



Media Release

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For Immediate Release

Budget Proposal Focuses on Student Learning

Board to Invest an Additional \$3.1 Million in its Schools

The Greater Victoria School Board will add over \$900,000 to its 2005-06 base operating budget and inject a further \$2.2 million in one time spending to improve student learning.

Prudent Board management and additional government grants have made the increases possible.

Highlights of the proposal include:

- \$600,424 for classroom learning resources, including text books, library books and art supplies.
- \$322,399 committed to school library staffing with specific emphasis on elementary school teacher-librarians.
- \$355,406 dedicated to reducing class size; making the secondary school teacher- pupil ratio the lowest it has been in six years.
- \$100,000 for equipment to help students keep healthy and active at school.
- \$220,521 towards a literacy/numeracy success team focusing on children who need extra support.
- \$200,000 to be committed to music staffing and resources.

“This budget proposal is focused on student learning”, said Board Chair Michael McEvoy, “it’s the first time in ten years we have been able to add money back and we will insure it will benefit students in each and every classroom in the District”.

The Board is seeking feedback on the budget proposal from its education partners and the public at large. Anyone interested is invited to attend S.J. Willis Auditorium on March 8th at 7:30 p.m. To add your name to the speakers’ list, please call 475-4106.

The Board will debate and finalize the 2005-06 budget at a meeting to be held Thursday, March 17th at 7:00 p.m. at the Board office.

A full text of the budget plan is available on the district web-site at www.sd61.bc.ca or by calling Karin Hergt at 475-4106.

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For more information contact:
Michael McEvoy
Board Chair, Greater Victoria School Board
744-6520