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Saskatoon  
Public Schools

June 21, 2018

## FROM THE BOARD TABLE

### Saskatoon Board of Education passes 2018-19 budget

The Saskatoon Board of Education passed its budget for the 2018-19 academic year during a meeting held June 19. The budget includes expenses of \$267.7 million, an increase of \$8.2 million over last year.

While the Government of Saskatchewan restored some funding to school divisions in this year's provincial budget, this amount falls short of 2016-17 funding levels. Since then, the division has seen a \$1.9-million decrease in operational funding, about \$475 less per student. During the same time, the division has added four new schools and approximately 1,000 new students, including the projected enrolment increase of 465 for the upcoming school year.

To address the funding shortfall, the budget includes the following operational changes:

- Reduction of teacher-librarian allotments to elementary schools;
- Reduction of all non-salary budgets across the division;
- Dissolution of vacant superintendent position;
- Small increase to the collegiate class size ratio; and,
- Minor efficiencies found in transportation to keep costs stable.

The board will draw approximately \$1.5 million from operating reserves to address the deficit. To address enrolment growth and the intensification of student needs, 21.3 FTE (full-time equivalent) classroom teaching positions and 18.3 FTE educational assistant positions will be added.

Other additions in the budget include:

- One elementary counsellor;
- One behaviour consultant;
- Expanding the French Immersion program to Grade 7 at École Dundonald School;
- New Functional Life Skills program at Evan Hardy Collegiate; and,
- One new classroom at John Dolan School.

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