



## NEWS RELEASE

Monday, April 28, 2008

### Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools board sets mill rate

**SASKATOON, April 28, 2008** – The Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools Board of Education set its property tax mill rate today for the 2008 calendar year.

Trustees voted at today's regular board meeting to increase the mill rate by 3.93 per cent. With the property tax credit from the provincial government increasing from 10 per cent to 12 per cent, the net tax increase for homeowners is 1.93 per cent. This works out to \$22.53 per \$100,000 of residential property value.

Within this financial framework, the school division continues to focus on the board priority of improving student learning and achievement. In elementary schools, this includes ensuring children are strong, confident readers and writers. As well, a newly implemented math program uses hands-on tasks and problem-solving to help students gain a better understanding of math skills. Division staff work extensively with teachers to ensure they have strategies to meet each student's learning needs in literacy and numeracy.

At the high school level, work is under way to examine the mandate of high school education and coming trends. Programs like the E. D. Feehan Catholic High School Career Academy, which helps students explore various career pathways like bioresource management, communications technology and construction technology, is one example of new high school programming.

The mill rate also allows the division to accommodate rising operating costs for its facilities.

"Everyone on our board is aware that we must meet the needs of our students while ensuring that we use taxpayers' resources efficiently and responsibly," said Board Chair Jim Carriere.

The mill rate passed today also applies to the Humboldt, Biggar and Saskatoon Rural communities. The provincial government required that amalgamated school divisions implement a uniform mill rate for all communities by Jan. 1, 2008.

Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools has 45 schools and approximately 15,200 students in Saskatoon, Humboldt, Biggar and Viscount. Teaching students that they have the ability and the responsibility to make the world a better place is a key part of Catholic education. At Greater Saskatoon Catholic Schools we are Rooted in Faith, Growing in Knowledge, Reaching Out to Transform the World.

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