



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 22, 2021

Rainy River District School Board passes balanced budget

At the June 22, 2021 Special Board Meeting, the Rainy River District School Board approved the 2021-2022 balanced budget of \$56,461,881.

The budget process begins in January of each year with the development of school enrolment projections, which form the basis of the budget. Throughout the year, programs are assessed, and planning for the following year occurs, with student achievement and well-being as the primary goals as supported through the Board's Strategic Plan. This year, budgets were also reviewed in light of the pandemic and the reopening of schools in September 2021.

As identified during budget consultations, the 2021-2022 budget contains increased support for student mental health and support for our students with the highest needs, with more mental health clinicians and an increase in Autism Support Workers. Literacy supports for students are found in the continued funding for Speech Language Programming and Reading Recovery Programming, with funding also allocated to support ongoing training and professional development in literacy for school staff through the Reading Recovery Leader and Literacy Coordinator.

Support for the implementation of the recently updated elementary Math curriculum and Destreamed Grade 9 Math curriculum is also within the 2021-2022 budget, with the continuation of the Elementary Numeracy Coordinator and the addition of a Destreamed Math Coordinator. The TechWays Program, which provides students in Grades 7 and 8 career/pathway planning support with opportunities for increased hands-on/experiential learning, is also confirmed within this budget.

As well, in 2021-22, we continue our focus on Indigenous Education for all students and staff, with funding to support an Indigenous Education Leader, an Indigenous Education Curriculum Coordinator, an Indigenous Graduation Coach, and an Ojibwe Language Coordinator, in addition to continued funding for Year 5 of the Ojibwe Language Strategy, Anishinaabemodaa.

Input on the 2021-2022 budget was sought from school councils, Union partners, Board advisory committees, and Student Senate representatives. The 2020-2021 budget reflects the input received.

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Mission: *"Together, we empower all students to believe in themselves, to achieve, and to dream."*

Vision: *"The Rainy River District School Board is an innovative community, nurturing hearts and minds, to build a foundation for tomorrow, today."*