

## **HSD BOARD OF TRUSTEES APPROVES 2015/2016 BUDGET**

**Steinbach, MB. March 3, 2015** – The Board of Trustees for the Hanover School Division has approved its 2015/16 Budget. Final passing of the budget for the fiscal year Jul. 1, 2015 through Jun. 30, 2016, took place at the Board’s regular meeting on Tuesday, March 3.

Board Finance Chair, Cyndy Friesen commented, “Our Board has passed a budget that maintains a strong focus on our ‘ABC’ learning priorities, addresses student needs, and prepares for future growth within our schools.” Highlights of the budget include the Board’s commitment to improving the divisional pupil-teacher classroom ratio, and accommodation of the K-3 Class Size Initiative. This will result in the hiring of up to 17 additional teachers. Other highlights include the setting aside of \$200,000 for future school construction, increased funding for additional noon-hour supervision, and science lab upgrades.

The approved budget includes estimated operating expenses of \$80 million dollars which is up \$3.2 million dollars over last year, representing a 4.2% increase in expenditures. Rising education costs, the need to set aside money for infrastructure growth, and the hiring of additional teachers, will contribute to the rise in expenses projected for the upcoming budget year.

Provincial Government funding is anticipated to be \$50 million which comprises approximately 60% of annual operating revenue. The Mill Rate will increase from 15.59 to 16.02, thereby increasing the education property tax levy by 2.7%. The tax levy on a sample house assessed at \$236,000 will result in an approximate increase of \$45 compared to the previous year.

Friesen further commented, “Trustees were very mindful of the potential impact on local taxation, and worked hard to find cost savings, balancing the educational needs of our students with fiscal responsibility. Our commitment to cost efficiency is evident in the fact that despite an increase in expenditures for the upcoming budget year, our per-pupil cost to educate students, and the total amount budgeted for administrative expenses, will still be below the provincial average for Manitoba School Divisions.”

The Board’s surplus as of June 2015 is estimated to be approximately \$2.6 million or 3.2% of annual budget. The Province has a recommended limit on surplus of 4%.

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**Source: Hanover School Division**

### **About Hanover School Division**

Hanover is a student-centred school division striving for excellence while developing skills and promoting values for a productive and wholesome life. Representing 18 schools in 9 communities, Hanover School Division consists of approximately 7,800 students and 1,000 total staff.

### **Media Inquiries**

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