



News Release

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Student Trustees Honoured

The Board honoured the outgoing Student Trustees, Christine Hockin and Alyssa Kelly, for their contributions at the Board table during the 2007/2008 school year. The Student Trustees represented 25,000 students and served as a liaison between the students and the Board of Trustees. They were members of the Student/Board Liaison Committee and provided input on student issues. The Student Trustees for the 2008/2009 school year will be Katherine Highgate from Lambton Central Collegiate & Vocational Institute and Jonathan Hunt from Lambton-Kent Composite School.

Trustees Approved a Balanced Budget for the 2008/2009 School Year

Trustees approved a balanced budget totaling \$224 Million for the 2008/2009 school year. The revenue forecast is based on the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) education funding model, which determines the Board's operating grants and school renewal grants provided by the Ministry of Education. There are four (4) major categories of grants to the GSN funding model, these are: Pupil Foundation Grant, School Foundation Grant, Special Purpose Grants and the Pupil Accommodation Grant.

Total revenues from the province are estimated at \$217.99 M. The budget estimates also include other sources of revenue in the amount of \$4.77 M. which is comprised of fees from our Native student population, Visa students, rental income and earned interest. Finally there is a one-time draw on reserves in the amount of \$1,271,472 to assist in funding the Board's proposed capital projects and to provide program supports for students through moderating the impact of declining enrolment.

The 2008/09 budget has been developed on a projected enrolment of 23,762 students which is about 468 fewer than the current school year. A total teaching complement of 1520 FTE (full time equivalent) teachers has been provided in the budget along with 234 teaching assistants. The overall total staff for the 2008/09 school year will be about 2,321 full time equivalent employees.

There are two capital building projects currently under construction that will be completed and fully funded under this budget. In addition a new elementary school to replace and consolidate the Devine Street and Johnston Memorial Schools in Sarnia has been given a funding allocation by the Ministry of Education and is included in the Board's capital plan forecast. Our capital budget for these projects and including the Good Places to Learn Stage 3 funding (\$6.2M), the school renewal programs, all total \$18.6 Million dollars in new investments.

"The Board is 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 Chair Scott McKinlay. "We will continue to work with the Ministry of Education implementing the initiatives aimed at improving student achievement."

The budget year runs from September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009.

School Administrative Changes Effective September 2008

- Mary Mancini was appointed to the position of Secondary Vice-Principal at Lambton Central Collegiate & Vocational Institute
- Kenneth Kennedy was transferred to the position of Elementary Vice-Principal at Johnston Memorial Public School/ Devine Street Public School
- Janice Morrison was transferred to the position of Elementary Vice-Principal at South Plympton/ Wyoming Public School

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June 24, 2008

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