

BOARD HIGHLIGHTS

From April 28, 2015 Meeting

For Immediate Release

Impact of Budget 2015/16 for Northern Gateway Public Schools

Based on the Provincial Government's 2015/16 Budget, there will not be any funding for the enrolment increase for September 2015. Our Division anticipates a decrease of 111 students which translates into \$600,000 less for our Division.

Here are the anticipated budget decreases for our Division:

- Funding for First Nations, Metis and Inuit (FNMI) students will decrease by 3.1% or \$24,103
- English Language Learners (ELL) funding decreases 3.1% for a total of \$3,725
- Inclusive Education (special education needs) decreases 1.9% or \$69,546
- Outreach program for high school students decreased 3.1% or \$7,808
- Transportation funding decreases 1.35% for a total of \$70,052
- Plant Operation and Maintenance funding (PO&M) decreases by 3.1% for a total of \$124,466
- Social Economic Status (diverse needs of students) decreases 3.1% or \$23,405
- Equity of Opportunity (diversity of Division) decreases by 3.1% or \$17,885
- Early Childhood Program Unit Funding decreases 3.1% or \$34,046
- Further reductions in school board's administration spending; \$303,000
- Although base funding rate for teachers increased by 2%, the base funding rate for non-teaching staff decreased by 3.1% or \$105,000.

TOTAL:

- Budget 2015/16 protects front-line teaching positions, requiring cost reductions to come from other areas of personnel, programs and supports to achieve a balanced budget. While base funding for teaching staff increases by 2% or \$532,800, real costs associated with maintaining staff, with salary and benefit increases included, is approximately \$848,400 creating a shortfall of \$315,600.
- This adds up to a **funding shortfall of \$1,098,636.**

The 2015/16 Provincial Budget will have a significant impact on all students in the Northern Gateway Public Schools. The reduction in funding will make it challenging to continue to provide the same level of support and services for students. However, we are committed to continuing to provide a high quality of education for all of our students.

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Maintenance Report

Randy Lovich, Director of Maintenance, provided a Maintenance Report update.

Ongoing repairs to monthly maintenance requests to schools continues.

Update on Onoway High School New School Construction:

- 30% completion on Grade Beams
- 90% completion on Storm Sewer Services
- 25% completion on Sanitary Lines
- 100% completion on Piles
- Mechanical and electrical have been mobilized to site and starting on their ground work
- Site services - completion for end of April
- Grade Beams – completion for 3rd week of May
- Masonry to start 1st to 3rd week of May

Next Meeting

The next regular Board meeting will take place **Tuesday May 12th, 2015** at **10:00 a.m.** at the Division Office in Whitecourt. Members of the public are welcome to attend. For more information, please call 780-778-2800 or 1-800-262-8674.