



# News Release

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## **Draft Budget for the 2006/2007 School Year Estimated to be \$215.9M**

Over the past two weeks the Ministry of Education has been releasing the funding guidelines and education grant details for the 2006-07 school year. In 2006-07 the province will be providing \$17.5B for elementary and secondary education through the Grants for Student Needs (GSN). There will also be further funding in the amount of \$200M provided outside of the funding formula, to support the Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat, Student Success initiatives, professional development for the teaching profession and the parent engagement initiative.

The Ministry of Education's funding priorities are to provide the resources to support these key areas:

- Reducing primary class sizes,
- Support the labour framework for all teaching and non-teaching staff,
- Improving student achievement in reading, writing and math,
- Increasing graduation rates,
- Improving the condition of our schools, and
- Interim funding for Special Education and Transportation funding while plans are underway to reform the funding model for these services.

School board funding continues to be based on Provincial grants that are determined by grant funding formulas and projected student enrolment. For the past several years the Lambton Kent District School Board has experienced on average a 2.2% decline in enrolment and this will result in about 552 fewer students in our schools for the 2006-07 school year. Lambton Kent District School Board Enrolment projections for the 2006-07 school year are 15,121 ADE (Average Daily Enrolment) elementary students and 9,795 ADE secondary students for a total projected student enrolment of 24,916 ADE.

The Ministry's Declining Enrolment Grant provides a phase-in approach for school boards to adjust their cost structures to declines in enrolment. To adapt to this loss of revenue the Lambton Kent District School Board will continue to look at costs saving measures.

Trustee will be asked to approve the budget at the August 29, 2006 Regular Board Meeting. The meeting will be held at the Sarnia Education Centre beginning at 7:00 p.m. School boards are required to pass balanced budgets by August 31, 2006.

### **Pupil Accommodation Review Process Continues**

Director Gayle Stucke presented the June 2006 pupil accommodation report to the Trustees. "The report reflects the status of our 53 elementary and 13 secondary schools. It contains critical data that the Board needs to assess in planning the future of program deliveries throughout the school system," advised Director Stucke.

The overall purpose for conducting pupil accommodation reviews continues to be improved delivery of programs and services for all students. Trustees strive to make the most cost-effective use of available human and financial resources in order to achieve equity and educational viability in every school under the jurisdiction of the Board.

### **Student Trustees Honoured**

The Board honoured the outgoing Student Trustees, Angela Boersma and Curtis Walton for their contributions at the Board table during the 2005/2006 school year. The Student Trustees represented 28,000 students and served as a liaison between the students and the Board of Trustees. They were members of the Student Board Liaison Committee, attended public meetings and provided input on student issues. Angela and Curtis were presented with \$500.00 scholarships to assist with the cost of their post secondary studies. The Student Trustees for the 2006/2007 school year will be Lauren Gilfoyle from North Lambton Secondary School in Forest and Carson McFadden from Lambton-Kent Composite School in Dresden.

### **School Administrative Changes Effective September 2006**

#### **Elementary Principal Transfers**

- Rick MacFarlane was transferred to Wheatley Area Public School.

#### **Elementary Principal Appointments**

- Byron Hodgson was appointed to the position of Elementary Principal at Merlin Area Public School.
- Johanne Sylvain was appointed to the position of Elementary Principal at Mooretown-Courtright Public School.

#### **Elementary Vice-Principal Transfers**

- Tony Mitchell was transferred to High Park Public School in Sarnia.

#### **Elementary Vice-Principal Appointments**

- Sandra Cook was appointed to the position of Elementary Vice-Principal at Victor Lauriston Public School in Chatham.

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June 27, 2006

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