



PRESS RELEASE

Border Land School Division Sets 2021-2022 Budget

March 25, 2021

Border Land School Division Trustees approved a budget for the 2021-2022 school year with a maintained focus on student support by preserving staffing, class size and programming. The board believes that by continuing to budget for these priority areas, students and staff will have the resources they need to feel supported as the system transitions out of the pandemic. The approved budget of \$35 million will pass on a modest decrease in property taxes.

The board of trustees reviewed feedback from its shared budget consultation document. Trustees believe that students and staff worked hard to navigate the 2020-2021 school year and that next year needs to focus on resetting and supporting all within the system.

The budget makes no allowance for continued COVID-19 measures which to date have cost \$430,000 for the 2020-2021 school year. The division will rely on additional provincial and federal funding should these measures be required next fall. The budget also assumes that the province will cover additional expenses related to collective agreement settlements resulting from recent arbitration awards.

We will continue to put students first by supporting 2249 students in Border Land's 17 schools. Now is not the time for cuts, although lagging provincial funding support has resulted in a reduction of \$875,000 to achieve a balanced budget. Border Land will continue to direct its resources to the classroom where they are needed most.

We recognize that the steps taken this year to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Border Land schools has taken its toll on students. Attending part time, not seeing peers or the ability to access extra-curricular activities has been a loss. We want students to engage in all of this and more throughout the 2021-2022 school year. Passing this budget was critical to enabling that.