annual Grants for Students' Needs (GSN's). Previously, these programs were funded through grants allocated by the province outside the GSN's based on the availability of funds and other provincial priorities. With annual funding guaranteed, CDSBEO is able to deliver these programs to support students and teachers.

Capital Projects

During 2008-2009, CDSBEO will undertake three major construction projects funded under the Province's Prohibitive to Repair (PTR) and Primary Class Size (PCS) capital programs. St. Mark Catholic School, a new 17 classroom, JK-8 school in Prescott, a seven classroom addition to St. Joseph Catholic School in Toledo, and a four classroom addition to Mother Teresa Catholic School in Russell.

A Sound Foundation

Director of Education, Bill Gartland, stated, "This budget allows the CDSBEO to continue to provide quality, Catholic education for the students we proudly serve."

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.