



News Release

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Board Approves Audited Financial Statements

Trustees approved the Lambton Kent District School Board's annual audited financial statements for the period September 1, 2005 to August 31, 2006, as presented by the Chartered Accounting Firm of Bailey Kearney Ferguson at the November 28, 2006 Board Meeting. As directed by the Ministry of Education, Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) standards have been used to compile and present the Board's financial position on August 31, 2006. The Ontario Government, Ontario municipalities and Ontario School Boards are now all using PSAB standards to produce their financial reporting. These financial statements present the information in a different format than school boards have previously been accustomed to presenting.

In the opinion of auditors of the firm of Bailey Kearney Ferguson, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Board as at August 31, 2006 and the results of its operations for the year in accordance with the accounting principles described in the report.

Chair Jane Bryce stated, "The Lambton Kent District School Board is extremely pleased to be able to report a balanced budget for the fiscal period ending August 31, 2006."

Funding for Special Education Projects

The Lambton Kent District School Board is pleased to announce that it has received funding from the Council of Ontario Directors of Education (CODE) to support of improving student achievement in the area of literacy and numeracy for at-risk students in Grades K-6.

The Lambton Kent District School Board received \$250,000 for the project, entitled "Success Through Early Intervention. Plans are in place to begin the project which will focus on early intervention assessment and the improvement of teaching skills at twelve pilot schools – Brooke Central School, Lansdowne Public School, Queen Elizabeth II School Sarnia, High Park School, Colonel Cameron School, Johnston Memorial School and Sir John Moore Community School, D.A. Gordon School, Thamesville Area Central School, Victor Lauriston School, Queen Elizabeth II School in Chatham, and Ridgetown Public School.

Board Provides Input to Ministry on Funding Formula Review

The Board took advantage of an invitation from the Ministry of Education and forwarded their recommended areas of focus as the Ministry reviews the Grants for Student Needs. Areas suggested include: restore the \$200 per student flexibility funding grant to enable boards to address local issues; implement a freeze or baseline stop loss on the declining enrolment; increase the principal salary benchmarks to match actual board salary rates; increase funding in the Board Administration envelope to enable board's to meet Ministry reporting requirements and provide appropriate staff support to students and schools; greater financial help is required to implement the primary and secondary class size caps along with greater flexibility; fully fund the new Trustee Honoraria; increase funding for school administration offices to maintain staff levels and required technology; review Special Education funding; fund the high costs associated with transporting medically fragile and aggressive students.

Board to Establish School Valuation Framework Committee

The Ministry of Education released its new Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines on October 31, 2006. These guidelines are now in effect and reflect the principles outlined in the February 17, 2005 document *Good Places to Learn: Renewing Ontario's Schools*. Our Board is now required to review its current policy, regulations and administrative procedures on pupil accommodation to ensure that they are consistent with the Ministry's new guidelines by March 31, 2007.

The Board must develop a generic School Valuation Framework to assess each of the following four considerations about the school(s) being reviewed Value to the student, Value to the community, Value to the school board, and Value to the local economy. The assessment is to weigh the value of the school(s) to the student above the other considerations. The generic School Valuation Framework is to be developed with the assistance of a public committee which should include parents, educators, board officials and business and municipal leaders.

School Valuation Framework Meeting dates have been set for January 11 and January 18, 2007 at Wallaceburg District Secondary School from 7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. Any parent, business person or municipal leader interested in participating will be welcomed.

The public review of a particular school(s) is to be led by an Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) appointed by the Board. Each Accommodation Review Committee must include members drawn from the school community and the broader community. It is recommended that the committee include parents, educators, board officials, and business and municipal leaders. The ARC will customize the Board's generic School Valuation Framework for the schools being considered. Our Board's school consolidation committees have generally had similar memberships.

The Ministry guidelines also outline the circumstances where school boards are not obligated to undertake an accommodation review in accordance with the Ministry Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines. In these circumstances, school boards should still provide appropriate notice of decisions that would affect the accommodation situation of students.

- Where a replacement school is to be rebuilt by the board on the existing site or located within the existing school attendance boundary as identified through the board's existing policies;
- When a lease is terminated;
- When a board is considering the relocation of a grade or grades, or a program, where the enrolment in the grade or grades, or program, constitutes less than 50% of the enrolment of the school;
- When a board is repairing or renovating a school, and the school community must be temporarily relocated to ensure the safety of students during the renovations;
- Where a facility has been serving as a holding school for a school community whose permanent school is under construction or repair.

As announced in October, the community consultation for the potential Devine Street Public School and Johnston Memorial Public School consolidation will commence study meetings in January 2007.

School Administrative Changes for 2007

Elementary Principal Transfers

- Nancy Blandford-McFadden will be the Elementary Principal at Hillcrest/Queen Elizabeth II School in Petrolia as of January 1, 2007.
- Allan Davies will be the Elementary Principal at Zone Township Central School as of January 1, 2007.
- Lynda Donovan will be the Elementary Principal at Brigden Public School as of January 1, 2007.
- Deborah Ellacott will be the Elementary Principal at McNaughton Avenue Public School in Chatham as of February 1, 2007.

School Administrative Changes for 2007 (cont'd)

Elementary Principal Appointments

- Brenda Mann will be the Elementary Principal at Dawn-Euphemia Public School as of January 1, 2007
- Chris Moore will be the Elementary Principal at Tilbury Area Public School as of February 1, 2007.
- Steve Thomas will be the Elementary Principal at Bosanquet Public School as of February 1, 2007.

Elementary Vice-Principal Appointments

- Daphne Zondag will be the Elementary Vice-Principal at McNaughton Avenue Public School as of January 1, 2007.
- Carmen Lemieux will be the Elementary Vice-Principal at Hillcrest/Queen Elizabeth II School in Petrolia as of February 1, 2007.
- Wilma Sonneveld-Wright will be the Elementary Vice-Principal at Tilbury Area Public School as of February 1, 2007.

Secondary Vice-Principal Transfers

- Barbara Goldhawk will be the Secondary Vice-Principal at Chatham-Kent Secondary School as of January 1, 2007.
- Michael McDonald will be the Secondary Vice-Principal at John McGregor Secondary School as of February 1, 2007.

Secondary Vice-Principal Appointment

- Donald Zondag will be the Secondary Vice-Principal at Wallaceburg District Secondary School as of February 1, 2007.
- Bernadette Bruette will be the Secondary Vice-Principal at Tilbury District High School as of February 1, 2007.

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November 28, 2006

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