



*For release: June 18, 2019*

## **District Budget Approved for 2019/20**

The Board of Trustees approved a District Budget for 2019/20 forecasting revenues of \$526.2 million and expenditures of \$527.8 million resulting in a \$1.6 million operating deficit. District Accumulated Surplus funds were used to achieve an overall balanced budget of \$527.8 million. A total of 78% of this budget goes to supporting students in the classroom.

“This year’s budget was very difficult with funding challenges,” said Laura Thibert, Board Chair. “The budget was developed with the assumption that the provincial government will no longer provide dollars for the Classroom Improvement Fund and this will definitely impact our students,” added Thibert.

### **Without CIF Funding**

Without CIF, we have reduced the funding to schools for students with severe and/or complex needs:

- For the 2019-20 school year we are allocating \$27.3 million to support inclusive needs, creating a 7% shortage in funding. For the 2018-19 school year we allocated overall \$29.2 million to schools to support inclusive needs. This shortfall is having a significant impact on supports to our schools as we prepare for the upcoming year.

“We will continue to advocate to the provincial government for CIF funding to make sure the needs of all students with severe and complex needs are met,” said Laura Thibert, Board Chair.

### **Transportation**

Bus pass fees will increase by 5% but bus fees will not be charged for students attending their designated school if the distance is 2.4 km or more. We are projecting that the provincial government will continue to provide approximately \$2.7 million in funding to offset the cost of lost bus pass revenue for those students living 2.4 km or more from their designated school.

Additional savings of \$485,000 will be realized next school year due to the 5% increase in bus pass costs, only four schools that have Thursday Kindergarten classes compared to five-day programming for all schools and reduced curb service costs by routing in house vs bus carrier.

The District continues to focus on finding efficiencies and regulating costs. In 2019/20 administration costs remain small and efficient at 2.9% of total annual expenses.