



SUN WEST
SCHOOL DIVISION

Success for all

Media Release
June 20, 2016
For Immediate Release

SUN WEST SUBMITS BALANCED BUDGET

On June 1, the 2016-2017 provincial budget was announced in the legislature with a 0.5% increase in operating funds for the Education sector. Sun West School Division received an overall allocation in funding of \$59,929,000.

The Sun West School Division ran a \$2.8 million dollar deficit budget for the 2015-2016 school year to fund one-time funded projects including the Sun West Distance Learning Centre building project and the SWISI (Sun West Initiative for School Improvement) initiative. The Board requested administration prepare a "*Balanced Budget*" for the 2016-2017 school year based on the funding estimations leading up to the actual June 1, 2016 provincial budget.

Although adjustments of \$3.1 million were done by Sun West in preparation for the release of the provincial budget on June 1, 2016, funding was approximately \$2.1 million dollars lower than anticipated following the tabling of the provincial budget by the Saskatchewan Party. Even though Sun West's student population increase was the highest in the province with an increase of 559 students representing a 12.5% increase, the funding was only increased by 1.99%. A significant factor is that the provincial Collective Bargaining Agreement increase for teachers of 1.9% would not be covered by the new provincial budget. Sun West has taken several steps to find this \$2.1 million dollar shortfall including the reorganization of administrative support personnel, adjusting facilities and transportation budget areas, and finding savings in technology.

Dr. Guy Tétrault stated, "With the short timeline of the provincial budget release, this is not what Sun West had anticipated due to our increase in student enrollment, but we've taken action to alleviate the impact on students and staff in the coming school year. We are grateful to those staff who changed roles to facilitate savings, and thank everyone in Sun West for their patience and understanding as we place the learning of our students in the forefront of our decision making."

The Sun West School Division will now submit their balanced budget to the Ministry for approval.

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