

WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

STUDENT SENATE MEETING

Minutes

Date: December 2, 2015

Call to Order: 19:08 (7:08 PM)

Adjournment: 21:05 (9:05 PM)

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Speakers

Mr. Matthew Gerard, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer of the Board

Presentation regarding the budget, funding, and expenditures

- Personal history
 - Cafeteria payroll, accounts payable, accounts receivable in grade 11
- Building blocks of the budget
 - Enrollment (majority)
 - Grants
 - Expenditures
 - Status of 2014/2015
 - Accountability
 - Capital budget
- Annual board budget is approximately \$700 million per year
- Different levels of enrollment with different amounts of money provided for each level
 - JK/SK
 - Grades 1-3
 - Grades 4-8
 - 9-12 (about \$6,500 per student per year)
- Five different school boards in Waterloo region
 - Public (WRDSB)
 - Catholic (WCDSB)
 - French Public
 - French Catholic
 - Private/independent
- Budget is heavily based on enrollment and estimations on future enrollment
 - Budget team forecasts student enrollment in elementary and secondary through to 2025
 - The WRDSB accepts about 70 per cent of all students in Waterloo region
- The Waterloo Region District School Board is the 9th largest board in Ontario with about 61,500 students

- Grant revenues
 - Two pupil grants
 - Pupil foundations
 - Teacher salaries, educational assistants, early childhood educators, textbooks, supplies, computers, library, guidance
 - School foundations
 - Twelve special purpose grants
 - Special education, languages, First Nations/Metis/Inuit, etc.
 - Capital grant
 - For the procurement of land/buildings for new schools
 - Education Program Initiatives (EPOs)
 - One-time grants for Ministry of Education initiated programs (e.g. Chromebook pilot program at Huron Heights)
- Expenditures
 - Instruction in the classroom accounts for the vast majority of board expenses
 - School administration staff (principals, vice-principals, etc.)
 - School operations (energy, custodial staff, etc.)
 - Administration and governance (WRDSB Education Centre)
 - 2 per cent spending cap imposed
 - Transportation
 - The board transports about 22,000 students daily
- Budget process begins in January and must be completed by the end of June
- Maintenance
 - 2015/2016 academic year
 - \$8,671,956 (school renewal)
 - \$0 (school condition improvement)
- School Administration (principals, vice-principals, support staff, etc.)
 - 2014/2015 academic year
 - \$45,767,273
 - 2015/2016 academic year
 - \$46,266,844
 - Note that this is a “material” increase and can be attributed to inflation
- Board Administration (Education Centre, board of education staff salaries & bonuses, etc.)
 - 2014/2015 academic year
 - \$10,665,965
 - 2015/2016 academic year
 - \$10,859,173
 - Note that this is a “material” increase and can be attributed to inflation
- Administrative Procedure 2500 and Schedule A
 - Used for textbooks and classroom supplies
 - School staff (not board staff) allocate how Schedule A funds are used on a school-by-school basis (principal and vice-principals)
- Due to the fact that fewer physical textbooks are being purchased, this money is being reallocated to computers, electronic textbooks, and software
- Point was raised:

- Since fewer textbooks are being purchased, some students are being asked by teachers (math and chemistry especially) to print handouts at home or at school, which uses a lot of print credits. Additional print credits would be appreciated to address this.
- Administrative Procedure 4900
 - Services which students can be charged for
 - Field trips and off-campus excursions
 - Extracurricular and co-curricular programs (clubs and teams)
 - Art and music programs
 - International Baccalaureate (IB) and other speciality programs
- New pilot programs (e.g. Chromebooks at Huron Heights)
 - Based on principal and vice-principal interest, student demand, and available funding
 - Usually depend on Education Program Initiatives (EPOs)
- Outdoor classrooms
 - There is no dedicated funding for outdoor classrooms
 - If a new school is built and comes in under budget or if the school fundraises, and outdoor classroom is possible
- Different funding for newcomer programs
 - Heavily based on enrollment and expected settlement of newcomers
- Think of questions for Mr. Gerard as he will be returning in January as the new budget is being written

Ms. Lynsey Slupeiks, Communications Officer

Presentation regarding the Student Senate webpage and RUP

- Manages website, Twitter, media requests, advertising, and branding
- If you mention WRDSB on Twitter, she will try to retweet and reply
- Please keep it respectful
 - She does report inappropriate behaviour to school principals
- Responsible Use Policy (RUP)
 - Threats are rare, but a procedure and chain of command does exist to deal with these situations
 - There is a set procedure for opening an official Twitter account for your school
 - Please ensure that all school Twitter accounts are created through Lynsey
 - Be it a primary school account (@school) or a program-specific account (@school_sports, @school_events, etc.)
 - In a perfect world, the board would have a dedicated staff member for social media, they would reply to everyone, and tweet daily, but this is not possible due to the limitations of the department
- School of the day nominations
 - Online form for school administrators and staff to use
- Instagram and Snapchat accounts for the WRDSB
 - Under consideration, but unlikely
 - Facebook is more likely to be created first
- Promoting events on Twitter and the WRDSB website
 - Contact a teacher or school administrator to contact Lynsey with details
- Student Senate page on the WRDSB site

- Terms of Reference
- Agenda and minutes
- Twitter account for Student Senate
- Activity summaries/updates
- Think of other information for the page

Policies and Governance (Updates from the Board)

- Equity and Inclusion Policy, and Transportation Policy were reviewed
- Motion by a trustee for extra-curricular activities to have non-staff volunteers (i.e. parents)
 - Motion was referred back to staff for further research
- A large delegation of parents raised issue with the Internet filtering system and the accidental allowance of pornographic content through the filter
 - Issue was referred back to staff for further research
 - Mark Carbone (Chief Information Officer) will be attending in February
 - Think of questions
- New school names were chosen (re: new policy)
 - Vista Hills, Waterloo
 - Groh, South Kitchener
- Syrian refugees
 - We are expecting about 500 new students to our board
 - Student Senate may be asked to be involved in this project
 - More details to follow in January

Activity Updates

Event	Cause/Description	Date/Time	Location
President's Day	-	Dec. 3, 2015	ECI
Coffee house	Gender neutral washroom	?	ECI
Silent auction	Charity Begins at Home	?	SJAM
Toy drive (money)	Christmas presents for children	?	GCI
Multicultural week	Fashion show, bracelets, etc.	Dec. 2-4, 2015	SJAM
Toiletry drive	Homeless shelter	Ongoing	GCI
Winter music night	Nutrition for learning	Dec. 10, 2015	WCI
Music night	-	Dec. 9, 2015	FHCI
Community dinner	Food for the homeless	Dec. 13-14, 2015	KCI
Empty Stocking Fund	Christmas presents for children	Ongoing	CHCI