



EDMONTON  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

2008-09 Budget

June 24, 2008

## Background

Edmonton Catholic Separate School District No. 7 was established under Section 246 of the School Act and is required under Section 147(2) (b) to annually prepare a budget for the following school year.

Each year, the District reviews their budget process and incorporates any changes into a formal document. This review took place in November 2007 and these changes have been incorporated in the **District Budget Process for the Development of the 2008-09 District Budget**. This document is available on the District's web site.

The District budget process is based upon a number of guiding principles for building the District Budget and providing allocations to Schools and Departments.

## Guiding Principles

***Edmonton Catholic Schools' budget and allocations will reflect the gospel virtues of justice and integrity, will reflect the principles outlined by the Budget Review Committee of the Superintendent, will attend to the social teachings of the Catholic Church, and will reflect our district's eight characters of Catholic education and the core values.***

The principles outlined by the Budget Review Committee include:

- ☞ Budget and allocations decisions will respect the dignity of all persons affected by decision making and will attend to the common good of the school district.
- ☞ Budget and allocations decisions will be guided by equitability, according to the demands of the common good.
- ☞ Budget and allocations decisions will be transparent and will assure the full and ongoing participation of all according to the principle of subsidiarity. Subsidiarity holds that persons affected by economic decisions should participate in those decisions.

The final budget of the Edmonton Catholic School District will reflect the following operational guidelines. In doing so, the district budget and allocation process:

- ☞ will be designed to fund schools first;
- ☞ will be designed to meet the goals of the District and Alberta Education;
- ☞ will ensure that the provision of an effective teaching-learning environment for students is the *first priority* for budget allocations;

- ☞ will support the enhancement of our Catholic identity in all aspects of the District's operation;
- ☞ will be created through a consultative process with partners in the District;
- ☞ recognizes that responsibility and accountability for programs, activities and services rests with each District director, department head and school principal;
- ☞ will ensure that school administrators develop priorities and plans for programs and services in consultation with District administration, school staff and parents;
- ☞ will ensure that District administrators develop priorities and plans for programs and services in their respective areas of operation that are congruent with their department's mandate and in alignment with the goals of the District and in keeping within their budget allocations;
- ☞ will ensure that the budget process is transparent, and that the surplus or deficit position of all District departments and school site budgets will be clearly communicated throughout the District at the end of each fiscal year;
- ☞ will ensure fairness and justice in the provision of the necessary financial resources for each school to offer the Program of Studies in a Catholic environment;
- ☞ will encourage innovation in Catholic leadership, organization, learning and teaching, administrative and resource distribution practices; and,
- ☞ will be a balanced budget each year, and will require that all District departments and school sites develop and submit a balanced budget each year; sites and departments will not exceed a seven percent surplus or a three percent deficit.

## **Budget Committee Membership**

The members of the Budget committee are:

### **Board of Trustees**

Marilyn Bergstra, Trustee representative

### **Catholic Education Services**

Joan Carr, Superintendent of Schools, Chair, Budget Committee

Michael Carby, Director, Educational & Administrative Technology Services

Andrew Isbister, Treasurer, Director Financial Services

Dr. Heather Jamieson, Director, Religious Education Services

Doug Aitkenhead, Director, Human Resource Services

Laurie Pelkie, Director, District Educational Services

Ron Chomyc, Director, Facilities Services

Boris Radyo, Director, Educational Planning and Administrative Services

Dr. Brenda Willis, Director, Learning Support Services

Rick Dombrosky, Director, Aboriginal & Alternative & Life Long Learning Services

Norm Schmidt, Manager, Budget Services

### **Principals**

Sheron Jonzon, Elementary

Theresa Antonakis, Elementary

Joe Buysen, Junior High

Dave Andrews, Junior High

Mary Lou Forest, Senior High

Stephen Goss, Senior High

Helen Matsuba, District Principal, School Operations Services

### **Associations/Union Presidents**

Shannon McElroy, ATA

Cheryl Andrews, ECSSA

Mark Weleschuk, AUPE

Devin Wilken, Out of Scope

The budget committee met on eight occasions, each for 3 – 7 hours. The committee reviewed, in detail, its role in budget development, revenues, allocations to schools, District programs, special needs allocations and department budgets for Catholic Education Services.

## **General Budget Comments**

This budget is a preliminary estimate of revenues and expenditures. These estimates have been developed based on a number of assumptions, including:

- estimates of enrolment
- estimates of grant rate increases
- estimates of salary increases

Administration previously brought forward to the Board of Trustees a preliminary budget on April 22, 2008. The Preliminary Budget allowed Administration to complete the District's staffing process in preparation for the 2008-09 school year. The Final Budget reflects increases announced in the Provincial Budget on April 22, 2008 together with the increase in certificated staff costs as announced by Alberta Education.

Administration will also bring forward a revised budget in October 2008 that will reflect refinements to the budget based on actual enrollments and refinements of budgeted revenues and expenditures. In addition, Administration will be providing monthly financial reports throughout the year updating Trustees as to the financial position of the District.

## **Five Priorities Identified by Schools**

At the January General Principals' Budget meeting, principals identified five priorities. These priorities are:

- Increase funding for special needs students, inclusive and in district programs;
- Make provisions to eliminate staffing anomalies; review funding to ensure that adequate funds are available for unique situations;
- Continue support for Division 1 literacy and consider extending support to include levels K to grade 12. Foster sustainability by earmarking funds in elementary and junior high;
- Review the viability of focus programs, including IB. Focus programs should be self sufficient and not result in a need to reduce funds in other areas of a school's budget.
- Concerns relating to funding levels including contingency and equitability funds. Review funding formula to ensure that funding levels support the work in the classroom and curriculum changes. Assess reasons why the surpluses and deficits for some schools regularly fall outside of the District guidelines. Review funding at all levels for equitability and sufficiency.

At the conclusion of the budget process, Budget Committee members agreed that these priorities had been addressed to the extent possible.

## Budget Development

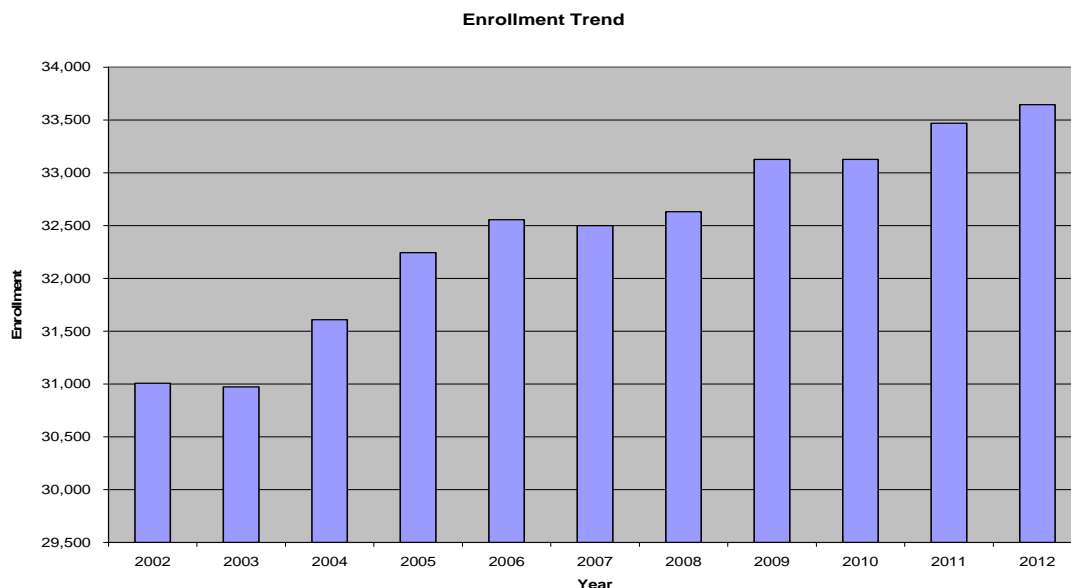
The budget process was broken into five distinct areas:

- ☞ Revenue Determination
- ☞ School Allocations
- ☞ School Budgets
- ☞ Central Services Budgets and Allocations
- ☞ Final Estimate of Revenues and Expenditures

## Revenue Determination

Revenue for Edmonton Catholic Schools is primarily dependent upon our total enrollment. Enrollment information for each school was prepared by Educational Planning and Administrative Services staff for each school. Schools were asked to review these numbers and confirm the number of students attending their school. The enrollment information included: the appropriate grade level of students; the number of mild/moderate and severe needs students in the school; the number of students attending District sponsored programs; the number of students who are home educated; the number of visiting students; and, the number of students who are attending Edmonton Catholic Schools under a tuition agreement with Indian and Northern Affairs Canada. Additional information was collected from high schools in relation to the estimated Credit Enrollment Units used by Alberta Education in funding high school students.

The enrolment for 2008/09 is projected to increase by 132 students to 32,631 students. The following chart outlines general enrollment trends for the District.



The enrollment information received was used, together with Alberta Education information, previous experience and other information provided by schools, to estimate revenues for the District. Alberta Education has increased grants by

4.53% for the 2008-09. This increase is the same as the announced salary increase for teachers in 2008-09. Also impacting this budget, was the Government's decision to eliminate Alberta Health Care Premiums for Albertans. The District currently pays between \$400 and \$900 per staff member for premiums and this amount will be eliminated effective January 1, 2009. Total savings as a result of this change adds approximately \$1,800,000 to this year's budget.

While our budget information indicates that our basic funding comes solely from Alberta Education, it should be noted that Edmonton Catholic Schools has opted out of the Alberta School Foundation Fund and accordingly, approximately \$48,000,000 comes directly from the local ratepayers of Edmonton Catholic Schools. The decision to opt out of the ASFF does not financially impact Edmonton rate payers as the tax mill rate established by the City of Edmonton for Catholic ratepayers, cannot be higher or lower than that rate set for those who do not support Edmonton Catholic Schools. The following table outlines revenue information with comparative information for 2006-07 and 2007-08.

	<b>Final Budget 2008-09</b>	<b>Preliminary Budget 2008-09</b>	<b>October Budget Update 2007-08</b>	<b>Actual 2006-07</b>
<b>Alberta Education</b>				
Block allocation entitlement				
Instruction Block	218,211,058	217,471,652	203,656,215	202,544,847
Support Block	10,168,521	9,727,849	9,714,190	9,848,626
Alberta Initiative for School Improvement	4,319,106	4,131,930	4,079,855	3,961,024
Class Size Funding	11,265,994	10,769,877	10,335,774	10,034,732
Student Health Initiative	7,857,725	7,635,337	7,412,948	-
<b>Total Block Allocation</b>	<b>251,822,404</b>	<b>249,736,645</b>	<b>235,198,982</b>	<b>226,389,229</b>
Plant Operations & Maintenance	25,045,825	24,679,231	23,724,607	23,033,599
IMR Funding	5,833,112	5,400,000	5,400,000	9,427,221
Other - Province of Alberta	570,718	570,718	708,711	-
Federal Government	2,713,480	2,713,480	2,389,714	2,715,323
Instruction Fees	8,500,000	8,500,000	8,500,000	9,452,920
Transportation Fees	4,231,639	4,231,639	3,559,134	3,181,236
Other Sales & Services	4,500,000	4,500,000	4,780,000	5,469,275
Interest on Investments	750,000	750,000	75,000	1,236,718
Gifts & Donations	500,000	500,000	500,000	711,719
Rentals of Facilities	2,418,459	2,418,459	2,313,000	2,217,448
Net School Generated Funds	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,500,000	3,130,408
Gains on Disposals of Capital Assets	-	-	-	451,600
Amortization of Capital Allocations	4,000,000	4,000,000	4,500,000	4,421,201
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>314,385,637</b>	<b>311,500,172</b>	<b>295,149,148</b>	<b>291,837,897</b>

## School Allocations

In 2007-08, elementary and junior high schools funding was changed to an allocation model based on the District's staffing guideline with additional operational dollars funded per student. Senior high schools continued to be funded by CEU's (this amount includes the certificated staffing, classified staffing and operational dollars for the school).

Allocations for 2008-09 have been determined as follows:

Grade level	Funding per class	Class Size Final Budget	Class Size Preliminary Budget	Total Operational \$'s per student
Kindergarten	\$49,042	12 – 24	12 – 24	\$209.00
Grades 1 – 3	\$87,575	18	18	\$352.91
Grades 4 – 6	\$87,575	26.5	27	\$352.91
Grades 7 – 9	\$87,575	27	27.5	\$350.18

The preliminary budget for 2008-09 saw an increase in the average targets for elementary classes and junior high classes. At the final meeting of the Budget Committee there was agreement to decrease the class size targets for these two levels.

Schools also receive an allocation for additional certificated classroom support of 1.63 FTE for schools plus 0.01 FTE for all enrollment in excess of 150 students. Schools with an enrollment of less than 150 students receive, in addition to other allocations, a basic allocation of \$10,453. Fresh Start schools also receive a basic allocation of \$58,249 – the amount received by the District for each outreach school operated by the District. An allocation is also made to schools for classified (support staff) based on the makeup of the school.

High schools receive funding of \$128.57 per CEU plus a differentiated funding amount of up to \$4.33 per CEU. Differentiated funding recognizes that not all programs within a school are the same. Some courses and programs are more costly to operate because of increased staffing cost, lower number of CEUs generated and the higher cost of consumables. Differentiated CEU funding to Archbishop Oscar Romero was changed to Level D status to reflect the smallness of the school. Each High School will also receive an allocation of \$50,000 per school to assist in the replacement of 15 passenger vans.

A summary of allocations to schools is as follows:

Basic School Allocation	574,991
Kindergarten (Including Operational Dollars)	7,793,047
Grades 1 - 3 Classroom Staff	34,650,508
Grades 4 - 6 Classroom Staff	22,928,126
Grades 7 - 9 Classroom Staff	22,242,443
Grades 1 - 9 Additional Classroom Support - Certified Staff	19,699,996
Grades 10 - 12 Basic CEU Allocation	34,730,893
Grades 10 - 12 Differentiated CEU support	578,579
Grades 1 - 9 Classified Staff Allocation	7,501,750
Grades 1 - 6 Operational Funds	4,073,070
Grades 1 - 6 Operational Funds - Early Literacy	773,300
Grades 7 - 9 Operational Funds	2,315,250
<b>Total Allocations to Schools</b>	<b>157,861,953</b>

## School Budgets

Using the school allocation workbook, principals on the Budget Committee were provided with estimated allocations for 2008-09. The principals worked through the budget workbooks and determined that the allocations provided would be sufficient to meet the staffing and operational needs of schools. These workbooks also contain worksheets, allowing the development of school budgets, including staffing (both Certificated and Classified) and operational expenditures. These workbooks will allow schools, School Operations Services and Financial Services to review school budgets, determine areas of concern and develop solutions. Following final determination of the school allocations, workbooks were distributed to all schools for completion.

Summaries of allocations to schools are included at this time, as well as preliminary estimates of expenses; however we will not finalize these amounts until October 2008, as all expenditures are based upon actual enrollments at September 30, 2008. Individual school expenditures will be provided to the Board with the Budget Update in October 2008.

## Central Services Budgets and Allocations

Each of the Central Service's departments was requested to prepare and submit an operational budget. These budgets included existing programs as well as proposed additional programs.

Following determination of the school allocations, the District Budget Committee reviewed these budgets in detail and appropriate allocations were recommended to support their approved programs.

The recommended allocations are:

	<b>2008/09 Final Budget</b>	<b>2008/09 Preliminary Budget</b>
Learning Support Services	3,584,317	4,256,693
Life Long Learning	2,305,266	2,305,266
Religious Education Services	1,010,110	1,016,100
Educational & Administrative Technology Services	4,038,155	3,791,480
Educational Planning & Administrative Services - Other	1,686,999	1,642,749
Human Resource Services	8,960,711	8,629,004
Financial Services	3,820,295	3,783,859
Superintendent's Services	1,754,767	1,719,767
District Educational Services	1,363,748	1,260,950
Aboriginal Learning Services	1,359,800	1,363,500
Amortization of Capital Assets	4,000,000	4,000,000
Board Governance	1,347,722	1,347,722
	35,231,890	35,117,090
Educational Planning & Administrative Services - Transportation	14,567,409	13,588,553
Facility Services	33,096,396	31,813,080
Total	82,895,695	80,518,723

The following provides an explanation of the Services provided by each of the departments.

#### Learning Support Services

Learning Support Services is comprised of a number of responsibilities. These responsibilities include: consultant services, supervision and administration of mild/moderate and severe needs programs, placement of students in out of district programs, administration of French immersion and international language programs, AISI programs, ECS program unit funding, early literacy, English as a second language, International Education, metro school athletics, Learning Materials Resource Centre and ECS mild/moderate programming.

#### Life Long Learning

Life Long Learning provides administration and direction to programs offered through District Outreach schools as well as continuing and adult education. This allocation reflects funding received primarily from the Federal Government in relation to adult education.

#### Religious Education Services

Religious Services main focus is providing consultant services to schools. In addition, the department funds and assists the Faith Development Day and the Opening Mass as well as supervising Newman Bursaries and the Ambassadors of Hope program to schools.

#### Educational & Administrative Technology Services

Educational & Technology Services (EATS) provides support to schools and Catholic Education Services in the technology area. In addition, EATS provides contract assistance to Alberta Education through the administration of Edulink, assists schools in curricular integration and staff enhancement.

Both the Edulink project and site based technology services are on a cost recovery basis.

#### Educational Planning & Administrative Services

Educational Planning & Administrative Services (EPAS) provides a variety of services to schools and Catholic Education Services. The majority of costs associated with this department relate to Transportation Services (\$14,567,409). Other areas include planning, survey and measurement, FOIP and student records.

In addition, EPAS is supervising the costs associated with the continued implementation of Project F.I.R.S.T. focus school programs.

#### Human Resource Services

Human Resource Services is responsible for all areas related to Human Resource Services. These include employee relations, rehabilitative care, compensation/performance, staffing, development & training, new staff orientation, payroll, staff recognition, staff integration, teacher assistance program, employee and family assistance program and supervision of maternity leaves and substitute services.

#### Financial Services

Financial Services is responsible for all accounting functions except payroll, the preparation of the annual budget and audited financial statements. In addition Financial Services supervises net financing costs (debenture debt and associated interest), the costs associated with the parking lot at St. Anthony, purchasing services, administration of costs associated with warehouse delivery, liability insurance for the District, and costs associated with the operation of Catholic Education Services.

#### Superintendent's Services

Superintendent's Services include the costs associated with the operation of the Superintendent's office. As well, Community Relations Services and Legal Counsel are part of Superintendent's Services.

#### District Educational Services

District Educational Services is comprised of Leadership Services and School Operation Services. Leadership Services assists in the identification, development and placement of principal and assistant principal candidates and ensures the long-term school leadership of the District. School Operations Services includes the costs of the two District Principals and related support services to school-based administrators and parents. One new District principal position will be added for 2008-09 year.

#### Aboriginal Learning Services

Aboriginal Learning Services provides consulting services for support of First Nation, Métis and Inuit education. Aboriginal Learning Services continues to work with schools to ensure that these funds and related services have direct impact on First Nation, Métis and Inuit students in schools.

### Facility Services

Facility Services provides all custodial, maintenance and related services (Infrastructure Maintenance & Renewal Program (IMR), utilities) for the district. In addition, Facility Services provides printing services to the District on a cost recovery basis.

### Amortization of Capital Assets

Amortization of Capital Assets is a non-cash expense of the District. This amortization represents the depreciation of Capital Assets (including buildings and equipment) according to regulations established by Alberta Education. This expense is offset by amortization of capital allocations.

### Board Governance

Board Governance includes all costs associated with the operation of the Board of Trustees including Corporate Secretary, trustee remuneration, costs for municipal elections and association fees (ASBA and ACSTA) as well as Internal Audit Services. Costs have increased slightly, primarily due to the increase of association fees and election expenses.

## Other Allocations

In addition to school allocations and allocations to departments, a number of other allocations are made. These allocations are:

	2008/09 Final Budget	2008/09 Preliminary Budget
Daily Physical Activity	82,425	82,125
High Needs School Grants	200,000	200,000
Instructional Material Fees	8,500,000	8,500,000
Net School Generated Funds	3,500,000	3,500,000
Other Department School Sales	4,500,000	4,500,000
Donations	500,000	500,000
AISI	4,319,106	4,131,930
Federal French Language	408,214	408,214
Severely Disable - Inclusive	11,382,674	11,555,340
ESL	2,980,825	2,966,189
FNMI School Grant	1,526,275	1,512,475
LRC Grant	362,355	350,832
ECS Mild Moderate	723,900	721,500
ECS Full Day Kindergarten	1,434,553	1,447,965
ECS Program Unit	8,439,273	8,439,273
Home Education Students	29,925	29,820
District Programs	16,501,314	16,654,533
Junior/Senior High Athletic Transportation	550,000	-
Special Education Contingency Funds	1,246,040	1,141,040
<b>Total</b>	<b>67,186,879</b>	<b>66,641,236</b>

## Reconciliation of Allocations

In addition to the allocations to schools and departments, certain funds have been allocated “off the top”. These include:

- Student Health Initiative – The District acts as the “Banker” for ESHIP. Accordingly funds received are flowed through directly to the student health initiative.
- Deficit Recovery Plan – The District is recovering a previously identified accumulated deficit over a five year period. This amount represents the third of five payments of this deficit.
- SOS Equitability – This amount represents allocations made from the SOS equitability fund in 2007-08.
- Three School Recovery Plan – Three schools (St. Nicholas, St. Mark and St. Joseph) had long standing accumulated deficits. The Budget Committee looked at each of these deficits and the circumstances leading to the deficits. The Committee determined the deficits were due to insufficient allocations in previous years and the ability of the schools to recover the deficits in future years. Accordingly, the Committee has

recommended that the total of these deficits as of August 31, 2006 (\$1,336,841) be placed in the unallocated accumulated deficit and be recovered over the next 4 years. In addition, a further allocation of \$100,00 is being recommended in this budget to St. Mark School to address continuing concerns from 2006-07. The second of four payments of \$367,544 is being made.

The following table reconciles allocations to revenues:

	<b>Final Budget</b>	<b>Preliminary Budget</b>
Allocations to Schools	157,861,953	158,522,583
Allocations to Departments	82,898,295	80,518,723
Other Allocations	67,186,879	66,641,236
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	307,947,127	305,682,542
Student Health Initiative	7,857,725	7,635,337
Deficit Recovery Plan (Year 2 of 5)	1,200,000	1,200,000
2007-08 SOS Equitability	235,253	235,253
Three School Recovery Plan (Year 1 of 4)	367,544	367,544
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	317,607,649	315,120,676
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## Final Estimate of Revenues and Expenditures

The information developed by schools and Catholic Education Services is the basis for the development of the consolidated budget for the District. This budget can be reviewed in two manners, by program and by object. Each method is provided in the following tables.

Both methods indicate that revenues equal expenditures. An update of revenues and expenditures will be provided to Trustees in the October 2008 Budget Update. The methods appear on the following page.

<b>Revenues &amp; Expenditures by Program</b>	Catholic Education		Total
	Schools	Services	
Total Revenues			314,385,637
<u>Expenditures</u>			
Early Childhood Services	18,390,773		18,390,773
Instruction Grades 1-12	206,658,059	22,605,230	229,263,289
Operation & Maintenance of Schools		33,137,540	33,137,540
Transportation		14,642,445	14,642,445
Board & System Administration (see note)		9,806,814	9,806,814
External Services		10,563,991	10,563,991
	<u>225,048,832</u>	<u>90,756,020</u>	<u>315,804,852</u>
Allocation to deficit recovery plan and adjustments to 2005-06 and 2006-07 allocations			<u>1,802,797</u>
Total Expenditures and Allocations to Deficit			<u>317,607,649</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for Year			(3,222,012)
Available surplus from 2007-08			<u>3,222,012</u>
Surplus (Deficit) for year after applying equity from 2007-08			<u><u>-</u></u>
<p>Note - Board &amp; System Administration Costs represent 3.1% of total Budget. Therefore 96.9% of every dollar goes directly towards students and student support. Alberta Education policy indicates the Board may spend up to 4.00% on Board and System Administration.</p> <p>Board &amp; System Administration includes the cost of the Board of Trustees and the administration and support not directly connected with the classroom.</p> <p>Administration expects to have an operational surplus in 2007-08 of \$3,122,012 due to overestimating fixed staff costs for the 2007-08 school year. These funds can be used to reduce the deficit of \$3,222,012. In addition, administration will be transferring \$100,00 from Superintendent's Council Contingency to further reduce the budget shortfall.</p>			

Revenues & Expenditure by Object	Catholic Education		Total
	Schools	Services	
Total Revenues			314,385,637
Expenditures			
Certificated Salaries & Benefits	157,976,724	10,064,812	168,041,536
Classified Salaries & Benefits	34,417,894	30,354,875	64,772,769
Total Salaries & Benefits	192,394,618	40,419,687	232,814,305
Services Contracts Supplies	32,654,215	50,336,332	82,990,547
Total Expenditures	225,048,833	90,756,019	315,804,852
Allocation to deficit recovery plan and adjustments to 2005-06 and 2006-07 allocations			1,802,797
Total Expenditures and Allocations to Deficit			317,607,649
Surplus (Deficit) for Year			(3,222,012)
Available Surplus from 2007-08			3,222,012
Surplus (Deficit) for year after applying equity from 2007-08			-

## Accumulated Unallocated Deficit

The following chart outlines the impact of this budget on the District's Accumulated Unallocated Deficit.

Unallocated Deficit at August 31, 2007		6,366,644
<b>2007-08 Allocations</b>		
Operational Deficit Allocation 2007-08 (2nd payment)	1,200,000	
2005-06 Administered Accounts Adjustment	849,954	
2006-07 SOS Equitability Fund	295,799	
Three School Deficit Recovery Plan (1st Payment)	334,210	2,679,963
Estimated Balance at August 31, 2008		3,686,681
<b>2008-09 Allocations</b>		
Operational Deficit Allocation 2008-09 (3rd payment)	1,200,000	
2006-07 SOS Equitability Fund	235,253	
Three School Deficit Recovery Plan (1st Payment)	367,544	1,802,797
Estimated Unallocated Deficit as at August 31, 2009		1,883,884

## New Directions

- ⇒ Proposed changes to supports for inclusive Severe Needs children. These changes would increase support for level 1, 2, 3 and 4 students. These changes allowed \$650,958 to be added back into school budgets for severe needs students. This change will reduce the number of requests to the Severe Needs Equity Fund and as a result this fund has been reduced to \$575,000 from \$800,000.
- ⇒ Provide full day kindergarten programs for 20 schools with full time teachers being funded “off the top”. 29 programs are currently in place in 17 schools and three additional programs in three schools have been identified. The cost of this is forecasted to be \$1,434,553. Currently these programs are funded through Kindergarten mild/ moderate dollars. These funds will now be fully available to schools. A total of \$721,500 is now available to address the needs of kindergarten mild/moderate children.
- ⇒ Increase the early literacy funding for elementary students to \$55 per student from the current \$50 per student, an increase of 10%.
- ⇒ An additional .3 FTE certificated staff has been added to all EE1 programs.
- ⇒ FNMI dollars to schools have been increased from \$553 to \$585 per student an increase of 5.8%.
- ⇒ The three FSLW (Family School Liaison Worker) staff at the junior high level were retained for the code 42s and 44s.
- ⇒ Junior High Athletics Contingency for Travel has been established at \$100,000.
- ⇒ A fund of \$450,000 has been established to assist senior high schools with the replacement of 15 passenger vans. A number of these vans will be transferred to Facilities Services to be utilized by tradesmen.
- ⇒ Principals will have increased support with the addition of a third School Operations Principal.
- ⇒ Threat Management budget was established to assist schools in managing threats.
- ⇒ Outdoor Pursuits will be supported and thus ensuring the continuity of this partnership - \$104,500.
- ⇒ \$87,287 to assist in the professional development of first year teachers in a project coordinated with the ECSD local of the ATA.
- ⇒ \$200,000 to assist in the establishment of a back-up data centre.
- ⇒ \$100,000 from Superintendent’s Council contingency will be used to address budget shortfalls.
- ⇒ Alberta Education has mandated and provided the formula for class sizes. The targets established by Alberta Education are district averages (not a maximum class size). District averages in grades 4 – 9 are below the

averages established by Alberta Education resulting in the District exceeding the cost of classroom staffing by \$3,233,488. The class sizes for 2008-09 are as follows:

- primary – remain at 18.0
- elementary – increase from 26.0 to 26.5 (preliminary budget had established target at 27.0)
- junior high – increase from 27.0 to 27.25 (preliminary budget had established target at 27.5)

⇒ Funding for Language/IB/Focus Programs

The District has identified these programs as priorities for support and development. The following chart outlines these allocations:

Program Development	
Jean Forest Academy (High School)	\$35,000
Pre Advanced Placement	12,000
St. Joseph Career Counseling & Mentorship	44,250
Advertising	59,000
Total	\$150,250
Program Support	
Spanish Bilingual	\$45,600
Cree Bilingual	20,600
Italian	20,600
International Baccalaureate	515,000
Pre Advanced Placement	18,000
Consultant Program Support	88,500
Total	\$708,300
Staff Costs	\$32,000
Total Program Development & Support	\$890,550

IB includes the addition of a new Primary Years Programme at St. Boniface School - \$31,000.

⇒ Department Changes

EATS

- 1.5 FTE to support integration of technology to schools
- 1.0 FTE core infrastructure support

LSS

- 1.0 FTE CTS consultant continued
- 0.3 FTE secondary mathematics consultant

- 0.5 FTE International Ed Principal – no cost to District

#### EPAS

- 1.0 FTE consultant focus programs

#### Financial Services

- 1.0 FTE Laborer – Warehouse Services

#### Human Resources

- 0.5 FTE Employee Health Services

## Budget Gaps

Administration is presenting a balanced budget following the allocation of commitments to the deficit recovery plan of \$1,802,787.

We were very pleased that basic grants were increased by Alberta Education by 4.53%. This increase will assist the District in meeting its salary commitments over the next year while continuing to have sufficient resources to meet the needs of most children.

A number of areas continue to be of a serious concern. With additional funding, programs and projects that would benefit our students could be implemented or expanded. Program/department reductions totaled \$2,500,000. We have shared and will continue to share these concerns with Alberta Education. We would like to highlight a number of these issues.

1. The shortfall in funding for special needs students continues to be a major concern, especially in light of Alberta Education's policy that an inclusive setting should be the first choice for these students. While we fully support inclusive education, we cannot meet the needs of these children without the necessary supports. We acknowledge that additional funding has been made for severe needs students; however the profile established by Alberta Education totals 907 students, while the District serves approximately 1050 students. This difference in funding for 143 students equates to a shortfall in excess of \$2,250,000. The following recommendations have been made to Alberta Education:
  - a. Code 47 (severe speech and language kindergarten) for funding purposes be extended to the end of grade two.
  - b. Program Unit Funding for students with severe disabilities be extended to the end of grade two to allow for continuous support throughout the early learning years.
  - c. Severe disability funding for students in grades 3 – 12 be based on education needs with guidelines for additional support claimed.
  - d. Earmarked funding for students with moderate disabilities be established for supports beyond the basic grant.
  - e. Earmarked funding for students with mild disabilities be established for K – 12 students and be in addition to the basic funding grant.

- f. Earmarked funding for gifted/talented students be established for K – 12 students and be in addition to the basic funding grant.
  - g. Differentiated levels of funding for ESL students based on level of English proficiency be established.
  - h. Education dollars continue to be spent on Severe Needs students to address medical and mental health needs of these students. The Government of Alberta needs to direct Health Authorities to contribute to the medical and mental health related expenses of these students.
2. While Alberta Education/Alberta Infrastructure continues to fund the basic operational costs for operation and maintenance of facilities, the funding for IMR has been reduced from \$12,000,000 in 2006-07 to \$5,833,000. Based on various reports and studies and an estimate of 2% of cost of facilities, an amount of \$12,000,000 is a more appropriate amount of funding to address the needs of the District. The resulting shortfall in funding equals \$6,167,000, a reduction of 51% from 2006-07.
3. Transportation costs continue to increase, primarily due to the increase in salaries provided to bus drivers and the costs associated with operating buses (fuel, maintenance and replacement costs of buses). These increases in costs have required the District to implement multiple route bussing and reduce levels of service throughout the District as well as increase fees charged to users.
4. The implementation of new mandated curriculum results in costs for both resources and staff development that exceed basic funding levels. Given the type and amount of new curricula proposed over the next ten years, significant costs to implement these will need to be addressed by the District and funded appropriately by the Government. We have estimated the implementation costs for 2008-09 to be \$1,500,000.