

JULY 27, 2020
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Special Budget Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. via video conference, with the following members in attendance: J. Herring (Chairperson), K. Meissner, C. Millar, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Student Trustees N. Chenthivelnathan and M. Robinson were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), D. Ahluwalia, R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, A. Mercier, S. Miller, E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, A. Russell, G. Shantz and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: B. Jaklic, W. Jocques and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Millar:

That the agenda of the July 27, 2020, Special Budget Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

The Chairperson announced it was the last meeting for the Student Trustees, Narein Chenthivelnathan and Myah Robinson. Each Student Trustee said a few words of farewell to trustees and staff.

Student Trustee N. Chenthivelnathan left the meeting at 7:04 p.m.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustee C. Watson declared a conflict for the July 20, 2020, In Camera meeting.

REPORTS

2020-2021 SCHOOL CONDITION IMPROVEMENT (SCI) GRANT - SCHOOL RENEWAL

This report was provided for information.

Each year, several projects for major maintenance are prioritized and funded from the annual Pupil Accommodation Grant – School Renewal, but not all prioritized projects can be completed

due to the limited amount of funding available. The additional School Condition Improvement (SCI) Grant will allow for completion of backlogged prioritized projects in the 2020-2021 school year. The intent of these prioritized projects is to bring older schools up to current standards. Trustees were provided a list of projects for 2020-2021 that will be considered for the SCI Grant – School Renewal.

Trustees asked a number of questions regarding health and safety in classrooms.

2020-2021 PUPIL ACCOMMODATION GRANT – SCHOOL RENEWAL ALLOCATION

The School Renewal Allocation is provided by the Ministry of Education (Ministry) to address the cost of repairing and renovating schools and infrastructure. The Ministry’s allocation to the Waterloo Region District School Board School Renewal Grant for the 2020-2021 fiscal year is projected to be \$10,320,788. The funds available are divided between major maintenance items and program needs.

The presentation also focused on COVID-19 and the HVAC systems. The presentation also addressed a trustee question regarding students in portables. Trustees asked additional questions regarding health and safety in classrooms and schools.

2. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the 2020-2021 Pupil Accommodation Grant expenditures for the year September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2021, not to exceed the estimated level of grant received from the Ministry of Education for School Renewal Allocation, as established in the budget of the report entitled, 2020- 2021 Pupil Accommodation Grant – School Renewal Allocation, dated July 27, 2020.

-Carried-

BUDGET UPDATE PRESENTATION

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided trustees with an update on capital projects and funding. The Ministry of Education (Ministry) recently announced the approval of funding for the Board’s fourth capital priority: Doon South II (Ormston). He reviewed a number of projects that still require funding, as well as successfully tendered projects and the number of schools that will be receiving air conditioning this year. He highlighted the Support of Students Funding which anticipates the WRDSB receiving approximately \$6M for each of 2020/2021 and 2021/2022 for additional staffing. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard also shared the Priorities and Partnership Funding for the 2020/2021 year which are targeted Ministry investments to support the achievement of key Government priorities that align with its vision for Education in Ontario. Lastly, he reviewed the Special Projects Requests, which includes funding for September 2020 School Reopening, Air Conditioning for Schools, Technological Education Equipment and Sustainability: Car Charging Stations. Additional details were

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provided for the school reopening expenditures. The presentation concluded with a review of next steps.

Trustees asked questions regarding costs related to the return to school and work, which were addressed.

RISE AND REPORT

3. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Board rise and reconvene in a Special Board meeting.

-Carried-

Trustees rose at 8:29 p.m.