

**A PRESENTATION TO THE THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT
SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET COMMITTEE**

Banking on the future: Investing in school libraries

Linda White

I gave this presentation to the Board Budget Committee in a year when members weren't looking to make direct cuts to the libraries, but were attempting to cut our coordinator's job in half.

I started off thinking that I wanted to do something like those MasterCard commercials (the price of this.....the price of this.....the cost of that.....priceless), but I couldn't seem to get the information to fit together under any sort of general headings. When I asked for some help, Marlene Turkington came through with an amazing brainwave at 3:00 a.m., and that saw us develop the headings which then allowed us to fit the information we wanted into the presentation. It was really positive and the trustees asked questions regarding how our funding compared to the Toronto District School Board guidelines. Later, we gathered that information and forwarded it to them.

We realized that having specific information on our libraries (e.g. funding vs. student numbers/ how much money comes from fundraising/ what are the staffing numbers, etc.) was very important. Cheryl Dinnin has done an amazing job gathering the elementary statistics for us, and Paul Swan and I have been gathering the secondary information for the past few years. I think it's important to keep statistics to show the changes that have occurred both in the funding and in the staffing!



Pictures courtesy of Thames Valley District School Board