

budget update from Chief Superintendent

May 22, 2015

It has been a few weeks since I have connected with you regarding our budget for the upcoming year. As you are likely aware, Administration presented an interim budget to the Board of Trustees on May 12. The decision to present an interim budget was made because we were awaiting direction from the new provincial government regarding what education funding will look like in Alberta for the coming year.

On May 12, Alberta Education informed school boards that the deadline for submitting a balanced budget has been extended to June 30 from May 31.

At the May 19 Board meeting, the Board of Trustees agreed to postpone further budget considerations until the June 9 Board meeting in anticipation that additional budget information will be forthcoming from the Province.

We continue to seek clarification and guidance from the Province regarding funding for next year. In the meantime, principals have made their budget decisions based on the funds allocated to their school through the Resource Allocation Method (RAM). The allocation to schools through the RAM funding provides for enrolment growth and allows for school staffing levels equal to those of 2014-15 on a system-wide basis. Principals have consulted with staff and community stakeholders and are making decisions within the context of available resources to determine school organization, programming and staffing. We are currently in the process of understanding the details of the principal deployment decisions for the upcoming school year.

We are committed to being efficient and prudent in how we allocate public funds. However, for now, service unit reductions are on hold unless there is a compelling business reason to move forward with them. Any planned reductions will come to the Superintendents' Team for approval. We will know more about the need for future reductions once we receive direction from the new government. Similarly, any hiring for replacement positions also needs to be approved by Superintendents' Team.

Please be assured that we will follow the processes set out in collective agreements for our unionized staff and the terms and conditions for exempt staff.

Thank you for continuing your good work in support of student success. Your work is valuable and important, and I appreciate your support during these changing times.

For updated budget information, please visit our website at www.cbe.ab.ca/budget.

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