



For Immediate Release, June 28, 2011

2011 to 2012 Budget includes Staff Reductions

At a special public board meeting today, the Board of Trustees passed a budget of \$353 million for 2011-2012. To ensure that classrooms were not severely impacted, the District has planned a \$1.8 million deficit for next year. To reach the budget target, there will be a number of staff reductions throughout the District in 2011-2012. Approximately 97 certificated FTE (Full Time Equivalent) positions and 63 FTE support staff positions will be eliminated. In addition, 24 custodial FTE positions will be also be eliminated.

“This was one of the most challenging budgets for Trustees and many difficult decisions had to be made that resulted in this large reduction in staff for 2011-2012,” remarked Board Chair Debbie Engel. “The staff reductions will take effect at the end of August and there will definitely be an increase in class sizes next school year,” Engel went on to say.

There were many cost pressures in this budget. Although the province has funded the 4.54% increase for teachers’ salaries, the District has incurred additional cost pressures as this funding had to be found out of current revenues. The provincial increase does not pay for salary increases for support staff including Special Needs Teacher Assistants or our other employee groups.

“The elimination of the Enhanced English Learning Grant is a concern as it funded a newcomers program which was crucial for new immigrant families in our schools,” said Superintendent Joan Carr. “In addition, the reduction of \$2.2 million in the AISI (Alberta Initiative for School Improvement) is also a concern,” added Superintendent Carr. “Programs such as Literacy strategies for the 21st Century as well as a High School Completion initiative that increases the number of students completing high school, engage our students by supporting their learning and helps all students succeed,” added Carr.

For more information call:

LORI NAGY

- Manager of Media & Community Relations Services
- 780 441-6189 (office)
- 780 991-6363 (cell)

There were also challenges in areas that did not receive a provincial funding increase. For the second year there was no increase for Plant, Operations and Maintenance but the cost to maintain buildings throughout the District continues to go up.

“We believe that this budget manages our limited resources while continuing to deliver a quality Catholic education to our students,” said Debbie Engel. “But we will continue to advocate for long term sustainable funding that will allow us to plan efficiently for the future,” Engel added.