

New Horizons Board Approves Balanced Budget for 2017-18

Record enrolment leads to \$3.17 million budget that includes new teaching positions, reduction in school fees, continued transportation support

May 26, 2017

At its meeting of May 17, 2017, the Board of Directors approved the school budget for the 2017-18 school year.

Highlights of the budget include:

- Projected enrolment of 318 students, a 16% increase over current enrolment.
- Revenues of \$3.17 million, balanced with expenditures of the same amount.
- Addition of 2.8 teaching positions, distributed as follows:
 - The position of music specialist teacher has been created. This addresses a priority identified in parent surveys and at the Stakeholder Forum held in early February.
 - Two additional homeroom classes in the grade 3, 4, 5 cluster have been created. For next year, this will mean that we will have two classes at each grade level from kindergarten through grade 5.
 - The 0.4 counselling position (independent contractor) has been replaced with a 0.4 employee position as counsellor. The result will be increased counsellor accessibility, in that the counsellor will be present in the school at all times.
 - Each teacher will be provided with an additional 30 minutes per week of preparation time, so as create more time for the preparation and implementation of individual program plans (IPPs) for students ... another priority issue identified by both parents and staff.
 - Addition of 0.05 administrative time for the vice principal position, in keeping with the increase in enrolment.
- Addition of a 1.0 educational assistant position, so as to provide greater support for students with special needs ... another priority identified in parent surveys and at the Stakeholder Forum.
- Reduction in School Fees: Although charter schools were not included in the recent provincial legislation regarding school fees (*Bill 1: An Act to Reduce School Fees*), the Board has nevertheless committed to reducing basic school fees (i.e. instructional materials/resources, textbook rental) by 50% in the upcoming school year. (Basic student fees in 2016-17 were \$55 at kindergarten, \$105 from grades 1-6, and \$185 from grades 7-9.)
- Bus Transportation Subsidy: As it has done for many years, the Board will continue to subsidize the cost of school bus transportation, so as to provide bus transportation to and from school without fees.

More information regarding the 2017-18 school budget can be found in the agenda package for the May 17, 2017 Board meeting, located online at <http://www.newhorizons.ca/wp-content/uploads/2017/05/Board-Meeting-Agenda-Package-2017-05-17-1.pdf>.