

## **2024 – 2025 Budget Press Release**

At the May 28, 2024, Board meeting, the Board of Trustees of The Horizon School Division approved the operating budget for the 2024-2025 school year. An overall deficit of \$37,623 was reported. As a part of that deficit is a one-time remediation revenue of \$708,591. This is in relation to the Alberta Education funded demolition of Erle Rivers High School and the reclamation of identified hazardous materials which has generated a revenue item that is not usually presented in the Division's financial statement. Adjusting for this remediation presents an operating deficit of \$746,214 for the upcoming school year.

Alberta Education funding rates received no provincial increase for the 2024-2025 school year. Funding adjustments that were received resulted from changes in enrolment or how certain grants were allocated provincially. The Horizon School Division receives over 90% of its revenue directly from Alberta Education and that funding received a total increase of 1.9%. This is insufficient to offset escalating costs. Significant cost increases relate to support staff wages, health benefit rates, Canada Pension Plan, carbon tax, staff absenteeism and general inflation.

The board has approved a significant deficit to limit reductions in staffing and programming. The deficit will be covered by board reserves. The practice of having deficits is not sustainable. If funding does not rise to offset cost escalations, adjustments to operations will have to be made in future years.

The budget summary is as follows:

The Horizon School Division Comparative Budget for the year ending August 31							
				2024	2025	2024 % of Rev	2025 % of Rev
<b>REVENUE</b>							
Government of Alberta				49,802,936	51,402,065	96.6%	95.9%
Other Revenue				1,761,737	2,195,827	3.4%	4.1%
<b>TOTAL REVENUES</b>				<b>51,564,673</b>	<b>53,597,892</b>		
<b>EXPENSES By Object</b>							
Certificated Salaries				20,802,772	20,871,085	40.3%	38.9%
Certificated Benefits				4,842,373	5,025,535	9.4%	9.4%
Non-certificated salaries and wages				7,854,072	8,460,475	15.2%	15.8%
Non-certificated benefits				1,889,679	2,074,485	3.7%	3.9%
Total Compensation				35,388,896	36,431,580	68.6%	68.0%
Services, contracts and supplies				13,536,652	14,563,873	26.3%	27.2%
Amortization				2,690,508	2,640,062	5.2%	4.9%
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>				<b>51,616,056</b>	<b>53,635,515</b>	<b>100.1%</b>	<b>100.1%</b>
<b>Deficit</b>				<b>(51,383)</b>	<b>(37,623)</b>		
Adjust for Remediation Revenue				-	(708,591)		
<b>Adjusted Deficit</b>				<b>(51,383)</b>	<b>(746,214)</b>		