

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **KSD Sets Budget for 2020-21 School Year**

The KSD has been presented with unprecedented challenges in preparing for the next school year. In developing the budget for 2020-21 operation the Board has had to accommodate Manitoba government directives, some which applied to all government operations. Unfortunately because KSD is a small operation, and because the Division has been particularly efficient over the last several years, government cuts that are required to be applied to all Divisions will have a significant impact on the KSD's finances.

One positive note is that after two years of no salary increases, the government will allow a 0.75% increase for teachers. This increase has to be incorporated in KSD expenditures.

The budget was approved at the Board's March 23 meeting in order to meet required government deadlines. It is set at \$20,473,425 but the impact is that the Division faces a shortfall of about \$300,000 in revenue. The difficulty is that due to government cutbacks to previous grants (TIG, payroll tax support) and some declining enrolment, there are anticipated reductions in our budget to teaching staff allowed, office staff and support staff. No capital requests were approved either but even that is not enough to balance the budget.

For the first time in many years, the Board had to consider cutbacks to school programs, while trying to safeguard classroom educational instruction. As a result, the swimming program for K-Grade 5 will have to be curtailed for next year. In addition, for the first time in years, the Division will have to employ the government allowed 2% increase to the Special Levy in order to improve its revenue. Due to the low assessment of our community, this will only raise about \$80,000 additional revenue.

Finally, an appeal by the Division regarding a mandated 15% reduction to senior administration has yet to be clarified. We currently only have three persons in such positions as the Board reduced a fourth position two years ago. And a government mandated curtailment on replacing two of these positions due to the pending retirements of the Superintendent and Secretary-Treasurer has placed the Division in a precarious staffing position for next year.

**For immediate release:** March 24, 2020

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