



News Release

200 Wellington Street, Sarnia, N7T 7L2 (519) 336-1500

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Trustees Approved a Balanced Budget for the 2006/2007 School Year

Trustees approved a balanced budget of \$ 216,706,742 for the 2006/2007 school year.

Total revenues from the province are estimated at \$209M. The budget estimates also include other sources of revenue in the amount of \$4.29M. which is comprised of tuition fees from our Native student population, Visa students and earned interest. Finally there is a one-time draw on reserves in the amount of \$3,397,458 to assist in funding the Board's proposed capital projects and to provide program supports for students through moderating the impact of declining enrolment.

Included in the budget is approximately \$1 million for the Ministry's Primary Class Reduction Plan for junior kindergarten to grade 3. This is the next step in phasing in the 20:1 cap by 2007/2008.

The budget also includes funding for Elementary Teachers School staffing increase by providing funding to increase preparation time to 180 minutes in 2006-07; funding for Secondary Teachers School staffing to further support student success through more individual support and increased opportunities; \$ 6.9 Million for the Good Places to Learn Stage 2 Allocation for carrying out projects to repair school facilities under the ReCAPP asset management project plan (long term financing to be arranged with ongoing provincial grants to support the financing plan); 2% increase in Student transportation funding due to higher fuel prices; and funding to continue the Community Use of Schools program to support and encourage community use of schools facilities.

The Ministry also provided funding to support the labour framework agreement. The salary benchmarks have been increased by 2.5%.

"This is an exciting time in education. We are pleased to be able to present a balanced budget that preserves the quality educational opportunities provided to all of the students in the public schools of Lambton-Kent," commented Vice-Chair Scott McKinlay. "The Board will continue to work with the Ministry of Education implementing the initiatives aimed at improving student achievement."

The budget year runs from September 1, 2006 to August 31, 2007.

Revised School Year Calendar for 2006/2007

Amendments have been made to Ontario Regulation 304 to add two professional activity days to the school year calendar beginning in the 2006-07 school year. The two days are required to be devoted to the provincial education priorities identified by the Ministry of Education. The professional activity days are devoted to the professional development of teachers with respect to improving student outcomes in literacy and numeracy, and improving student success in making the transition from elementary to secondary school, graduating from secondary school and obtaining employment or attending college or university after graduation. The two additional days will fall on November 17, 2006 and April 27, 2007. The previously approved days are October 27, December 1, 2006, February 2, and June 28, 2007.

Board Approves Annual Accessibility Plan

The ***Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2001 (ODA)*** is focused on improving opportunities for people with disabilities and providing for their involvement in the identification, removal and prevention of barriers and full participation in the life of the province. The Act requires each school board to prepare an annual accessibility plan; to consult with people with disabilities in the preparation of this plan; and to make the plan public. Trustees approved the 2006-2007 Plan prepared by The Accessibility Working Group of the Lambton Kent District School Board. The plan describes past measures taken by the Lambton Kent District School Board, and future measures that will be taken by the Board during the 2006/2007 school year to identify, remove and prevent barriers for people with disabilities. The Board is committed to the continual improvement of access to school board facilities, policies, programs, practices and services for students, staff, parents/guardians, volunteers and members of the community with disabilities. Copies of the plan are available upon request.

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For additional information contact:

Scott McKinlay, Vice-Chair (519) 674-2331

Gayle Stucke, Director of Education (519) 336-1500, Ext. 297

Ron Andruchow, Superintendent of Business, (519) 336-1500, Ext. 480

For reference information contact:

Trish Johnston, Executive Assistant and Communications Officer (519) 336-1530, Ext. 230

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