

For Immediate Release: April 17th, 2007

School Board Approves \$160 million Budget

The Greater Victoria School Board has approved its 2007-2008 budget which maintains all educational services at existing levels, avoiding cutbacks for the third consecutive year.

“This year, while other districts are cutting teachers and educational assistants, we have maintained services for our students” said Board Chairman Michael McEvoy.

“Over the past few years we have made prudent and, in many cases, difficult decisions to protect and enhance programs for our students.” said Board Chairman Michael McEvoy. “The effects of these decisions have benefitted student learning throughout the District.”

However the Board remains concerned about budget short falls in future because government grants are tied to declining student numbers. The District has lost over 1,000 students over the past three years and is expecting to lose a similar amount over the next three.

The Board has anticipated revenue shortfalls due to declining enrolment by using one-time government grants to create a savings account for future use.

This year’s budget was balanced by using money from the District savings account to offset an operating deficit of \$1.8 M. The balance of the savings account, approximately \$3.9 M, is being earmarked to offset an expected \$4 - \$5 M deficit in 2008-2009 fiscal year.

“The School Board will continue to advocate for more resources for our children while prudently planning for the future.” said Board Chairman Michael McEvoy.

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For information, please contact:

Michael McEvoy, Chairman, Board of Education

Ph: (250) 744-6520

mmcevoy@sd61.bc.ca