

JUNE 8, 2022

SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE 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: S. Piatkowski (Chairperson), K. Meissner, C. Millar, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

Trustees J. Herring, M. Ramsay, K. Smith and C. Whetham were unable to attend.

Student Trustees K. Soror and N. Vishkin were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: j. chanicka (Director of Education and Secretary), J. Albrecht, E. Dougan-McKenzie, M. Gerard, N. Landry and G. Shantz.

Other staff in attendance: M. Delisle, R. Lam and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. Piatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:18 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by K. Meissner, seconded by L. Tremble:

That the agenda of the June 8, 2022, Special Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson S. Piatkowski shared regrets from Trustees J. Herring, C. Whetham and K. Smith and noted that Trustee M. Ramsay was excused from this meeting.

REPORTS

2022-2023 GSN OVERVIEW

This presentation was provided for information.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard reviewed the 2022-23 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) including related Ministry of Education (Ministry) documents and Ministry priorities for

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2022-23. He shared the enrolment inputs for the GSNs, GSN Components including Classroom, Schools, Local Management and Special Education Priorities and the related allocations. He reviewed changes to the GSNs for 2022-2023 and additional funding including:

- COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund
- Recent Immigrant Supplement
- Student Mental Health Bundle
- Local Special Education Priorities
- Broadband Network Operations
- School Facilities Operations Allocations

He also reviewed the increased transportation funding, related cost pressures and capital funding and shared the list of Priorities and Partnerships Funding (PPF), including details regarding the Tutoring Supports PPF.

N. Landry, Controller, Financial Services, reviewed the 2022-2023 Budget Process and internal guidance documents including the Strategic Plan and Operational Goals.

2021-22 INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT AND FORECAST

This report was provided for information.

The process used in the development of the annual operating budget for the board has evolved over the years but the underlying factors that influence its development continue to be:

- Ministry funding and directives
- The board's underlying financial position (accumulated surplus/deficit)
- The board's strategic plan and operational goals

Trustees received financial results up to May 31, 2022, (Quarter 3) and a comparison between the budget and the forecasted year-end position. COVID-19 continues to have an operational and financial impact on the WRDSB. Staff have forecasted that the board will finish the year with an operating deficit of approximately \$7.39M, or 1.02% of budgeted operating revenues. Key risk areas which will impact the year-end results include revenues, student enrolment, expenditures and supply costs.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard reviewed the next steps for the budget process and reviewed a summary of the operations challenges and risks associated with the 2022-2023 budget including learning recovery, mental health, sustainability and student enrolment.

Trustees asked questions regarding both reports presented. Questions pertained to enrolment risks and reasons behind the reduced enrolment. Staff offered to provide details regarding staff mental health funding as part of the budget report next week. Trustees were provided clarification regarding the Autism Additional Qualifications Subsidy for Educators PPF and the Tutoring Supports PPF. Questions continued regarding spending provisions and envelopes, gas price increases, public engagement in the budget process and the budget line for legal fees.

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Trustee C. Watson moved a motion to suspend the rules. This motion failed with no seconder.

As questions continued it was noted that staff would provide further detail regarding experiential learning as part of the budget report next week. A question was addressed regarding the Broadband Network Operations funding. The Education Funding Technical Paper 2022-23 provides further details as well and is publicly available. A link to the document will be provided to trustees tomorrow, via email.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 8, 2022, be adjourned.

-Carried-

Opposed: C. Watson

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.