



News Release

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Student Trustees Honoured

The Board honoured outgoing Student Trustees, Cassy McLeay and Hilary Lucio, for their contributions at the Board table during the 2009/2010 school year. The Student Trustees represented 24,000 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 2010/2011 school year will be Emily Beacock from Chatham-Kent Secondary School and Mikaela Snooks Lambton Central Collegiate & Vocational Institute

Trustees Approved a Balanced Budget for the 2010/2011 School Year

Trustees approved a balanced budget totaling \$239,209,312 for the 2010/2011 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 \$230.38 M. The budget estimates also include other sources of revenue in the amount of \$5.12 M. which is comprised of fees from our Native student population, Visa students, rental income and earned interest as well as \$1.51 M for the Full Day Early Years Phase 1. Finally there is a one-time draw on reserves in the amount of \$2,200,000 to provide assistance for Board priority student and project supports.

The 2010-11 budget has been developed on a projected enrolment of 22,572 students which is about 519 fewer than the prior school year. A total teaching complement of 1448 FTE teachers has been provided in the budget along with 230 teaching assistants. The overall total staff for the 2010-11 school year will be about 2,317 full time equivalent employees.

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

- A new gymnasium addition & renovations at Tilbury Area Public School,
- A new gymnasium addition & renovations at Rosedale Public School
- Classroom additions (2) at Errol Village Public School
- 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 \$15M 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 Carmen McGregor. "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, 2010 to August 31, 2011.

Trustees Vote on Pupil Accommodation Recommendations

At the October 13, 2009 Board Meeting, Trustees approved the commencement of the Accommodation Review process and the establishment of three Accommodation Review Committees (ARC) covering the Petrolia Family of Schools, Dresden Family of Schools and the Ridgetown Family of Schools. Representatives from the three ARCs presented their reports and recommendations to the Trustees at the April 13, 2010 Board Meeting. Administration's response to the reports submitted by the Petrolia Area of Schools Accommodation Review Committee (ARC), the Dresden Area of Schools Accommodation Review Committee and the Ridgetown Area of Schools Accommodation Review Committee was presented to Trustees at the April 27, 2010 Regular Board Meeting held at Lambton-Kent Composite School in Dresden. At the June 22, 2010 Board Meeting, Trustees voted on the culminating recommendations from the three ARCs.

The Dresden Area of Schools Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) included Dresden Area Central School, Thamesville Area Central School, Dawn-Euphemia Public School, Zone Township Central School and Lambton-Kent Composite School. Administration submitted the following recommendations in response to the ARC's recommendation. Trustees passed the following Motion for the Dresden Area ARC.

"That the Board, at this time, continue to support the viability of all of the schools within the Dresden Area Accommodation Review, including Dresden Area Central School, Thamesville Area Central School, Dawn-Euphemia School, Zone Township Central School and Lambton-Kent Composite School."

The Ridgetown Area of Schools Accommodation Review Committee included Ridgetown District High School, Ridgetown Public School and Ridgeview Moravian Elementary School. Administration submitted the following recommendations in response to the ARC's recommendation. Trustees passed the following Motions for the Ridgetown Area ARC.

"That the Board close Ridgetown Public School in June 2011 and consolidate students with Ridgeview Moravian Elementary School and to re-organize the two remaining schools into a JK-6 school at the current Ridgeview Moravian Elementary School site and a Grade 7 and 8 school within the Ridgetown District High School."

"That the Board commit proceeds from the sale of Ridgetown Public School to the addition of a new gym at the JK-6 school."

The Petrolia Area of Schools Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) included Hillcrest Public School, Queen Elizabeth II Public School, Lambton Centennial Public School and Lambton Central Collegiate Vocational Institute. Trustees passed the following Motions for the Petrolia Area ARC.

"That the Board develop a proposal for an addition on Queen Elizabeth II Public School; and that the Board move the gymnasium project for this school in the major capital priority plan from position #17 to position #1."

"That the Board hold public consultation meetings with the Petrolia community during the fall of 2010 in conjunction with the French Immersion District Review to seek input on the remaining options:

- i) a boundary change to convert Hillcrest Public School to a JK-8 regular program facility and Queen Elizabeth II Public School a dual track JK-8 regular program and French Immersion school*
- ii) a reorganization of program delivery to offer JK-8 French Immersion in a single track model at Hillcrest Public School with Queen Elizabeth II offering regular JK-8 program."*

"That the Board defer a final decision regarding the delivery model for French Immersion and regular programs to be offered at the two Petrolia elementary schools and determination of the number of classrooms required for an addition at Queen Elizabeth II Public School until February 2011."

Full Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program – Extended Day Fees

Plans continue to progress with the 2010/2011 roll-out of the Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program (ELP) at eight schools across the district: Brigden Public School, Colonel Cameron Public School, D.A. Gordon Public School, P.E. McGibbon Public School, Queen Elizabeth II Public School (Sarnia), Victor Lauriston Public School, Wheatley Area Public School, and Zone Township Central School.

The Extended Day Program for Junior Kindergarten and Kindergarten pupils is offered by school boards depending on local demand. The Lambton Kent District School Board offered an extended day program consisting of two hours of care before and/or two hours after school. The fee range, based on Ministry of Education calculation requirements would have been from \$24.08 - \$26.04 for care both before and after school and \$12.04 - \$13.02 for either before or after school. The program would have run on instructional days only not on P.A. Days nor school holidays.

The Lambton Kent District School Board offered the extended day program but based on the lack of parental response to register children in the program, the extended day program will not be offered at any of the school sites under the jurisdiction of the Board for September 2010.

Board Approves Annual Accessibility Plan

The Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) came into effect in 2005. The purpose of this act is two-fold. Firstly, it directs public sector institutions to develop, implement and enforce standards for accessibility related to Customer Service, Transportation, Information and Communication, Built Environments, and Employment. Secondly, it provides for the involvement of persons with disabilities and various community partners in the development of the proposed standards. The target date for reaching this goal is no later than January 1, 2025.

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 2009/2010 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 2010/2011 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.

Secondary Vice-Principal Changes Effective September 2010

- James Keane was transferred to the position of Secondary Vice-Principal at to Sarnia Collegiate Institute and Technical School
- Scott McKelvie was transferred to the position of Secondary Vice-Principal to Lambton Central Collegiate & Vocational Institute
- James Stewart was transferred to the position of Secondary Vice-Principal to Northern Collegiate Institute and Vocational School
- Paul Wiersma was transferred to the position of Secondary Vice-Principal to St. Clair Secondary School
- Scott Watson was appointed to the position of Secondary Vice-Principal at Alexander Mackenzie Secondary School

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June 22, 2010

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