



Qualicum School District

2025-26 Budget Information

Special Board meeting - Public

May 20, 2025

- Budget Process to date
 - Budget Survey results
 - Operating Grant and other announcements
 - Cost pressures
 - Budget response recommendations
-
- Next Steps



Budget Process to date:

Annual Budget Cycle

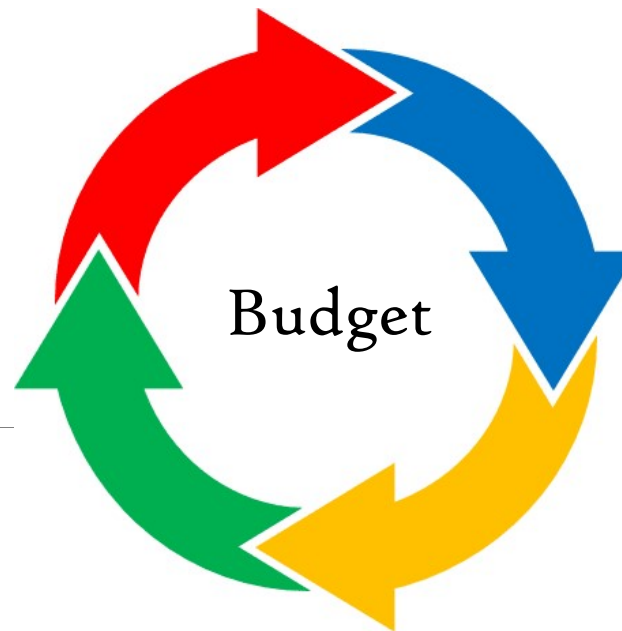
October - December

- Staffing adjustments
- Grant Recalculations

Amended Annual Budget adoption
(by Feb 28)

July – September

- New School Year
- School start up
- Section/Classroom adjustments



January - March

- Information gathering/Survey
 - Enrolment/staffing projections
 - Inclusion of Multi year planning
 - Partner/public info sessions
- Grant announcement (mid March)

April – June

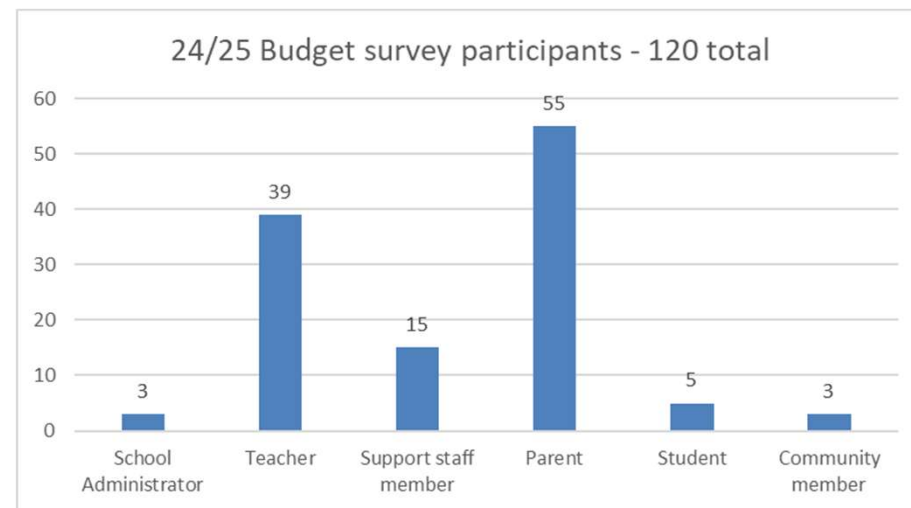
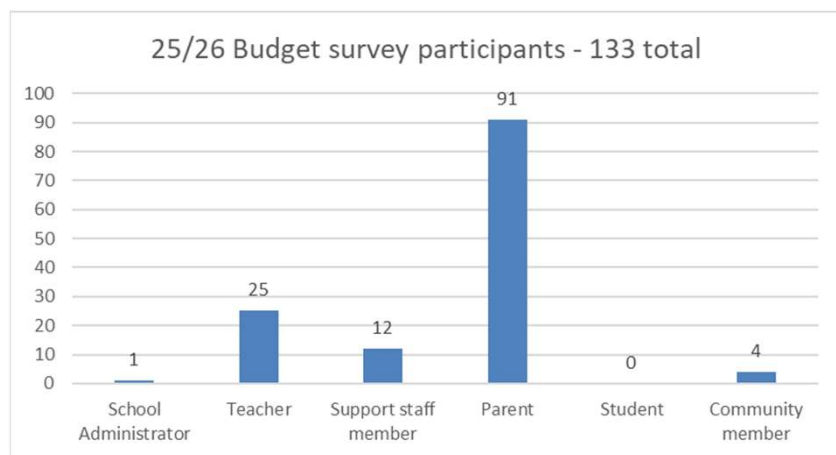
- Follow up with Partners/Public
- Board/Management Discussions

Annual Budget adoption (by June 30)



Budget Survey results:

25-26 Budget Planning – Survey results



25-26 Budget Planning – Survey results

Things working well	
Committed, Caring Educators	Teachers and EAs are widely appreciated for being <u>passionate, committed, and supportive</u> of students' learning and well-being.
Positive School Environment	Schools are seen as <u>welcoming, inclusive, and community-focused</u> , with students generally happy, engaged, and feeling a sense of belonging.
Valued Programs & Enrichment	Programs like trades, Outdoor Ed, ROAMS, field trips, and project-based learning are <u>highly valued</u> for offering real-world, diverse learning experiences.
Support of Community Engagement	<u>Opportunity to give feedback is appreciated</u> and there was recognition of the <u>Boards challenging role</u>
Valuable Cultural Learning Opportunities	<u>Programs</u> such as cultural bins, land acknowledgements, and year-end celebrations are appreciated for <u>providing meaningful exposure to Indigenous culture and history</u> .
Facility Conditions	Buildings and grounds are <u>clean and well-maintained</u> , however the age of facilities is of concern, with hope for continued modernization, i.e. bathroom updates
Challenges	
Academic Concerns	Some concerns expressed about <u>literacy levels, classroom support, and academic rigor</u> , especially in early grades.
Need for Better Communication	<u>Communication</u> between schools and families is lacking in some areas.
Financial concerns	<u>Frustration about funding priorities</u> , especially non educational spending vs. student/EA supports




Operating Grant and other announcements:

2025-26 Budget Planning

Provincial Budget Announcement

BC Government Budget announced in early March, within the context of

- Provincial Budget **deficit of \$9.1 Billion** from 2024-25 (announced in Fall 2024)
 - Federal **immigration policy** change and impact on in-migration (Spring 2024)
 - **New global tariffs** and an imminent trade war (ongoing)
 - Unknown impact on the BC economy but general opinion is that this will slow down the economy
- 

2025-26 Budget Planning

BC Budget 2025 –
renewed commitment
to providing Safe and
Healthy schools and
expanding the
Childcare programs

Ministry Capital Project Funds/Funding

Minor capital projects

- Washroom improvements - Kwalikum and Ballenas Secondary
- HVAC upgrades - Ecole Oceanside and Errington Elementary
- Playground Equipment - Springwood Elementary

Major capital projects – False Bay Seismic replacement

Childcare projects – Qualicum Beach Childcare Facility

2025-26 Budget Planning

BC Budget 2025 -
Early Learning, Family
Affordability and Food
initiatives continue to be
a priority


Special Purpose Funds

- Commitments are confirmed for **Early Learning** programs and **Food** program funds
- **New National food program**, announced in March, with a 3 year commitment of Federal funds
- **All other Special Purpose funds remain in place**
 - Classroom Enhancement funds – to address Class Size and Composition
 - Learning Improvement funds – Bargained funds to support EAs
 - Community Link funds – to address student vulnerability
 - Federal French grant – to complement French immersion/Core French programs
 - BC TEA funding – to enhance First Nations Transportation needs

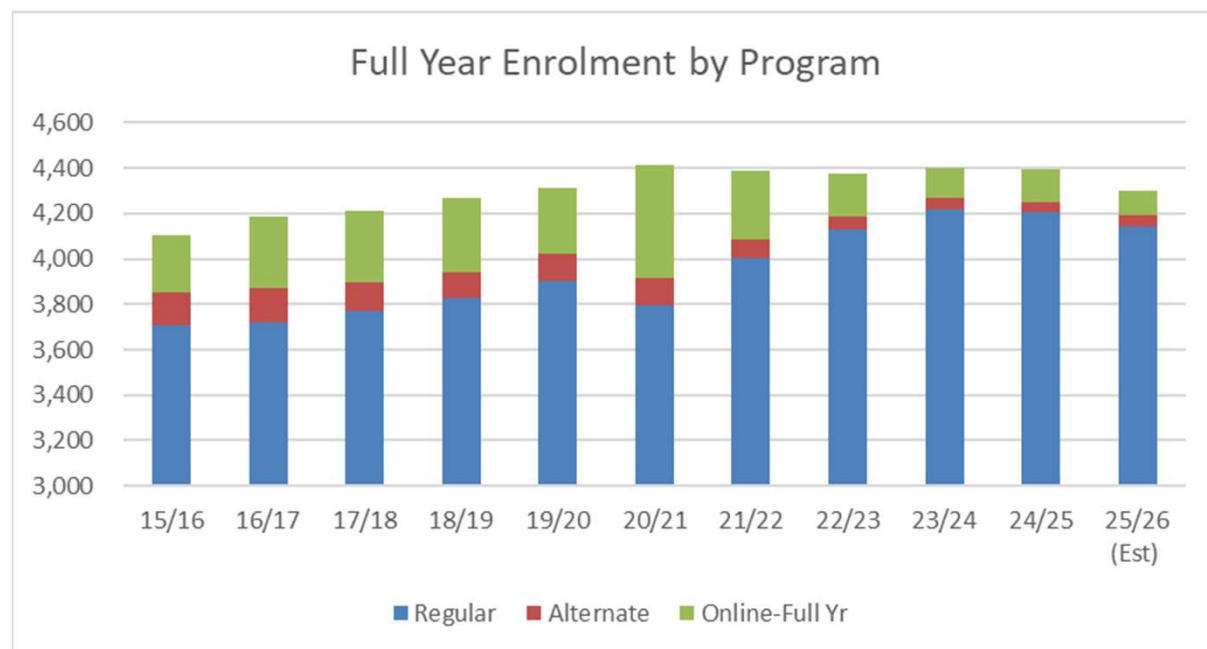
2025-26 Budget Planning

Operating Grant Announcement

Provincial Education funding now at \$7.2 billion

- No new funding in the operating grant block, beyond rolling in the 24/25 Labour Settlement funds
 - Small additions to Classroom Enhancement fund and Community Link funds based on settlement allocations
 - No increases for replacement cost pressures or other inflationary factors
 - More Districts are estimating slower or declining enrolment growth, including Unique Student Needs categories
 - More Districts will be receiving Funding Protection and Enrolment Decline supplements then prior years, 17 of the 60 Districts, including QSD
- 

25-26 Planning – Enrolment by Program



Enrolment for 2025/2026 is projected to **decline by 97.5 FTE** students, as Grade cohorts get smaller and Online learning enrolment lessens

	24/25	25/26 (Est)
Regular	4,203.38	4,145.00
Alternate	48.00	48.00
OL-Sept	79.13	65.00
OL-Feb	35.00	20.00
OL-May	30.00	20.00
	4,395.50	4,298.00
		(97.50)

2025-26 Budget Planning – Operating Grant calculation

		2024/25			2025/26			
	Funding per FTE	FTE	Total	Funding per FTE	FTE	Total	Diff	Comments
Student Base Allocation:								
Standard (Regular) Schools	8,915	4,203.38	37,473,088	9,015	4,145.00	37,367,175	-105,913	Rates were adjusted to include Labour Settlement Funds
Continuing Education	8,915	1.38	12,258	9,015	-	0	-12,258	
Alternate Schools	8,915	48.00	427,920	9,015	48.00	432,720	4,800	
Online learning (formerly DL)	7,200	77.25	556,200	7,280	65.00	473,200	-83,000	
Total Enrolment Based Funding		4,330.00	38,477,611		4,258.00	38,281,255	-196,356	
FTE change					(72.00)	chg from prior		
Supplements:								
Enrolment Decline					-1.66%			Supplement to protect against significant enrolment declines
% decline from previous year-1-4%	50%		-	50%	(72.00)	129,380	129,380	
% decline from previous year->4%	75%			75%				
Unique Student Needs			7,363,276			7,065,954	-297,322	includes Spec Ed / ELL / Indigenous Ed)
Salary Differential		241.778	782,844		336.556	769,737	-13,107	
Unique Geographic Factors			5,532,568			5,051,230	-481,338	heating / cooling / small / rural
Total Supplemental Funding			13,678,688			13,016,301	-791,767	
Indigenous Education Councils			69,408			77,716	8,308	
Curr & Learn Support			39,120			38,970	-150	
Labour Settlement Funds (one year only)			548,676			-	-548,676	
								Protection against funding declines greater than 1.5% adj for LSF (approx. 700K) (from Table 7. actual decline \$1.28M or 2.7%)
Funding Protection			-			581,272	581,272	
Additional grants			657,204			697,958	40,754	
September Operating Grant			52,835,746			51,995,514	-840,232	
Summer / Feb / May counts		64.88	516,086		40.00	291,200	-224,886	2nd and 3rd counts for Online learners
Full Year Total (including Labour Settlement fun		4,395.500	53,351,832		4,298.000	52,286,714	-1,065,118	
					(97.50)			

2025-26 Budget Planning

	Revenues	Expenses	Notes
<u>Operating Grant</u>			
24/25 Operating Grant (Recalculated)	52,732,827		From updated 24/25 Grant tables
Labour Settlement special grant	548,676		Rolled into grant for 25/26 Operating grant
Support staff benefit funds	70,329		Rolled into grant for 25/26 Operating grant
Total 24/25 Operating grants	53,351,832		
Estimated 25/26 Operating grant	52,286,714		From preliminary 25/26 Grant tables
Decrease in Operating grant	(1,065,118)		Other Operating grants for Pay equity & Transportation remain in place
<u>Other revenue items</u>			
Rental income	(400,000)		Closure of rental sites
Investment revenues	(200,000)		Declining interest rates
Other revenue	(600,000)		
Decrease in Operating revenues	(1,665,118)		Before cost escalations and other requests

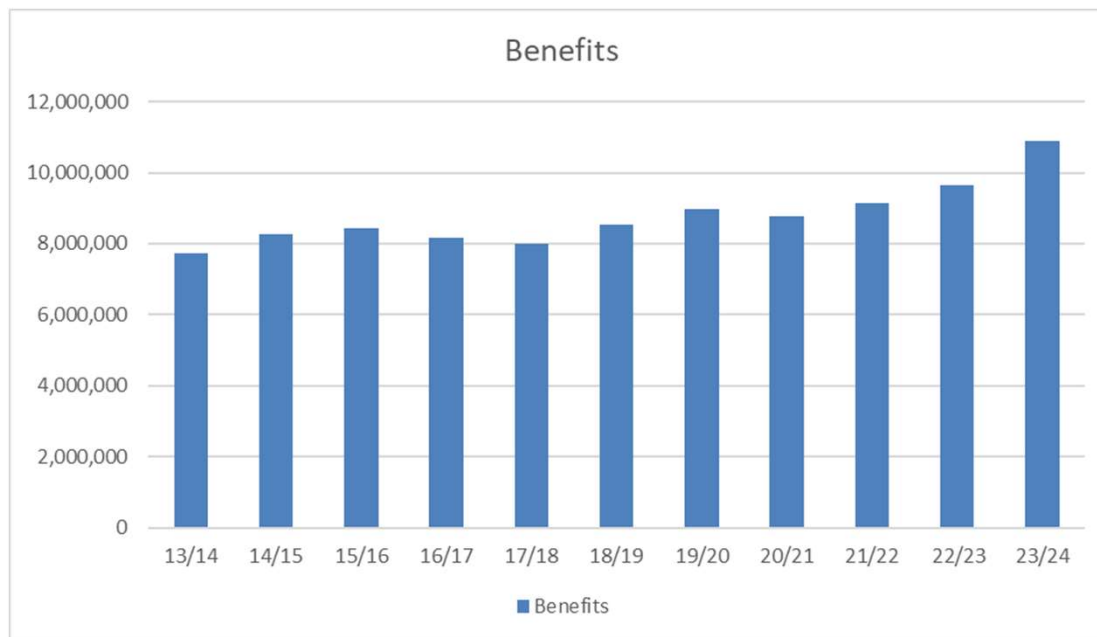


Cost pressures:

25-26 Planning – Cost pressures

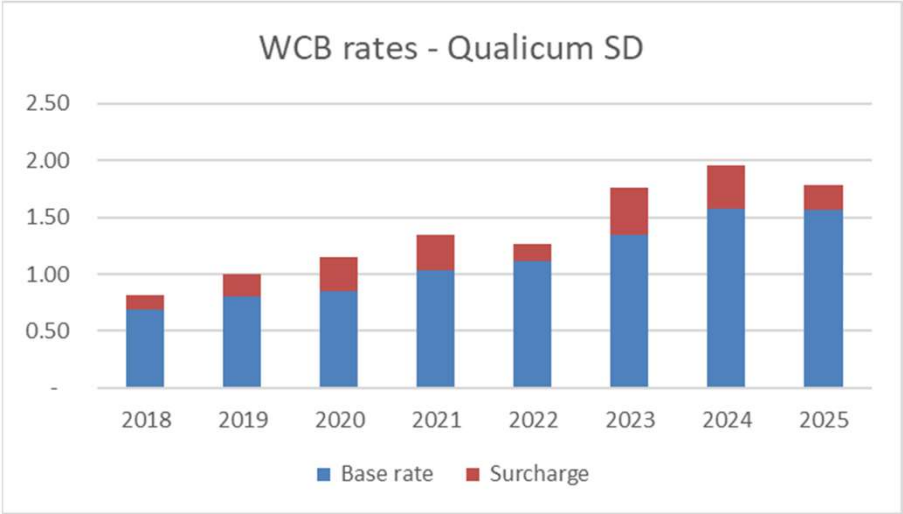
Benefits costs continue to pressure budgets

- Some cost drivers are within our influence (WCB) but most are not (bargained increases in coverage)...



Year	Benefits	% of Salaries
12/13	7,871,839	
13/14	7,733,721	
14/15	8,276,853	
15/16	8,444,526	
16/17	8,180,366	
17/18	7,981,177	
18/19	8,529,196	
19/20	8,979,755	25.8%
20/21	8,777,459	25.3%
21/22	9,156,176	25.0%
22/23	9,637,421	25.7%
23/24	10,897,286	26.9%

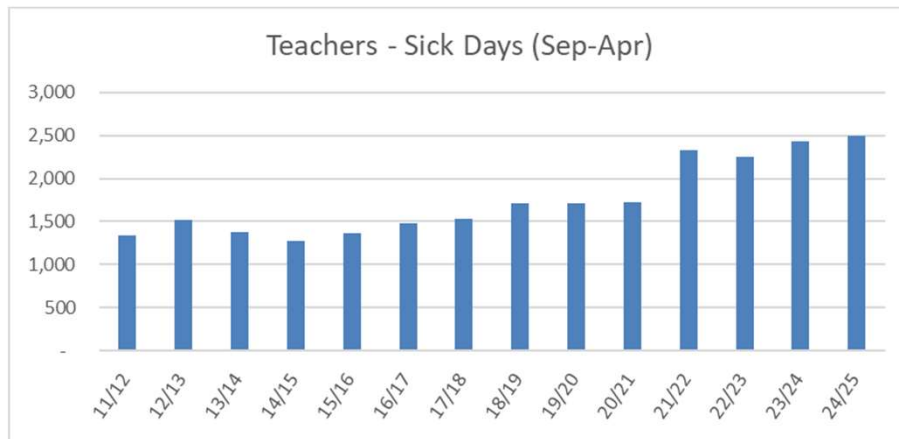
25-26 Planning – Cost pressures



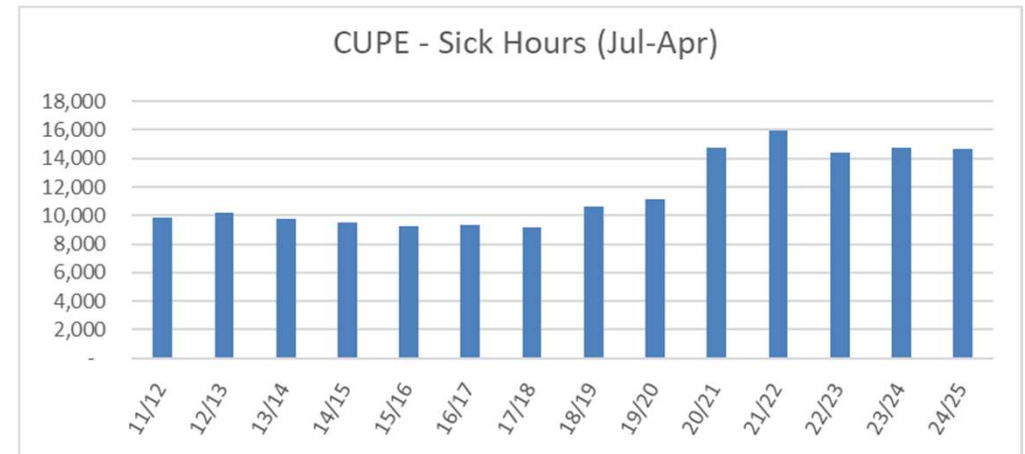
Small wins where we can make an impact

Base rate is determined from our WorkSafe BC classification unit: Public School District				
"How the sector are doing"				
Surcharge is calculated from our experience and adjusts our rate +/-				
"How we are doing relative to the sector"				

25-26 Planning – Cost pressures

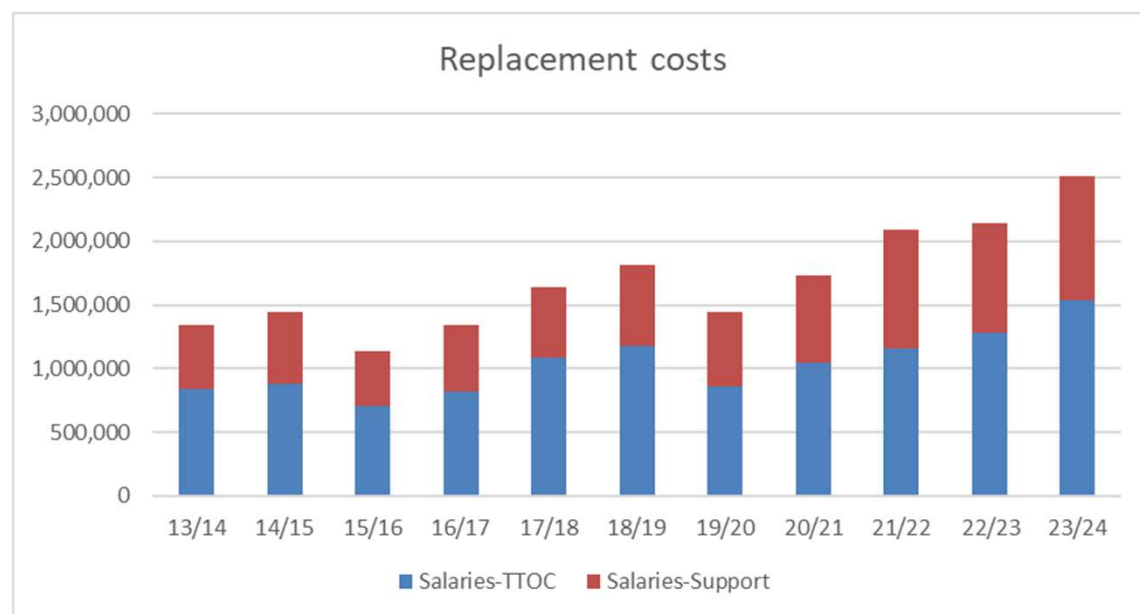


Reviewing the Year over Year comparisons, we are seeing some areas of optimism



25-26 Planning – Cost pressures

Replacement costs continue to increase as we've become more Health Conscious; Cold, Flu, RSV & COVID impact on self and others



Year	Combined	% of Salaries	
13/14	1,338,922	4.9%	
14/15	1,438,779	5.3%	
15/16	1,136,628	4.0%	*
16/17	1,340,733	4.6%	
17/18	1,638,697	5.6%	
18/19	1,812,701	5.8%	
19/20	1,440,896	4.3%	*
20/21	1,730,410	5.3%	
21/22	2,088,793	6.0%	
22/23	2,137,249	6.0%	
23/24	2,506,985	6.6%	

2025-26 Budget Planning

	Revenues	Expenses	Notes
Decrease in Operating revenues	(1,665,118)		Before cost escalations and requests
<u>Increases in Expenses</u>			
Estimated additional benefits		250,000	Escalating benefit rates
Estimated replacement cost increase		75,000	Escalating replacement costs
Cyber security software		150,000	Global risks continue
Increase in unfunded facility needs		150,000	Disposition and carrying charges for non educational sites
District and School supplies		200,000	Needs for the entire school system
Increase in Expenses		825,000	
Budget Deficit		(2,490,118)	Gap resulting from decreasing revenues and increasing costs



Budget response considerations:

25-26 Budget Planning – Deficit Response in Prior Years

Past Responses were to impact Supply budgets first and Staffing second and if possible kept away from the classroom

Reductions in Supplies and Services were made to

- School Supply budgets
- District planning funds
- Equipment replacement budgets
- Ongoing efficiencies continue to be monitored, utilities, bus routes, replacements

Where Staffing reductions were necessary,

- In the schools but directly tied to enrolment declines
 - CEAP and PASS/WW were adjusted
 - EA assignments were held back due to lower student needs
 - Classroom divisions get adjusted to accommodate overall School enrolment
- Staffing not affecting classrooms, justifying filled and unfilled Administrative positions

This Year is Different and the Magnitude of the Budget Deficit is forcing us to respond differently

25-26 Budget Planning – Recommended Response

	Revenue	Expenses
Decrease in Operating revenues	(\$ 1,665,118)	
Increase in Expenses		825,000
Budget Deficit		(\$ 2,490,118)

	Teachers	Support Staff	Administration	Total Savings
Staffing Adjustments	(11.0)	(7.0)	(3.0)	\$ 2,190,118
Staffing and Supplies (tied to Facility closures)		(2.0)		300,000
	(11.0)	(9.0)	(3.0)	\$ 2,490,118
Current FTE	264.9	191.0	44.0	
	4.1%	4.7%	6.8%	

25-26 Budget Planning – Recommended Response

		Teachers	Support Staff	Administration	Total Reductions
Collaboration/NRT staffing	staffing discontinued	(2.6)			
French Immersion divisions	enrolment related	(2.0)			
Other classroom divisions	enrolment related	(2.4)			
Teaching and Learning Team	eliminated team	(3.0)			
Curriculum Support Team	reduced allocations to schools	(1.0)			
Operations/Maintenance	reductions plus facility closures		(4.0)		
Inclusive Education	reduced hours being allocated		(3.0)		
Clerical/Library Assistants	rebalance allocations at school level		(2.0)		
School/Program Administration	not filling retirement / resignation			(2.0)	
Program manager	not filling resignation			(1.0)	
		(11.0)	(9.0)	(3.0)	\$ 2,490,118



Questions?



Next steps



- ✓ May 20 - Special Public Board meeting on Budget (tonight)
- ✓ May 27 - Regular Board meeting motion to approve 25/26 Annual Budget
- ✓ By June 30 - Annual Budget must be approved and submitted to Ministry



Thank you!