

# NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

April 9, 2009

School District No. 22 (Vernon)

## 2009-2010 Operating Budget Recommendations

The Board of Trustees has received many recommendations from the community and the internal advisory committee on how to address the funding shortfall and balance the budget for the 2009-2010 school year.

The funding announcement from the Ministry of Education will not allow the school district to continue the allocations of resources for next year as it has been able to do in past years. The 2008-2009 school year was able to maintain the level of programming and funding as 2007-2008 due to the trustees approving the use of all the funding reserves. As a result for the 2009-2010 school year there are no reserve funds left to draw from in order to balance the budget and maintain the status quo of programs and services.

Therefore in order to achieve a balanced budget, as per the School Act, there will be reduced allocations and eliminations of services and resources. In addition to balancing the budget, the school district must position its spending to support future years of declining enrollment projected to be a further 400 students for the 2010 to 2014 period. The 2009-2010 is forecast to be down 205 students from September 2008. These proposed recommendations do not provide for any new initiatives beyond what is currently in place or completion of any previous initiatives.

The Board of Education thanks the many people who attended the various community meetings held, who took the time to advise and provide feedback to the Board, and the work of the school district administration and the staff committee for their advice in this very trying time.

Trustees are interested in your comments and suggestions. You may direct your feedback for Trustees by contacting the Secretary-Treasurer's office or you may wish to make a presentation to Trustees at the April 21 board meeting; if so please contact the Secretary-Treasurer's office.

An outline of the recommendations will be posted on the School District Website:  
[www.sd22.bc.ca](http://www.sd22.bc.ca)

Trustees will consider the budget recommendations at a special meeting on April 28 at 5:00 pm at the Board Office.

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In order to meet the school district's requirement for a balanced budget for 2009-2010 school year the following recommendations are summarized below.

### 1. General School System

- a. Spring break to be extended by an additional week.
- b. International student program surplus to be targeted to school district operations.
- c. Savings of utility costs across the system through reductions in the use of empty spaces.
- d. All day alternating kindergarten programs will reduce transportation service requirements.

Total Savings                      \$ 400,000

### 2. School Based and Educational Services

- a. Reduction in teacher allocations due to enrolment decline.
- b. Across the school system reductions in teacher allocations in various programs.
- c. Across the board reductions by 13% for allocation services and supplies.
- d. General reduction to the budget allocation to special education.
- e. Deferment of the evergreen plan to refresh computer technology.
- f. Reduction in curriculum support.

Total Savings                      \$1,450,000

### 3. Operations Departments

- a. Across the board reductions to all departments.
- b. Reduction of specialized bus runs for common timetable, early dismissal days, and extended day programs.

Total Savings                      \$ 280,000

### 4. Trustees, Management and Board Office

- a. Trustee budget reduced by 13%.
- b. Savings from the services, supplies, and staffing.
- c. Reduction of administration time to secondary schools and elementary schools.

Total Savings                      \$ 570,000

Total Proposed Budget Reductions    \$2,700,000

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