

PRESS RELEASE

School District No. 22 (Vernon) Responds to Provincial Budget Announcement

The provincial budget released yesterday shows an overall funding increase of \$112 million to operating grants for all school districts in 2010/2011.

Vernon School District Board Chair, Bill Turanski says, "The budget recognizes some of the cost pressures our district will have for next year such as salary costs for teachers, implementation of full day kindergarten, and support for the annual facilities grant program." While Mr. Turanski acknowledges the outlook for next year is somewhat improved the Board of Education still needs to look at significant ways to reduce its spending to meet the funding for 2010-2011.

Superintendent Rundell was cautiously optimistic acknowledging that the provincial budget announcement appears better than was initially expected. Ms. Rundell confirms, however, that our district must continue to examine our budget in depth and decisions regarding budget must wait until specific education funding is announced by the Ministry of Education. The information is expected on March 15.

Until that time, School District No. 22 (Vernon) continues to plan for a \$2.5 million spending reduction in order to have a balanced budget for the next school year.

Budget information and consultation meetings with the community will be held at the end of March as noted below.

March 24 at Charles Bloom Secondary Library
March 29 at New Horizons Hall on Westside Rd
March 30 at W.L. Seaton Secondary Library

All meetings begin at 6:30 pm