



School District #8 (Kootenay Lake)

Press release: **School District No. 8 Adopts 2014/2015 Preliminary Budget**

At the Regular Open Board Meeting held on April 22nd, the SD8 (Kootenay Lake) Board of Education passed the Preliminary Budget for the 2014-2015 school year in the amount of \$57.5 million. The preliminary budget was supported and recommended to the Board by the District's Finance Committee comprised of voting members from Kootenay Lake Teachers' Union, CUPE, Principal/Vice Principals' Association, District Parent Advisory Committee and Trustees.

The Board of Education is required by law to submit a balanced budget to the Ministry of Education. The budget process is ongoing and extensive. Planning for this preliminary budget commenced in October 2013. Although the preliminary budget was approved April 22, 2014 – we will continue to work with this budget until the final amended budget is submitted to the Ministry in February, 2015.

We would like to express our appreciation to each of these Committee members for their participation in numerous meetings, data gathering exercises and debates. We also appreciate those from our community who participated in a far-reaching engagement process that included over 300 people.

Our District has identified gaps in student achievement on which we must focus. These areas include a gender gap, true non-completion, higher order thinking skills, poverty, social and emotional well-being, aboriginal learners and early identification of at risk literacy and numeracy. The Preliminary Budget supports the Board's goals and student expectations in a coherent alignment of resources, reflects the input of many stakeholder groups, and provides support for early learning, district-wide initiatives to attend to the gaps we have identified and a continued effort to build the capacity of our staff to attend to changing student needs.

Some highlights of the Preliminary Budget for the 2014-2015 school year are categorized in three broad categories:

Focus on Student Learning

- A total of \$495,000 dollars has been committed to early learning for teacher, noon hour supervisor and education assistant time, and the purchase of assistive technology where required. These funds will also support the continuation of the Read by Three initiative in the district.
- \$565,855 Community Links dollars continue to be focused on attending to the specific needs of our vulnerable learners.
- \$168,750 to attend to achievement gaps with initiatives such as technology to support learning, leadership development, inquiry/project based learning, capacity building and curriculum implementation.

- Independent learning initiatives to further an inclusive, comprehensive framework to support students with special needs while benefiting all students include Mandt training, erasing bullying and capacity building for case managers.

Human Resources

- An effort to maintain current levels of teacher staffing, even though we continue to project a decline in student enrolment of 155 FTE. A reduction of 5.0 FTE teaching staff throughout the District is included in the Budget. Over the next few months we will be adding back in staffing for targeted funds, such as Aboriginal Education and the Learning Improvement Fund among others.
- Clerical Staffing will be increased in schools throughout the District as we adjust reductions made in the 2013-2014 fiscal year.

Commitment to Capital Investments

The Board of Education recognizes that it is important to responsibly maintain our capital investments, and to make further investments in areas where we are challenged.

- \$200,000 Technology Evergreen Fund to replace and enhance technology for work and learning throughout the District
- \$78,818 to maintain the Operations Crew to better attend to aging and deteriorating facilities and to support learning environments for students
- \$40,000 to support our vehicle fleet, which includes the courier van, maintenance vehicles, snowplows, etc.
- \$72,100 to support upgrading aging shop equipment throughout the District

Quick Facts

Projected Enrolment decrease:	155 FTE students
Ministry of Education Operating Grant decrease:	\$791,507
Previous Year Surplus Projection decrease	\$1.4 million
Budget By-Law decrease:	\$1.4 million

For more information about the Budget process, please visit our website at:

http://www.sd8.bc.ca/?page_id=1834