

KSD Works to Complete 2018-19 Budget

Another step in the development of the Kelsey School Division's 2018-19 budget occurred at the February 26 Board of Trustees meeting with the presentation of the draft budget for further public reaction. Several factors were taken into consideration as the budget process continued toward its finalization date in March 2018.

Months earlier School Division administrators presented their prioritized lists of capital projects they wished to see supported. These totaled \$967,400.00 the lowest amount in recent years. The list was shared by the Board at a public meeting on January 22, with responses invited. Next the School Board reviewed all the requests and reactions, and considered the viability of each item before trimming the total expenditure to \$612,400.00 a spending amount it could support. This included foreseeable expenditures for items that require replacement on a regular basis such as a school bus, photocopier, playground equipment, and structural repairs.

Recently Manitoba Education released information on what financing it intended to support for the 2018-19 school year, and what limitations it would place on local revenues and expenditures. Some of these had to be taken into account by the KSD Board. One of these was the government's withdrawal of the Tax Incentive Grant (TIG) it had given earlier to school divisions like Kelsey which did not increase the Special Levy tax to municipalities. Now the School Division will lose \$50,000 a year for the next four years, and will have to consider how to accommodate any rising costs, by either reducing school programs or raising the replacement funding through local taxation. The annual loss of the TIG in each of the coming years is about equivalent to a 1% increase in the Special Levy for the Kelsey School Division.

An anticipated slight reduction in student enrolment next year, which impacts revenue as well, also put some pressure on the Board to exercise caution.

Another reduction directed by the government is to lower the limit on the amount that a school division can expend on "administrative" costs by 15%. While KSD has always been below the 5% budget limit, this is an area that will have to be considered in future financial planning. The government has also directed school divisions to limit local taxation via the Special Levy next year to a maximum of 2%. Last year the KSD set a 0% increase for this, and for four of the last eight years did not increase the local Special Levy at all, but the loss of the TIG complicates the stability of the future revenue flow to the School Division.

All in all, with access to some additional revenue in recent years, more modest requests from School Division administrators, a further reduction of the School Division reserves to the minimum level required, and a selective approach to which expenditures are needed, the Board is able to propose a budget that once again will see no increase in the Special Levy.

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For further information, contact:
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June 30, 2018 Preliminary Budget		
MBCI	Doors to main lobby to gym replaced (can do-have doors)	
	Office carpeting replaced with tile	\$9,500
	Library carpeting replaced with tile	
SBMS	Revamp main office for better site and flow	\$10,000
	Air conditioner for Guidance Counsellor (get portable)	\$1,500
	Band Room sound proofing	
	Replace lockers \$200 each	\$12,000
	Intercom (we are fixing problems as they occur right now)	
	Wheelchair Accessibility (cost unknown-request to PSFB)	
Kelsey	Level playground, grass seed and replace asphalt	\$36,500
	Replace asphalt in playground	
	Replace carpet in library with tile	\$28,500
	Replace carpet in resource room with tile	\$5,000
	Replace carpet in Grade 3 hallway with tile	\$5,000
Opasquia	Sound system for gym	\$7,000
	Replace current gym ceiling with sound proofing materials	\$73,000
MD	Increase parking area for school	
Admin	Truck/Van - move to 5 year plan	\$25,000
	Accessibility Requirements	\$20,000
	Propane fired heat & air conditioner for MBCI gym(HVAC)	\$55,000
	Education and Sustainability one time supplies	\$10,000
	Board Room upgrade to include technology	
	Five year Capital Plan	
	Copier-Margaret Barbour	\$20,000
	Playground Equipment	\$15,000
	Bus	\$150,000
	Technology	\$106,000
	Town of The Pas Agreement	\$30,400
	Salaries-Increments and CUPE	\$150,000
	Reduction of 3.0 Staff to be determined	<u>(\$157,000)</u>
	Total	\$612,400
	Provincial Government Funding	\$280,000
	To balance budget - from Reserve	\$332,400
	Budgeting for 30 fewer students	