



InTouch

Board approves \$104 Million Budget that Includes the Creation of New Positions

Sheila Chiodo, Superintendent of Business and Corporate Services, presented Trustees with the 2016-17 Operating and Capital Budget Monday night.

“Administration is pleased to propose a balanced budget that is aligned to the long-term plan of the Board, as outlined in *Our Values, Our Vision, our Strategic Direction 2014-2020*.” she said.

“The proposed budget provides a blend of fiscal accountability and responsiveness to changing students needs and challenges.”

Highlights of this year’s budget include the addition of the following:

- 1.0 FTE Google Administrator
- 0.5 FTE Special Education Technician
- 1.0 FTE Primary High Needs Teacher - St. Vincent School
- 1.0 FTE FNMI School Support Teacher
- 1.0 FTE Secondary Consultant
- 1.0 FTE Life Skills Teacher - St. Patrick High School
- 1.0 FTE Transitions Class Teacher - Pope John Paul II School

Trustees also approved expenditures for Social Worker Services at the Elementary level, Grade 2 Religious Education resources, French/DELF supports.

The total Budget of \$104,139,603. was approved.

First Nation, Metis and Inuit Initiatives Yielding Results

At Monday night’s Board meeting Tesa Fiddler, Aboriginal Resource Teacher and Janine Landry, Aboriginal Outreach Worker updated Trustees with the various and meaningful programs assisting our students.

Superintendent of Education, Omer Belisle explained that these initiatives are part of the Ministry of Education’s strategic goals, which include:

- Using Data to Improve Student Achievement
- Supporting FNMI Students
- Engagement and Awareness Building
- Supporting Educators

“We had a very busy year with the students,” said Tesa Fiddler. “In addition to our many programs, we launched two new projects including a “Student Voice” initiative and the Tikkun Leadership Project, with the assistance of Dr. Lisa Korteweg from Lakehead University.”

“We also believe that it’s important for us to get a better understanding of where some of our students come from, so this year groups of staff visited Whitesand First Nation, Kitchinuhmaykoosib Inninuwig (Big Trout Lake) and held an information night at Fort William First Nation,” said Janine Landry.

Other successful programs include Aboriginal Student Counselors, a Native Language Program, continued partnership with Biwaase’aa and the Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee.





Trustee Ashe Busy with Committee Work

Often our Board members sit on external community-based committees. Eleanor Ashe, a former CWL President and long-serving Trustee, presented two reports on her outside work.

“The Thunder Bay Public Library Board meets monthly, with the exception of July and August and the purpose of the committee is to ensure that the libraries function effectively,” she said.

Trustee Ashe also serves as the Chair of the Library’s Human Resources Committee and has attended more than 25 meetings.

She is also the Board’s representative on the city’s Age-Friendly Committee.

“This Committee consists of an Executive and Steering Committee chaired by Rebecca Johnson. The membership distribution lists 49 people representing community partners who are invited to attend the quarterly meetings,” she said.

“This June, for the second year, we celebrated “Seniors’ Month” and the first Age-Friendly Summit was held on Wednesday, June 1,” she added.

She said that the committee works within the city’s Lakehead Social Planning Council and has an annual budget of \$50,000.



Best Wishes

Henry David Thoreau once quipped, “Things do not change, we change” and with this in mind, the Board congratulates and thanks all retirees who are about to embark on a new stage of their lives.

We wish you the best as you explore what the future holds. In addition, congratulations to those who will step up to new challenges in September. The willingness of our employees to take on new roles and new placements makes our organization stronger, more vibrant and more interesting. Well done!



“Summer afternoon — summer afternoon; to me those have always been the two most beautiful words in the English language.”

Henry James



For the rest of us, Senior Team would like to wish you a well-deserved, peaceful summer break. May the next two months bring you and your families joy and happiness, and we look forward to seeing everyone back in September.

Thank You For a Great Year and Best Wishes for A Wonderful Summer!