



# News Release

April 26, 2007

## **Surrey School Board focuses enhancements on classroom support in 2007-2008 preliminary budget**

There will be a total of 25 more teachers and 23 additional education assistants in Surrey School District classrooms to start the next school year, according to preliminary budget figures approved by the Surrey School Board.

“As much as possible, this budget reflects the input of many diverse stakeholders through meetings and public forums held over the last few months,” says Surrey School Board Budget Committee chair Terry Allen. “And, the budget again demonstrates the board’s commitment to supporting student learning, with the majority of budget enhancements dedicated to classroom staffing and student programs.”

Included in \$3.8 million of budget enhancements (from district-generated revenues and efficiencies) after growth-related expenditures are:

- Nine full-time equivalent (FTE) teachers, including four learner support team teachers and one special education assistant to support special needs students.
- 4.5 FTE full day English-as-a-second-language (ESL) teachers to support program expansion.
- School and district technology updates, improvements (computers, servers, etc.) and programs of \$434 thousand.
- Course fee mitigation of \$475 thousand.

This year’s total preliminary operating budget is the first half-billion dollar budget (\$502.9 million) for the Surrey School District and likely any B.C. school district. The budget includes \$479,861,521 Ministry of Education funding and Surrey School District-generated income of \$23,109,298.

The district budget has been calculated based on the district’s school-aged student enrolment projection of 62,764; an increase of 452 students over the previous year. The final school district operating grant will be based on the September 30, 2007 enrolment count and any adjustments to the preliminary budget will be made after that date.

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