

For Immediate Release: March 25, 2009

Proposed Board Of Education Budget Protects Educational Programs

The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) has received its proposed 2009-2010 budget. The proposed budget reductions are aimed at protecting educational programs.

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

During the past several years, the Board has worked to minimize this year’s revenue shortfall by putting aside one-time funds for future use. This year’s budget will be balanced by utilizing savings of \$5.8 million dollars to offset in part a \$6.3 million dollar operating deficit. Proposed budget reductions totaling approximately \$545,000 will be discussed over the coming weeks to offset the remainder of the shortfall.

Future decline in enrolment continues to be a serious concern to the Board.

“The Board will continue to advocate for more resources for our children while prudently planning for the future,” said Board Vice Chairman Dave Pitre.

The proposed budget will now be circulated to schools and the community for feedback. Budget details can be found on the Board’s web page at www.sd61.bc.ca. The next public consultative meeting will be held on Wednesday, April 8, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Auditorium at S.J. Willis School, 923 Topaz Avenue, Victoria. Please contact the Board of Education office at (250) 475-4106 in order to be placed on the Speaker’s List.

The Board of Education will debate the Budget on Wednesday, April 15, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tolmie Boardroom at 556 Boleskine Road, Victoria.

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