

**JUNE 16, 2021
SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING**

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

Student Trustees T. John-Jandles and R. McDonald were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), D. Ahluwalia, R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, N. Landry, B. Lemon, S. Miller, C. Newton, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, G. Shantz, J. Veit and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: M. Delisle and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by C. Millar:

That the agenda of the June 16, 2021, Special Budget Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Melissa Roe, Jain Redfearn and Dinah Murdoch - Budgetary Priorities

Trustees asked questions of clarification regarding the delegation's presentation.

REPORTS

2021-2022 ANNUAL PUPIL ACCOMMODATION GRANT – SCHOOL RENEWAL ALLOCATION

The funds available are divided between major maintenance items and program needs. Business Services establishes the spending priorities for major maintenance programs through condition assessments performed by Facility Services staff and/or outside consultants. These items are

placed in the long-range capital forecast and are scheduled as funding permits. Renovations for program purposes that have been requested by school Principals are prioritized through consultation with the Elementary Accommodation Committee (EAC) and the Secondary Accommodation Committee (SAC). Major maintenance and program improvements proposed in this budget have been prioritized with the intent to bring older schools up to current standards. Many prioritized projects for both major maintenance and program improvements cannot be funded from the amount available in the anticipated allocation.

Trustees asked questions regarding site improvements on a new school, accessibility, possible deferred construction and asbestos abatement.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the 2021-2022 Pupil Accommodation Grant expenditures for the year September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022, 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, 2021-2022 Pupil Accommodation Grant – School Renewal Allocation, dated June 9, 2021.

-Carried-

2021-2022 ANNUAL SCHOOL CONDITION IMPROVEMENT 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. Not all prioritized projects can be completed due to the limited amount of funding available. This additional School Condition Improvement (SCI) Grant will allow for completion of backlogged prioritized projects. The intent of these prioritized projects is to bring older schools up to current standards.

Trustees asked questions regarding the deferred construction and ventilation projects.

2021-2022 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard introduced the presentation and began by thanking staff for their collective work. He spoke to the key items used to develop the budget.

N. Landry, Controller, Financial Services, reviewed the key budget risks and board inputs. He provided further detail on the decline in enrolment by grade. He also reviewed the international student enrolment. He shared the anticipated English as a Second Language/English Literacy Development (ESL/ELD) Allocation. He also reviewed the short-term supply costs and extended day revenues.

Student Trustee T. John-Jandles left the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

3. Moved by M. Ramsay, seconded by K. Smith:

That the Waterloo District School Board suspend Bylaw 9.12, thus allowing trustees to speak without limit on the topic at hand.

-Carried-

Trustees asked questions regarding enrolment, reengagement, international students and summer supports for students.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard reviewed funding changes for the 2021-2022 school year. These changes included COVID-19 related supports, the Half-Year Rule and additional revenue changes. He also provided an overview of the funding by category.

Trustees asked questions of clarification regarding mental health funding, COVID-19 Supports funded additional staffing, the Half-Year Rule and equity initiatives.

N. Landry, Controller, Financial Services, reviewed the Key Expenditure Areas by category and Targeted Ministry Investments.

Trustees asked questions regarding School Mental Health Ontario and the Indigenous Education Grant. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard agreed to follow up with the Ministry of Education regarding funding for other partners as mentioned in Memorandum 2021 B10: 2021-22 Priorities and Partnership Fund and provide trustees with an email response.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard shared information on budget delegations received and the work done by staff to date regarding these delegations. It was noted that the anticipated work will be able to be done within the existing budget, but if not, a special request could come to trustees.

It was the Will of the Board to receive an update on the requests from today's delegations including timelines for implementation. This request will be scheduled in the fall by the Agenda Development Committee.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided trustees with next steps, a summary of the budget and the budget recommendation for 2021-2022.

Trustees thanked staff for the work on the budget.

4. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board (Board) approve the budget as presented in this report—with revenues of \$811,434,116 and expenses of \$803,209,685 with the difference of \$8,224,431 attributed as follows:

Excess of Revenue over Expenditures	\$8,224,431
LESS:	
As required by Ministry of Education (Ministry) budget compliance regulations, this budget includes the following appropriations of accumulated surplus:	
Increase/ (Decrease) in Unavailable for Compliance - Accumulated Surplus	
• PSAB Adjustment for Interest Accrual	\$112,900
• Sinking Fund Interest Earned	(\$24,045)
• Committed Capital Projects Adjustment	(\$778,428)
• Revenues recognized for Land	\$15,332,490
	\$14,642,917
SUB-TOTAL – (Deficit) for Compliance before additional appropriations	(\$6,418,486)
PLUS:	
Increase/ (Decrease) in Internally Appropriated - Accumulated Surplus	
• In-Year Committed Capital Projects	(\$210,000)
• COVID-19 Related Expenditures	\$6,628,486
	\$6,418,486
Difference	\$0

-Carried-

ADJOURNMENT

5. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by K. Meissner:

That trustees rise from the Special Budget Meeting of June 16, 2021, to reconvene in a Special Board Meeting.

-Carried-

Trustees rose to reconvene in a Special Board Meeting at 9:10 p.m.