



For Immediate Release: March 24, 2010

Greater Victoria Board of Education Proposed Budget Reduction Options

The Board of Education of School District No. 61 (Greater Victoria) has received its proposed 2010-2011 budget. This budget requires either a reduction in spending or an increase in revenue amounting to \$1,383,940 to be balanced. Proposed reductions are aimed at protecting educational programs.

The Board has worked over the past several years to minimize this year's deficit by putting aside one-time and other funds for future use. This year's budget will be balanced by utilizing savings of \$8.0 million dollars to offset in part a \$9.4 million dollar operating deficit. Proposed budget reductions totaling \$1,540,732 will be discussed over the coming weeks to offset the remainder of the shortfall. "There will be some difficult decisions ahead for school trustees" said Board Chair Tom Ferris.

Decline in enrolment continues to be a serious concern to the Board, but this year due to the addition of Full Day Kindergarten of approximately 800 FTE enrolment has increase by 216FTE.

"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, March 31, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. followed by Wednesday April 7 and Monday April 12 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 21, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. in the Tolmie Boardroom at 556 Boleskine Road, Victoria.

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For information, please contact:

Tom Ferris, Chairman, Board of Education

Phone: (250) 889-0689

tferris@sd61.bc.ca