



News Release

February 10, 2005

Surrey School Board injects another \$5.8 million directly into classrooms

2004-05 total now \$12.7 million in additional school resources

In passing the district's final 2004/2005 operating budget at its regular public meeting, the Surrey School Board announced another \$5,849,982 will be going straight to classrooms in the form of learning resources, technology, supplies, equipment and services.

"This is exciting news for our students and school communities – and news our board is proud to announce," says Surrey School Board chair Shawn Wilson. "Through sound, prudent fiscal management policies and decisions, our board and staff have been able to put close to \$13 million directly into the classroom this school year, which is keeping with this board's approach of putting student needs first."

A revenue increase in offshore tuition fees of almost \$1.7 million was a key part of the additional money going to schools. Other funds are the result of conservative cost projections. The board has voted to redirect all of the money directly to the classroom.

The \$5.8 million will go towards funding such items as:

- Industrial education equipment
- Home economics equipment
- Fine arts and PE equipment
- Learning and library resources
- Kindergarten supplies and equipment
- Technology such as computers, printers, scanners

"Our budget committee sought, and listened to the input of parents, teachers, administrators and other groups, and we responded to recommendations that we put more resources into classrooms," says Surrey School Board budget committee chair Kim Evoy. "We are doubly pleased to be able to accomplish this while maintaining our district's average class sizes at below the legislated maximum."

Since April last year, the board has put \$6.9 million worth of enhancements into the classroom. The additional \$5.8 million brings the total of enhancements to \$12.7 million for 2004/2005.

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