



Message from the Director - Dr. Jennifer Adams

Budget Planning Process 2012-2013 (March 2012)

I was at a meeting recently of directors of education from across the province and heard an interesting expression with respect to the budget process. The speaker said that we must “budget a plan rather than plan a budget”. I couldn’t agree more. With the recently approved 2011-2015 OCDSB Strategic Plan, our school district is poised to do just that.

The annual budget process is an important element of our corporate planning at the OCDSB. The budget is the allocation of resources which support our strategic plan, annual district goals, and Board and school improvement planning. The Ministry allocates funding to each board through its Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) using a formula that’s based on student enrolment and the unique needs of the students in each district.

Many of you may have read the Drummond Report that was presented recently to Premier McGuinty and the Government of Ontario. The report described the economic challenges facing the province and proposes changes to current practices and programs. In the coming weeks, we anticipate the province will provide more detailed information about the provincial budget and transfer payments to school districts. Those details will be critical to the final stages of our budget development process and may have a significant impact on the nature of our budget recommendations.

The OCDSB has begun the challenging process of establishing its 2012-2013 budget. Our core objective will be to continue to provide high quality programs and services that will allow us to continue our focus on student achievement and well-being.

An important part of our process is to seek input from the communities we serve. As parents, students, partners, community members or employees, you bring a unique perspective to our work. We invite you to share your ideas as they relate to your school, your committee or department, or to the district as a whole. Please think about our strategic priorities and consider the following questions:

1. Can you identify three opportunities for investment that would support student achievement and well-being at the OCDSB?
2. Can you identify three opportunities or changes that could generate savings?
3. Looking at the district’s four key priority areas, well-being, engagement, leadership and learning, in your opinion, does one of these priority areas require more investment at this time?

Consider these questions – individually, as a school council, in a public meeting, as a committee or as a community group/agency. You can provide your input individually or collectively. You can reach us at budgetinfo@ocdsb.ca. All submissions will be shared with the Budget Committee.

To learn more about the budget process please read through the [2012-2013 budget consultation document](#) or visit the [2012-2013 Budget Process webpage](#).

Again, I would like to encourage you to share your thoughts and ideas. If you have any questions or concerns on this or on any topic related to teaching and learning in the OCDSB, you can always contact me at director@ocdsb.ca. I will read each submission personally.

Sincerely,

Jennifer