

Board of Education Approved Budget at \$165 Million

The Greater Victoria Board of Education has approved its third reading and final approval of the 2008-2009 budget which maintains all educational services at existing levels, avoiding any cutbacks for the fourth consecutive year.

“This stability is the result of difficult decisions previously made by the Board to protect student learning” said Board Chairman Tom Ferris.

“I am particularly proud that we are able to maintain our focus on improving literacy and numeracy,” said Ferris, adding “I expect that this will allow us to continue showing improvement in these key areas”.

The Board had anticipated this year’s revenue shortfall and had put aside one-time funds for use this year. This budget was balanced by utilizing these savings to offset a \$4.1 million operating deficit.

Future budgetary pressures will continue to grow as enrolment declines and the provincial per student grant fails to keep pace with all the additional educational costs.

“The Board of Education will continue to advocate for additional funding to provide more resources for our children.” said Board Vice-Chairman Mark Walsh.

The final budget will now be available in schools and the community. Budget details can be found on the website at www.sd61.bc.ca.

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