



## **2024/25 BUDGET GUIDING PRINCIPLES**

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The Saanich Board of Education will keep support for students at the forefront of its decisions. The Board will be guided in making difficult budget decisions by its values of Compassion, Honesty, Fairness, Respect and Responsibility and its beliefs that:

Public education is fundamental to society and schools must prepare young people as citizens.

Public education is the responsibility of the whole community.

Healthy relationships are the foundation of a successful public education system.

- In establishing budgets, the Board will consult with representatives of partner groups and with the broader community.
- In establishing the 2024/25 annual budget the Board will, to the greatest extent possible, maintain or enhance programs and services for the students of School District No. 63.
- The Board recognizes that budget decisions are best informed by the identification and evaluation of strategic and operational priorities.
- In reviewing programs and services as part of budget deliberations, the Board will endeavour to support these in the most effective, cost efficient and culturally appropriate manner.
- The Board is committed to administrative and operational efficiency, and appropriate management of risk including the provision of safe and healthy learning environments and sustainable environmental practices.
- The Board will consider options related to the number, locations and use of facilities and the school calendar.
- The Board recognizes that committed reserves are an important element of sound budget management and will not consider them for offsetting budget challenges.
- As a sound financial practice, the Board recognizes that a contingency reserve is prudent to address unforeseen budget pressures.
- The Board is committed to responsible long term financial planning-
- The Board will continue to review opportunities to enter into additional revenue generating activities.
- The Board is committed to continued advocacy for stable, adequate funding and a fair allocation system.