



B.2 Director's Report to the Board

Date: 2023 06 13

Subject: **APPROVAL OF THE 2023-2024 BUDGET**

2.1.0 Background & Information

2.1.1 The Minister of Education announced the 2023-24 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) on 2023 04 17 and released Memorandum 2023: B04 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 GSN's, formerly called Education Program–Other (EPO) Grants which are now termed Priorities and Partnership Funds (PPF). The Ministry financial website for grant calculation was accessible to Board financial staff on 2023 04 17.

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 Improvement plan objectives (Well Being, Achievement, Engagement).
- Supports for Special Education and Mental Health Programming.
- Capital Improvements in Schools and upgrade of shop equipment.
- Professional Development for Technology.
- English language learners supports.
- Elementary student success/ learning resources.

2.1.3 The following new enhancements are included in 2023-24 through a combination of reallocations of existing budgets and new Ministry funding due to a very positive increased enrolment projection for 2023-24:

- Early years resources (e.g. Phonics Companion, math, etc.).
- Equity and well-being supports.
- Indigenous Graduation Coach resources and technology.
- Enhancements to and the promotion of trades programs.
- Program expansion – specialty and learning recovery programs (Sparkling Student Success).
- Targeted support for students
- Special Education classes, Counsellor resources and re-engagement Coaches.
- Mental health resources.
- Upgrades to servers, devices and cybersecurity software.

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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 2023-24 or dealt with through reallocations of budget resources. Staff are now awaiting additional special project funding announcements and September 2023 enrolment figures. This may result in additional enhancements for 2023-24.
- 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 2023 02 28 Board meeting.
- 2.1.9** The Operations and Budget Committee met on 2023 06 06 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 2023-24 budget process and strategies to the Special Education Advisory Council (SEAC) on 2023 06 06.
- 2.2.2** Accumulated Surplus projected balances total \$27,105,393 (See Attachment B.2 #7) of which \$6,039,221 is restricted to general capital, school renewal projects and capital projects. The Board has set aside \$1,310,279 in retirement and service gratuities in respect of past labour contract commitments that would set aside the amount needed to cover the future liability. The working fund reserve for 2023-24 is estimated at \$19,755,893 (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 \$192,376,978.
- b) A small addition to accumulated surplus of \$75,992.
- c) An allocation to Retirement Gratuities to fund obligations arising from collective agreements.
- d) The special education exhibit indicates a \$107,365 shortfall in funding (see Attachment B.2 #8). Special Education funding is now determined on a "per student" basis.

2.2.4 The budget includes special program expenditures of \$4,361,300 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, 2024 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 Grants for Student Needs Guidelines require boards to ensure that all funding for Special Education is directed to Special Education needs and any under expenditure in that area must also be allocated to a special reserve established for that purpose and to be used only for future spending in Special Education.

2.2.9 Attachment B.2 #6 shows the Grant Categories versus previous 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 2023-24 budget year in the amount of \$192,376,978 as described in the Director's Report to the Board of 2023 06 13..

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 2023-24 budget year in the amount of \$192,376,978 as described in the Director's Report to the Board dated 2023 06 13.