



# InTouch

## Board approves \$100 Million budget that includes the creation of new positions and a strong capital program

Sheila Chiodo, Superintendent of Business and Corporate Services, delivered the 2015-16 Operating and Capital Budget to Trustees Monday night.

Despite a reduction in provincial funding due to declining enrolment and changes to grants, Senior Team was still able to recommend a balanced budget which included the addition of some new positions and initiatives.

“It is my pleasure to bring forward a balanced budget. Working closely with Senior Team, Principals and Catholic Parent Councils we were able to support a number of new initiatives that are aligned with the long-term plan of the Board outlined in *Our Values Our Vision 2014-2020* strategic plan.”

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

- 1.0 FTE NSL Teacher
- 1.0 FTE Senior Elementary Resource Teacher
- 1.0 FTE Secondary Consultant
- 0.5 FTE Empowered Reading Special Education Teacher
- 1.0 FTE Computer Technician
- 1.0 FTE Aboriginal Counsellor
- Increase support for Elementary Social Worker Services
- Increase in FSL Resources

The total Budget of \$101,233,231 was approved.

“The budget builds on investments made earlier this year by the Board, including over \$1,000,000 for Elementary school technology and \$700,000 for playground improvements, as well as funding to provide a breakfast program in every school,” said Pino Tassone, Director of Education.

## Trip to Fort Hope Proves Valuable

As part of Thunder Bay Catholic’s ongoing Aboriginal outreach program, five staff members spent two days in the northern remote community of Fort Hope in May.

“The primary purpose of these initiatives is to create sensitivity and cultural awareness,” explained Omer Belisle, Superintendent of Education.

The community of Fort Hope has 1,300 residents and is located north of the Albany River, in the centre of Northern Ontario. Last year, TBCDSB staff visited North Caribou First Nation.

During the trip our team was able to meet with students at John C. Yesno Education Centre at their Career Fair, and meet with community members.

At a recent board meeting, the group stated that having a chance to visit and meet the people of Fort Hope has been a rewarding experience, and are hopeful the board can continue with these important initiatives.



*Five TBCDSB Staff visited the community of Fort Hope earlier this spring. From left, Barry Quarrell (Principal), Janine Landry (Aboriginal Outreach Worker), Alma Provenzano (Vice-Principal), Martin White (Aboriginal Student Counselor) and Mike Filipetti (Principal).*