

July 14, 2006

An open letter to all faculty and staff from Executive Council  
regarding Dufferin-Peel's budget deficit

This has been a challenging year for our organization. Many of you have shouldered increased workloads, made due with less, and strove to meet the increased demands of the job under stressful circumstances as we looked for ways to reduce our deficit and manage our budget within serious financial constraints. Your hard work on behalf of students and Catholic education, and your support for our efforts with the Ministry, has been much appreciated.

On Wednesday, July 12, at a special board meeting, trustees voted to accept the terms of reference for a ministry-appointed special advisor, whose mandate is to have the board balance its budget within two years.

Trustees had reviewed the same terms of reference at a meeting held on June 29, at which time, they voted to accept the terms with amendments. The Minister's response was that no amendments would be accepted and the board was in a "take it or leave it" position. Trustees made their decision faced with the prospect of an outside agent making cuts that would affect Dufferin-Peel children.

While our 2005-06 budget deficit has been reduced to about \$7.4 million, our 2006-07 budget is projected to have a cumulative deficit of approximately \$21.1 million. This includes the above-mentioned \$7.4 million.

It is inevitable that cuts to programs and services will occur. Under the terms of reference, which are posted on the board website at [www.dpcdsb.org](http://www.dpcdsb.org), trustees will make the final decision on any cuts. We expect that decisions will be made in August and September of this year.

We are committed to open and honest communication and we will continue to keep you apprised of further developments as they are known.

Please continue to monitor the website throughout the summer.

Executive Council

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