



Statement from the Board Update on the Deficit Elimination Plan

May 18, 2010

On behalf of the Board I would like to provide an update on the status of the district's Deficit Elimination Plan.

- Work on the 2010-11 budget is nearing completion. As Secretary-Treasurer Greenan has indicated we will be voting on the Budget Bylaw at our June meeting.
- During this year, District management have significantly re-structured and re-designed systems and controls to better monitor and administer our resources. There is still a great deal to do but I want to acknowledge the work and the progress made to date.
- The program reductions proposed for next year, and the efficiencies created this year, will balance our budget for 2010-2011. They will set a solid and accurate foundation for the future.
- Together, the reductions already made and the budget now being developed will recognize the real cost pressures and funding limitations that we, like most other school boards, must deal with.
- It will be a realistic budget for the obligations we have. It will also maintain excellent services for children.
- The second issue is the deficit created by significant accounting errors in years past.
- We are working closely with the Ministry of Education to address that. We appreciate their consideration and support in helping us to develop a plan that will, as much as possible, minimize the impact on students, teachers and staff.
- We do not anticipate making significant inroads on paying back the deficit in the 2010-2011 budget.
- The Board will provide an updated Deficit Elimination Plan to the Ministry within the month. We will be requesting that implementation of the plan begin in September 2011, and that it extend over four years.
- The plan will involve structural reductions for 2011 of approximately \$3.5 million. Those structural changes will be carried forward over four years to eliminate the deficit.

- The updated Deficit Elimination Plan will be shared with the public and partners in education as soon as it is available.
- The Board is committed to meeting its financial obligations. We are committed to seeking opportunities for efficiencies that will help mitigate the impact.
- The Board believes that this request is reasonable and responsible. We look forward to working with our community, partners and staff to achieve the best possible outcome for students.