

NEWS RELEASE FROM THE CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF EASTERN ONTARIO

Date: June 19, 2007

Subject: CDBSEO Approves Balanced Budget

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CATHOLIC DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD OF
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CDSBEO Approves Balanced Budget for 2007-2008 School Year

Kemptville, On – The Board of Trustees for the Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario has approved a balanced budget of \$134.8 million for the 2007-2008 school year.

Multi-Level Effort

The balanced budget was tabled after a lengthy process involving all CDSBEO departments. The deliberation process began early this year with an examination of the previous budget's expenditures. Administration assessed all expenditures to review cost efficiencies and savings for the 2007-2008 school year.

Superintendent of Business Gordon Greffe told the Board, "Our Supervisory Officers and management should be commended for the level of detail at which they examined all of the Board's expenses. This cooperation helped make the process run efficiently, and the information provided by Board staff was invaluable."

Primary Class Size Numbers Down

The budget contains funding for 16 additional primary teachers, to help the Board meet the provincially mandated primary class size (PCS) initiative. The CDSBEO has added a total of 38 teachers since the initiative's introduction in 2004-2005. The preliminary plan, submitted to the Ministry in May, meets the provincial mandate of 20 students per teacher in JK to Grade 3.

Based on the preliminary plan, the Board's aggregate JK-3 class size sits at 17.85 students. Additionally, the plan also meets the Ministry benchmark of 25 students per teacher for Grades 4 to 8.

Capital Projects Underway

Several PCS capital projects are also underway across the Board. A ten classroom addition is being installed at Holy Cross Catholic School in Kemptville, and a two classroom addition is being added to St. Gregory Catholic School in Carleton Place. Other efforts implemented to

meet the PCS benchmark include the addition of several portable classrooms at schools throughout the Board.

The Ministry of Education has also announced funding of a \$3.3 million construction project at St. Joseph Catholic School in Toledo.

Good Places to Learn

The Board expects to receive funding from Stage 3 of the Ministry of Education's Good Places to Learn initiative. Under the first two phases, \$8.5 million in renewal and repair projects have been or will be completed at sites across the Board. The CDSBEO looks forward to hearing from the Ministry concerning details on the upcoming allocation for Stage 3 by September of 2007.

Student Success Initiative Gets a Boost

The budget also increases funding for the Student Success initiative bringing the total number of Student Success Teachers in the Board to 12.4. This will help to ensure all of our students are provided with the support they need to successfully graduate with a secondary school diploma.

Wage Increases

The budget includes a 3% increase in wages for all employee groups effective Sept 1, 2007 as per the provincial labour framework. Elementary teachers will receive an additional 10 minutes per week in preparation time, bringing the total preparation time to 190 minutes per week.

Other Investments

In 2007-2008, CDSBEO will continue to provide and expand support for programs that focus on provincial initiatives such as: literacy and numeracy, student success, safe schools, the new teacher induction program, parent engagement, and many others.

Board Chair Thanks Finance Department

CDSBEO Board Chair Ronald Eamer thanked Superintendent Greffe and Manager of Finance Bonnie Norton for the work put forth by all those involved in tabling the balanced budget. "We know the amount of effort required to table a balanced budget is considerable. Your team shows an unparalleled level of devotion to making the process as smooth as possible for all who are involved, including our students."

Director of Education Bill Gartland concurred. "Mr. Greffe, Ms. Norton and their staff should be commended for the budget tabled before us today. Our Finance Department always has our students' best interests at the forefront during the budget process."

Superintendent Greffe added, “Our review of this balanced budget is already underway. It is imperative that we continue monitoring all expenditures and grants received until the end of the year, when we will submit our revised budget in December.”

For more information and interview opportunities, please contact CDSBEO Communications Officer Bob Perreault at (613) 258-7757 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.