

## **NEWS RELEASE**

## DISTRICT BUDGET MINIMIZES IMPACT DESPITE FUNDING SHORTFALL

May 13, 2022

Kelowna, BC – The Board of Education approved the Superintendent of Schools/CEO's 2022/2023 budget recommendations at the Board of Education meeting on Wednesday. The recommendations focus on maintaining education services through staff continuity for continuing contract employees by reorganizing staff and service delivery. While the Provincial per pupil funding model fell short of addressing inflationary cost increases, the District was able to find savings that minimized the impact of budget cuts on employment through reorganization and trimming supplies and services.

"We were able to work with our team to find ways lower costs and maintain all the learning services we offer students now," says Kevin Kaardal, Superintendent of Schools/CEO. "As a growing district, the budget will still increase from last year and we'll have more staff. The cost pressures, mainly brought on by inflation, will only limit how much we can grow programs and services."

"Funding not keeping pace with inflation is a problem for all school districts now," says Moyra Baxter, Chairperson for the Board of Education. "While staff had to get creative to maintain services this year, we hope that government funding next year will reflect the increasing costs faced by school districts. In the meantime, we will continue to lobby the provincial government for adequate funding for our public school system."

The budget recommendations report presentation is available here.