



BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK
Catholic District School Board

Minutes

Catholic Education Centre
322 Fairview Drive
Brantford, ON N3T 5M8

Budget Committee
Friday July 26, 2024 – 1:00 p.m.
Boardroom / Microsoft Teams Meeting

Trustees:

Rick Petrella (Chair), Carol Luciani, Dennis Blake, Mark Watson

Regrets: Dennis Blake

Senior Administration

Mike McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary Cheryl Dalrymple, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer, John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Lorrie Temple, Phil Wilson (Superintendents of Education), Ginny Toth, Manager of Financial Services.

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Trustee Luciani.

1.2 Attendance

Attendance was noted as above.

1.3 Approval of the Agenda

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Budget Committee approves the Agenda of July 26, 2024.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest: Nil.

1.5 Approval of the Minutes of December 13, 2023

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Budget Committee approves the Minutes of December 13, 2023.

Carried

1.6 Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil.

2. Staff Reports & Information Items

2.1 2024-25 Operating and Capital Budgets

Director McDonald opened the meeting by thanking the Trustees for their understanding during the transition of staffing in the finance department over the last couple of months. Director McDonald commended the efforts of the senior team and staff for their exceptional work on



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completing the budget through a period that included staffing challenges and ministry funding changes. He highlighted the extraordinary work of Cheryl Dalrymple, the new Superintendent of Business Services for her efforts in competing the budget process in a very short timeframe while being new to the role.

Superintendent Dalrymple began the budget report by praising the efforts of the finance team for their exemplary efforts over the last few months in preparation for the budget.

On April 26, 2024, the Ministry of Education (the "Ministry") released information regarding Core Education Funding (formerly Grants for Student Needs (GSN)) for the 2024-25 school year. This is the first time the funding formula model has been reviewed in 25 years.

Core Ed has simplified the number of grants from 18 in the previous funding formula to six funds. The six funds are, Classroom Staffing Fund (CSF), Learning Resources Fund (LRF), Special Education Fund (SEF), School Facilities Fund (SFF), Student Transportation Fund (STF) and School Board Administration Fund (SBAF). This new method simplifies, expands accountability, provides clarity on how funding is to be used, and removes funding elements that are not permanent and ongoing.

The average daily enrollment for the BHNCDSB has increased by 3.95% from 2023-24 revised estimates. Since 2020-21 enrolment has increased by 19.83%. Operating revenue and expenses were discussed. The increase in operating expenses is attributed to the following:

- Additional staff for increased enrolment, student support, and supporting strategic priorities.
- Enhanced salary and benefits due to retroactive wage increases and increase in benchmarks.
- Anticipated supply and casual coverage.
- Technology investments and staff device replacement program.
- Inflationary pressures
- Increased demand for student transportation for eligible riders and contractual obligations

Increases were offset by reduction in staff development and a review of actual spending in prior years

Superintendent Temple presented the student achievement portion of the budget. Some of the highlights include the new spiritual theme, Pilgrims of Hope, implementation support for the Early reading screener in K-2, Focus on tech-ed capabilities, new curriculum in secondary, de-steaming across all grade 9 courses. Discussion regarding changes to the student achievement team was had.

Superintendent Wilson presented the special education portion of the budget. Some of the highlights included the increase in school SERT staff, the implementation of the empower reading program at 26 out of 28 elementary schools, increased speech and language screener assessments, continuation of classroom and school support services from Bartimaeus Inc. and additional tiered interventions and support for students.



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Superintendent Della Fortuna presented the student support services portion of the budget. Some of the highlights include resources to support the Boards Mental Health and Addictions strategy and action plan in accordance with the Ministry's vision and PPM 169. In addition, student support services ongoing focus on student attendance and engagement support, professional development and training in self-regulation, trauma informed practices and restorative practices. Discussion regarding the role of the attendance counsellor and wellness teacher was had.

Superintendent Della Fortuna presented the IT portion of the budget. Some of the highlights include a focus on cyber security, data storage and backups, application development and management, process improvement and technical support.

Superintendent Dalrymple provided an update on the school construction, operations, and maintenance. The two new school builds St. Padre Pio Catholic Secondary School and Pope Francis Catholic Elementary School were highlighted. Operations and maintenance highlights include a continued focus on ventilation and AODA enhancements and health and safety.

The safe and accepting schools' highlights include resources to support safety and discipline in schools, implementation related to the revised Provincial code of conduct, along with a review and update on long-term suspension and expulsion programming.

Superintendent Greco and Director McDonald presented the Board Administration & Governance updates. These include a continued focus on employee wellness and engagement, pay equity and job evaluation compliance, enhancing staff wellbeing, safety and wellness and the current EAP program. Staff leadership and development and training along with mentorship opportunities for managers and new staff that includes Catholic leadership threaded throughout the programs.

The capital budget was discussed including the large construction projects with the addition of two new schools, a decrease in portable funding, and movable assets. The accumulated surplus was discussed including the projects for specific purpose reserves.

A request was made to have the dollar value and % of total budget for each department brought to the budget committee on a go-forward basis

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Budget Committee recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2023-24 Other Operations Budget, in the amount of \$37,340,560.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Budget Committee recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2023-24 Capital Budget, in the amount of \$ 31,665,895

3. Trustee Inquiries: Nil.



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4. Business of the In-Camera Session:

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Budget Committee moves to an In-Camera Session.

5. Report on the In-Camera Session:

Trustee(s) Dignard and Chopp declared a conflict of interest in item #2.1 of the in-camera session and left the room. They did not take part in the consideration or discussion of or vote on any question with relation to this item.

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Budget Committee recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the 2024-25 Salary and Benefit Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$143,323,113.

Carried

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Budget Committee approves the business of the In-Camera Session.

Carried

6. Future Meetings

Chair Petrella noted that the next Budget Committee Meeting will be December 11, 2024.

7. Adjournment

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Budget Committee adjourns the meeting of July 26, 2024.

Carried

Next Meeting: December 11, 2024