



May 20, 2010

Dear Parent/Guardian:

I write to you as the Maple Ridge – Pitt Meadows Board of Education is in the midst of the 2010/11 annual budget process. As you may be aware, we have a world class public education system that consistently ranks among the best, and have many successes to celebrate in our schools. It is a system worth supporting and strengthening, as we know there is no better investment in tomorrow than meeting the educational needs of students today.

As we consider budget proposals, we must address a funding shortfall of \$600,000 for 2010/11 school year. Without money to cover this shortfall, we must either find ways to increase revenue or reduce spending, as the Board is legally required to pass a balanced budget.

This year again, the Board is facing considerable annual cost increases as well as costs of the new mandates that are not matched with the appropriate funding from the Ministry of Education.

Combined with the accumulated spending reductions over the years, it becomes increasingly difficult to draw budgets that do not impact quality of public education in our community and meet the needs of our students.

The final 2010/11 budget proposals will be released in the beginning of June. It is critical that we hear from you about what is essential to protect quality services for our students and your feedback on the proposed reductions. I invite you to visit our website at www.sd42.ca to familiarize yourself with the details of the budget process, the dates of the public board meetings and information on how to get in touch with the Board of Education.

Your District Parent Advisory Council (DPAC) represents the parent voice during the budget process and I encourage you to continue to stay involved with your PAC to assist in providing collective feedback to trustees.

As we work to balance our budget, it is critical that our provincial leaders understand the difficult decisions we face due to deficiencies in the provincial funding formula. Your Board of Education has been vocal over the past year about the urgent need to restore funding for K-12 to the appropriate levels and we will continue to speak on your behalf for the needs of public education.

Your support and participation is greatly appreciated as we work through this difficult process.

Sincerely,

Ken Clarkson, Chair
Board of Education