EDMONTON
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

News Release

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Balanced Budget Approved by Board of Trustees

The Edmonton Catholic School District will work with a balanced budget of just over $235 million in 2004/05 following approval tonight by the Board of Trustees.

'I am extremely pleased that we have approved another balanced budget,' said Charlie Koester, Board of Trustees Chairperson, but our funding pressures continue in a number of areas.'

An area of continued concern is funding for special needs students. 'While the Government has given additional funding for severe needs students, we continue to need additional dollars for kindergarten students with severe speech and language difficulties as well as an extension of funding for these students to the end of Grade 2 for severe needs students which would allow for continuous support in the early learning years,' Charlie Koester went on to say.

'In addition,' said Koester, our dollars are extremely tight due to the change last year in the funding formula by Alberta Infrastructure for the Plant Operations and Maintenance budget. We continue to work with Alberta Infrastructure on this issue.'

Class sizes will remain status quo for the 2004/2005 school year and should reflect the following district guidelines:

- Grades 1-3 — average of 24 students
- Grades 4-6 — average of 27.5 students
- Grades 7-9 — average of 27.5 students
- Grades 10-12 — average of 28.5 students

The number of teachers in the Edmonton Catholic District is projected to remain the same for the 2004/05 school year. At the moment, 72 teachers in the district will retire at the end of June. Enrolment numbers at the end of September will determine if additional teachers will be hired for the 2004/2005 school year.

'I am continually impressed with the incredible work of all our staff in schools throughout the district,' said Dr. Dale Ripley, Superintendent for Edmonton Catholic Schools. 'On a daily basis our staff inspire students to achieve academically and grow spiritually and they do this within the resources they have,' Ripley went on to say.

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