



DISTRICT 36 PARENT ADVISORY COUNCIL

14225 - 56 Avenue, Surrey, B.C. V3X 3A3

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

January 15, 2010

Surrey District Parent Advisory Council Position on Surrey School District Deficit

The Surrey School District has proven to be a fiscally responsible school district. They are often leaders in fiscal responsibility in the province. However this year our District is facing a mountain of downloaded debt from the Provincial government. Currently we are estimating an approximate budget shortfall of 18 to 20 million dollars which we feel the Provincial government should be responsible to cover.

- *\$10.8 million due to the loss of the Annual Facilities Grant
- *\$3.6 million increase to teacher pension plan (provincially negotiated)
- *\$6.2 million increase to teacher salaries (provincially negotiated)
- *\$1.7 million in Carbon Tax and off set charges
- *\$3.0 million impact from HST
- *\$500,000 combined increase of MSP and WCB premiums
- Unspecified amounts for the implementation of all day kindergarten

*Note: These figures are approximations were supplied by SD36 Secretary Treasurer Office.

The DPAC has enjoyed a good working relationship with the Board and District. In light of the budget shortfall we are all facing, the DPAC feels compelled to speak out in support of the Board.

The current budget consists of 90% salaries and 10% in operating costs. The only way to continue to make these budget cuts is to directly impact our children's education. If our School Board is forced to cut spending to balance the budget, no school would be left untouched and programs, we have come to depend on, may be impacted. For these reasons we feel it necessary to support our Board should they choose to run a deficit budget.

The Provincial government cannot off load their financial responsibility to the Districts. We must make our local MLAs aware of our concerns and demand that they provide the funding for expenditures they have approved. We are urging all parents to contact your local MLA and voice your concerns and urge MLA's to support the provincial government in creating an exemption from the carbon tax and HST, for all school districts. Parents should also encourage MLA's to support initiatives that would see the government fund all provincially negotiated contracts and programs they wish to implement.

We will be posting contact information for all Surrey MLA's on our website.

For more information and your opportunity to discuss this issue with District Staff, the District Parent Advisory Council will be meeting January 27 at 7 pm in the District Conference Centre located at #400, 9260 – 140th Street.