



News Release

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

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Student Trustees Honoured

The Board honoured outgoing Student Trustees, Katherine Highgate and Jonathan Hunt, for their contributions at the Board table during the 2008/2009 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 2009/2010 school year will be Hilary Lucio from Ridgetown District High School and Cassy McLeay from Sarnia Collegiate Institute & Technical School.

Trustees Approved a Balanced Budget for the 2009/2010 School Year

Trustees approved a balanced budget totaling \$231.7 Million for the 2009/2010 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 \$225.39 M. The budget estimates also include other sources of revenue in the amount of \$4.85 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 \$1,454,000 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 2009/2010 budget has been developed on a projected enrolment of 23,043 students ADE (Average Daily Enrolment) which is about 597 fewer than the prior school year. A total teaching complement of 1500 FTE (Full Time Equivalent) teachers have been provided in the budget along with 242 teaching assistants. The overall total staff for the 2009/2010 school year will be approximately 2,318 FTE employees.

There are four major capital building projects included in the budget that are approved and fully funded by the Ministry of Education. These projects are:

- Consolidation of the existing Devine Street and Johnston Memorial schools into a New Elementary School in the City of Sarnia,
- A new gymnasium addition at Tilbury Public School,
- A new gymnasium addition at Rosedale Public School, Sarnia
- Energy Upgrades and Improvements at various school locations

In total the proposed Capital Buildings program comprised of the above projects and the school renewal work is projected at about \$19 M dollars.

"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 are excited about our capital projects and will continue to work with the Ministry of Education implementing the initiatives aimed at improving student achievement."

The budget year runs from September 1, 2009 to August 31, 2010.

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For additional information contact:

Scott McKinlay Chair (519) 674-2331

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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