

JUNE 15, 2016

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE BUDGET MEETING

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Special Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Board Room, with the following members in attendance: K. Woodcock (Chairperson), C. Harrington, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, N. Waddell and C. Watson.

Trustees J. Hendry, T. Martin, S. McMillan and K. Smith were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees R. Barnes and A. Takhar were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), M. Deacon, M. Gerard, L. Read, M. Schinkel and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: F. Frasheri, J. Herring, W. Jocques, L. Slupeiks and S. Uttley.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson K. Woodcock called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m., once quorum was reached.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by C. Harrington:

That the agenda of the June 15, 2016, Special Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest this evening.

2016-2017 BUDGET OVERVIEW

Superintendent M. Gerard and Controller K. Newland provided Trustees with a PowerPoint presentation outlining sections of the budget. Trustees had the opportunity to ask questions of clarification on each section of the report.

Some of the areas of discussion included attraction rates and surveys for parents and students who are leaving the Board to determine why they are departing.

A discussion on the Blair Outdoor Education Centre and the need for increased maintenance of the facility followed. K. Newland responded that she would need to consult the technical paper to see if there was funding included for maintenance of the site and could provide an answer at the next budget meeting.

In response to a question, M. Gerard outlined the steps staff have taken to save money on property and liability insurance and noted that savings have been achieved in this area.

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A lengthy discussion followed on how this year the Occasional Teacher budget line was not overspent and this was due to a number of factors including the labour situation and the moratorium on workshops. Trustee C. Millar stated that she had heard there was a shortage of Occasional Teachers and hoped this was not the reason savings had been achieved in this area.

Superintendent M. Weinert provided an overview for Trustees on the request for two full-time equivalent Employee Wellness Officers and the support they would provide.

Superintendent M. Weinert also spoke briefly to the request for 1 full time equivalent Human Resources Officer.

Senior Superintendent M. Schinkel provided an overview on the request for 1 full-time equivalent K-12 Program System Administrator and the duties of the position.

Superintendent M. Deacon provided the overview on the request for 1 full-time Content Strategist Position and the proposed role and duties of the position.

Superintendent M. Gerard provided an overview of the proposed request for 1 full-time equivalent School Travel Planner.

DELEGATIONS

It was noted that this evening was to be a Special Delegation Meeting to discuss the budget, but there were no delegations present this evening.

REPORTS

Superintendent M. Gerard provided a breakdown on the proposed Education Centre improvements and the expenses associated with each item. At the end of the presentation the recommendation for budget approval was presented to trustees and it was noted that the Board is in a balanced budget position at this time.

MOTION TO DEFER CONSIDERATION

2. Moved by N. Waddell, seconded by C. Millar:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board defer consideration of the 2016-2017 Budget to the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 21, 2016.

-Carried-

ADJOURNMENT

3. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by C. Millar:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 15, 2016, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.