



## Balanced Interim Operating Budget for 2015/16

Late today at the Board of Trustees public meeting, the Board approved a balanced interim District Operating Budget of \$459 million for 2015/16 and over 80% is directed to students in the classroom. The interim Budget also includes funding for the teacher salary costs of 2% as well as a lump sum payment of 1% which is due in November.

“The interim Budget has been prepared with the assumption that funding for new enrolments will be restored for the 2015/16 school year,” said Debbie Engel, Board Chair. “We will continue to advocate for funding for our most vulnerable students,” added Engel.

Earlier this spring, the former government’s 2015/16 provincial budget decreased funding for **First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) students (3.1%), English Language Learners (ELL) (3.1%) and students with special educational needs (1.9%)**. Reductions in funding will be devastating for our vulnerable students who need additional supports.

The 2015/16 interim District Budget includes support for High School completion. In order to maintain the success our District has achieved in High School completion rates (81.2% is our current 3-year rate), the interim Budget for 2015/16 includes \$411,000 for the continued High School Grad Coach program and an additional \$250,000 for First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) Grad Facilitators.

Our District continues to support Full Day Kindergarten and has dedicated \$1.3 million from next year’s budget to support 43 programs at 24 of our schools.

“We know that early learning and early intervention is essential to a student’s success and feel it is important to provide this support from our District Budget even though Full Day Kindergarten is not funded provincially,” said Superintendent Joan Carr.

The 2015/16 balanced interim District Operating Budget will now be sent to the Education Minister and revised, if necessary, after the provincial budget is released in the fall.

or more information call:

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