



B.2 Director's Report to the Board

Date: 2024 06 11

Subject: **APPROVAL OF THE 2024-2025 BUDGET**

2.1.0 Background & Information

2.1.1 The Minister of Education announced the 2024-25 Core Education Funding (Core Ed) on 2024 04 26 and released Memorandum 2024: B05 containing summary budget information, which was accompanied by Ministry Projections of School Board Funding. School Boards also received detailed information related to some funding in addition to Core Ed, formerly called Priorities and Partnership Funds (PPF) which is now termed Responsive Education Programs (REP). The Ministry financial website for grant calculation was accessible to Board financial staff on 2024 04 26.

2.1.2 The Board recognizes the Province of Ontario's goal of a balanced budget and operating within a fiscally responsible environment. The Ministry has advised school boards to be diligent in managing costs during this period of time. The budget includes the continuation of:

- Commitments to supports for Instructional Leadership and the Board's Strategic Priorities (Well Being, Achievement, Equity)
- Supports for Special Education and Mental Health Programming
- Capital Improvements in Schools and upgrade of shop equipment
- English language learners supports
- Elementary student success/ learning resources
- Summer Learning Programs

2.1.3 The following new enhancements are included in 2024-25 through a combination of reallocations of existing budgets and new Ministry funding due to a very positive increased enrolment projection for 2024-25:

- Equity and well-being supports
- Indigenous Graduation Coach resources and technology
- Enhancements to and the promotion of Trades programs
- Program expansion – specialty and academic recovery programs
- Targeted support for students
- Special Education classes, Counsellor resources and re-engagement Coaches
- Upgrades to servers, devices and cybersecurity software
- Food Sustainability & Agriculture Supports

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Subject: **APPROVAL OF THE 2024-2025 BUDGET CONT'D**

2.1.0 Background & Information (cont'd)

- 2.1.4** Senior Board Administration recognizes the need for careful management of public expenditures. Therefore, additional requests have been kept to a minimum for 2024-25 or dealt with through reallocations of budget resources. Staff are now awaiting additional special project funding announcements and September 2024 enrolment figures. This may result in additional enhancements for 2024-25.
- 2.1.5** The government has facilitated a Provincial process with a goal of establishing a framework for Negotiating Collective Agreements for all employee groups.
- 2.1.6** Projections for increased elementary and secondary enrolment have been reflected in funding which correspond to the staff complements and have been reflected in this budget.
- 2.1.7** Administrative Council began meeting in February to discuss budget planning for the forthcoming year.
- 2.1.8** The budget process was approved by trustees at their 2024 02 27 Board meeting.
- 2.1.9** The Operations and Budget Committee met on 2024 06 04 for a budget review that encompassed the Ministry grant projections, current status of budget and expected budget strategies/results. Also discussed were Administrative Council's proposed actions or alternatives and the Committee approved a final version to present to the Board.

2.2.0 Budget Process

- 2.2.1** The Associate Director of Corporate Services & Operations presented the 2024-25 budget process and strategies to the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) on 2024 05 28.
- 2.2.2** Accumulated Surplus projected balances total \$27,027,078 (See Attachment B.2 #7) of which \$8,675,139 is restricted to general capital, school renewal projects and capital projects. The Board has set aside \$1,310,279 in retirement gratuities in respect of past labour contract commitments to offset the amount needed to cover the future liability. The working fund reserve for 2024-25 is estimated at \$17,041,660 (including budget carryover).

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2.2.0 Budget Process (Cont'd)

2.2.3 Included in the budget recommended for trustees' consideration are the following:

- a) A total revenue and expenditure budget of \$207,869,377.
- b) An in-year deficit of \$(298,082) balanced through use of accumulated surplus.
- c) The special education exhibit indicates a \$229,706 shortfall in funding (see Attachment B.2 #8).

2.2.4 The budget includes special program (REP's) expenditures of \$4,472,685 with related funding.

2.2.5 Attachments B.2 #1 and #2 provide graphs of revenue sources and classifications of expenditures.

2.2.6 Attachment B.2 #3, #4 and #5 show a summary of new and continued programs or services.

2.2.7 Attachment B.2 #7 shows an analysis and projection of the Accumulated Surplus Fund balances to August 31, 2025 with the approval of the recommended budget.

2.2.8 Attachment B.2 #8 summarizes the costs attributable to Special Education services provided by the Board. Ministry Core Education Funding Guidelines require boards to ensure that all funding for Special Education is directed to Special Education needs and to be used only for future spending in Special Education if revenue is greater than expenditures in any given fiscal year.

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2.3.0 Recommendation

2.3.1 It is recommended that the Board approve a total budget for expenditures and revenue, including transfers to and from reserves, for the 2024-25 budget year in the amount of \$207,869,377 as described in the Director's Report to the Board of 2024 06 11.

2.4.0 Proposed Resolution

2.4.1 That the Board approve a total budget for expenditures and revenue, including transfers to and from reserves, for the 2024-25 budget year in the amount of \$207,869,377 as described in the Director's Report to the Board dated 2024 06 11.