



**SUN WEST
SCHOOL DIVISION**

Success for all

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BOARD OF EDUCATION APPROVES 2007-08 BUDGET

At its November 18, 2008, meeting the Sun West Board of Education approved the school division budget that will run from September 1, 2008 to August 31, 2009. Due to the way the process is structured by Ministry of Education, the Board does not set the mill rate at this time (this will not be done until March or April 2009), but the budget has been prepared with the assumption that government funding will remain at its current levels. Based on current government funding and 2008 taxable assessment numbers, a 0.74 increase (4%) in the mill rate would be needed in order to meet the financial commitments outlined in the budget. "The mill rate will not be set until at least March," explained Ross Derald, Chair of the Board of Education, "but we know that an increase in expenditures is necessary to maintain the quality of education for Sun West students. What that will mean in terms of a mill rate for 2009 is dependent on the level of government funding we receive and the impact of the 2009 re-assessment of property for tax purposes."

The budget calls for \$51,383,246.00 in revenue and expenses. As in the past, costs related to instruction such as staff salaries, textbooks and other learning resources make up the bulk of the expenses, while student transportation and facilities costs make up most of the rest of the budget. Nearly 96% of the school division budget goes to student instruction, transportation and school buildings," stated Derald, "while less than 2% goes to division administration. As a Board and a division we work very hard to make sure education dollars directly support student education."

Approval was provided in the budget for the purchase of 10 new school buses. The school division will also be tendering for the school buses with an estimated expenditure of \$892,284.00, which is based on the same per unit cost as last year, when seven buses were purchased for a total of \$585,560.00. "Replacing older buses on a regular basis is something the Board believes in," said Derald, "as student safety is paramount, and in the long-run purchasing a new bus is more economical than continuing to operate an old one." A budget summary document is included with this media release.

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