MEDIA RELEASE

June 27, 2017

Board Approves Budget for 2017-2018

The Board of Trustees of District School Board Ontario North East has approved a budget of \$123,748,655 for the new school year.

"We are very pleased to be able to arrive at a compliant budget for the 2017/18 school year," says Superintendent of Business, Pearl Fong-West. "We continue to face a decline in enrolment, from a population of 11,579.53 students, when our Board first amalgamated in 1998-99, to a projected enrolment in 2017/18 of 6547.49. We are pleased that we will continue to be able to maintain all of the programming we have in place."

Priorities in 2017/18 continue to include an investment in an Indigenous Education Lead for the Board. As well, the 1:1 iPad program will see iPads distributed to 445 Grade 5 to 7 students in September 2017, with Grade 9 students having their iPads refreshed.

"By the 2017/18 school year, students from Grade 3 through Grade 12 will have their own iPad," says Fong West. "We continue to support our 21st Century learning with the 1:1 iPads and our team of iPad coaches."

Salary increases in 2017/18 will be funded by an increase in the salary benchmarks for teaching and non-teaching staff of 1.5 percent for the entire 2017/18 school year.

The Operating Budget represents a compliant budget but not a balanced budget. The total operating expense budget is \$123,748,655. The total operating revenue budget is \$123,267,786, resulting in an in-year deficit of \$480,869. The Capital Budget for 2017/18 amounted to \$12,480,962.

"Our Capital Budget is a result of the Ministry's new investments and will be used to provide safe and healthy environments to support student achievement and well-being," adds Fong-West.

"I congratulate Board staff for their hard work, both for their efforts in keeping the budget in line and for ensuring it was properly prepared in time for thorough review by the trustees," says Board Chair Doug Shearer. "Clearly there will continue to be a need for careful management and review again in the coming year."

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2017/18 Budget Details:

Operating Budget \$123,748, 655 Operating Deficit \$480,869 Capital Budget \$12,480,962 Total Staffing Complement 947.34 Full Time Employees

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