



# NEWS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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## **DSBN's Approved Budget Supports Student Achievement**

District School Board of Niagara's Board of Trustees passed a balanced budget for 2007-08 at last night's Board Meeting. The \$344,640,100 budget features a total Grants for Student needs of \$339,864,917; an increase of 3.1%.

Dalton Clark, Chair of the Board's Finance Committee described this year's budget process as, "challenging and necessitating some compromises. We are disappointed that the funding we receive for high needs special education students continues to leave us the second lowest in the province. We are however, in positive discussions with Jim Bradley and other officials to ameliorate this situation. We are pleased that through the hard work of our trustees and staff we have been able to deliver a balanced budget."

The DSBN's approved budget continues to support a strong commitment to student achievement. Several new initiatives have been introduced, including the launch of full-day every day kindergarten at eight schools, the creation of a Welcome Centre to support new families and to assist international students with their transition into DSBN schools, and an increase in the number and availability of online courses for students. "Our budget focuses on supporting increased student learning in three priority areas of our strategic plan: enhancing literacy, numeracy and character education," said Director of Education, Warren Hoshizaki. "We are confident that the strategies this budget supports will increase student learning across the District School Board of Niagara."

- 30 -

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