



# Media Release

---

June 30, 2011

For Immediate Release

## Bluewater District School Board Approves 2011-12 Budget

At a special Board Meeting held on June 29, 2011, Trustees of Bluewater District School Board passed the 2011-12 Budget.

Information on the budget is listed below:

### Key Elements:

- Despite ongoing budgetary pressures created in part by declining student enrolment and grant reductions, based on Grant for Student Needs, Bluewater District School Board has arrived at a balanced budget for the 2011-2012 school year.
- Enrolment declines by 1.7% for elementary which will be offset by full day Early Learning Program (ELP), for a net decline of 1%; secondary is expected to decline by 8%, which impacts secondary staffing levels.
- Early Learning Program increase to reflect the additional 5 EL classrooms in place for 2011-12. The ECE positions will increase from 12 to 17.
- Special Education programs and services- reduction in expenditure of \$50,000 with no impact on students.
- One year hold on media library purchases
- 10% reduction in departmental budgets. This reduction is for all departments except schools. School budgets have been reduced by declining enrolment only.
- Reduction of 4.2 Elementary Contact Teachers.
- Suspension of Operations for the four Tech Centres for one year. This generates .8M in savings. Tech Centres are not specifically funded by the Ministry.
- There is continued pressure on plant operations due to excess space and operating costs over funded amounts, reduction of \$389,848. 60% of the excess spaces is at elementary (4081 spaces), 40% at secondary (2721).
- School Condition Improvement Funding for 11/12 of \$1,750,562 to be used for school renewal

## 2011-12 At A Glance

Revenues	\$198,951,661
Expenditures -Operating:	\$198,951,661
	<u>Ø</u>

### Capital

Minor Tangible Capital Assets	\$519,000
Technology Master Plan	561,944
Computers for Teachers	247,722

### Gaps in Provincial Funding:

- Staff Development reduction in the pupil foundation grant of \$340,000
- Decrease in Provincial Funding for transportation of 1%
- Supply teacher costs continue to be underfunded
- Classroom computers are not funded at the level required to fully support current technology. Classroom computers are in the third year of a funding reduction
- School based ministry funding levels (benchmarks) for teachers and school office staff are not fully funded.

### 2011-12 Budget Reductions:

Some budget reductions for 2011-12 include:

Tech Centres suspended for 1 year	\$842,066
Plant Operations	\$389,848
Central Department Budgets	\$134,919
Reduction in allowance for retirement gratuities	\$300,000

For further information on Bluewater District School Board's 2011-2012 Budget:

#### **Trustee**

Terry Bell	519-534-2893
John Chapman (Vice-Chair)	519-364-2469
Marg Gaviller (Chair)	519-371-5149
Jan Johnstone	519-396-1467
Kevin Larson	519-389-4534
Marilyn McComb	519-376-4770
Frances Morgan	519-538-3097
Anthony Pedoniquote	519-534-0882
Theresa Root	519-797-2589
Dan Wong	519-881-1790

#### **Telephone**

#### **Administrative Team**

John Bryant	Director of Education
Brenda Booth	Superintendent of Business
Marnie Coke	Superintendent of Elementary Education
Cynthia Lemon	Administrator of Employee Relations
Alana Murray	Superintendent of Secondary Education
Jean Stephenson	Superintendent of Student Success
Lori Wilder	Superintendent of Student Services