



News Release

June 24, 2004

Surrey School Board spends \$4 million on new school equipment & learning resources

Surrey students will reap the benefits of prudent district financial planning after the Surrey School Board voted today to spend a one-time grant entirely on providing new classroom learning resources and equipment.

“This decision demonstrates the board’s commitment to putting our classrooms first,” says Surrey School Board chair Shawn Wilson. “I am proud of our board and district staff for the fiscal responsibility that has allowed us to further enhance the quality of learning in our schools.”

In March, the provincial government announced a one-time grant to all school districts to assist them in changing to a different accounting system, called Generally Accepted Accounting Principles (GAAP). The Surrey school district planned for this change more than eight years ago and can now channel its entire \$3.4 million share of GAAP funding directly to the classroom. In addition, the district is able to provide almost \$600,000 from other year-end ministry grants.

The district consulted specialist teachers in equipment-intensive areas to determine priorities and surveyed elementary and secondary school administrators for their input as to what proportion of the funds should be spent in four categories: learning & library resources, school equipment, technology and, elementary school supplies. (Examples of the items purchased in each category are attached).

“We are thrilled to finally have the opportunity, after being forced to make many cuts over the last decade, to begin restoring much needed classroom equipment and supplies,” says Surrey School Board budget committee chair Kim Evoy.

The purchasing process will begin immediately with the goal of providing the equipment and supplies to schools in the upcoming school year.

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(Attachment)

2004/05 Surrey School Equipment and Supply Purchases from One-time Funding

After consultation with teachers, school administrators and program specialists, the following examples of priority new equipment and learning resources needs have been met:

\$1,616,261 – Equipment

- Industrial Education: *metal lathes, milling machines, welders, sheet metal folders, sanders, band saws, drill presses hoists, tire machines, brake lathes, plasma cutters*
- Fine Arts: *video cameras, video editing equipment, digital & film cameras, tripods, wireless mics, musical instruments, amplifiers, tape & CD players, drapes*
- Food Services: *counter top and floor mixers, food processors, cash registers, dishwasher, freezer, refrigeration units, shelving*
- Home Economics: *sewing machines, sergers, electric and gas ranges, fridges, freezers, dishwashers, washers & dryers*
- Physical Education: *wrestling mats, bikes, stair trainers, treadmill, high jump pits*

\$892,300 – Learning & Library Resources

- Textbooks for new elementary math curriculum
- Reading assessment tools
- Online encyclopedia licenses
- Library books
- Other items based on need

\$850,000 – Technology

- Computers
- Printers
- Scanners
- CD-ROM players/recorders

\$622,505 – General Elementary & Learning Centre School Supplies & Equipment

- Discretionary school spending in accordance with annual school plans developed in consultation with school planning councils.

\$3,981,066 - Total