



EDMONTON  
CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

For immediate release,  
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## News Release

### **Board of Trustees Approves Balanced Budget for 2006-07**

The Board of Trustees approved a balanced budget for 2006 – 2007 at their public board meeting tonight. The \$273 million dollar budget takes effect on September 1<sup>st</sup>, 2006 until August 31, 2007.

“The budget process was extremely challenging this year,” said Debbie Cavaliere, Board Chairperson. “There are a number of areas that are under-funded by the provincial government,” Cavaliere went on to say.

With only a 2% increase in funding for Transportation will mean that parents will need to make up an \$800,000 shortfall in Transportation costs with a \$5.00 monthly increase in bus passes this September.

In addition, the 3% increase to the Basic Education Grant is not meeting the increased costs of educating today’s child. A shortfall of \$1.5 million for Severe Special Needs students has been taken from funding for Kindergarten to Grade 12 students.

In order to continue supporting ‘at-risk’ students by offering the Extended Experiences (full-day) Kindergarten, the district will finance these programs with funds normally used for Kindergarten through Grade 12 students. This means that schools will receive about \$23 less per student for each student in Kindergarten to Grade 12.

“The Board of Trustees is appealing to Alberta Education to provide the additional **\$1.6 million** essential to serve the needs of students in the Edmonton Catholic School District in 2006-07,” said Debbie Cavaliere.

“I am confident that the choices made in developing this balanced budget ensure that all students in our school district will continue receiving an excellent faith-based education,” said Superintendent, Joan Carr.

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