



PRESS RELEASE

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Preliminary Budget for 2019-20 School Year

The Pine Creek School Division Board of Trustees approved its preliminary \$15.4 million operating budget for the 2019/20 year at last night's Regular Board meeting. This year's provincial announcement tasked the Division with accommodating another 2% cut in provincial funding to the formula guarantee grant, while also forcing a reduction on the overall budgeted expenses to stay within a 2% increase on the special requirement for taxation. Pine Creek's Formula Guarantee Grant has been reduced by a total \$421,420 less than the \$7.5 million in guaranteed funding issued each fiscal year since 2011/12.

The Division's people resources continue to be a priority to Pine Creek's Trustees and Administration, as a major employer in its communities. Positions and programming throughout the Division have taken cuts, in order to meet the reductions on provincial government funding, all while Pine Creek SD is projecting to continue growing in enrolment. With a realized growth of over 21 students in Pine Creek in the 2018-19 school year, cuts to the classroom would prove detrimental and were avoided in this budget.

The preliminary budget translates into an overall 1.9% increase on the 2019 property tax levy, with a mill rate increase of 0.2 mills. The Division is deficit budgeting in order to avoid staffing reductions and will no longer rely on the 4% allowable operating surplus. Contingent situations that arise in the Division throughout the 2019/20 year may force further reductions to operating surplus.

The Public Budget Consultation is scheduled on Tuesday, February 26th at 7:00 pm at William Morton Collegiate in Gladstone, MB. The Division encourages all constituents to come out and hear about the challenges that Pine Creek will face for the 2019/20 school year. The Board of Trustees will welcome budget presentations in response to the preliminary budget at its March 7th Public Board meeting. To arrange a presentation, contact Secretary-Treasurer, Robyn Winters by noon on Monday, March 4th.

For more information contact:

Robyn Winters, Secretary-Treasurer
rwinters1@pinecreeksd.mb.ca