



Budget Committee
Tuesday, July 22, 2025 – 1:00 p.m.
Boardroom / Microsoft Teams Meeting

Trustee Members:

Dennis Blake (Chair), Carol Luciani, Mark Watson

Senior Administration and Staff Members

Mike McDonald (Director of Education & Secretary), Rajini Nelson (Superintendent of Business & Treasurer)
John Della Fortuna, Kevin Greco, Michael Lawlor, Phil Wilson (Superintendent of Education), Ginny Toth
(Manager of Finance)

1. Opening Business

1.1 Opening Prayer

The meeting was opened with prayer led by Chair Blake.

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 22, 2025.

Carried

1.4 Declaration of Interest: Nil.

1.5 Approval of the Minutes of June 11, 2025

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Budget Committee approves the Minutes of June 11, 2025.

Carried

1.6 Business Arising from the Minutes: Nil

2. Staff Reports & Information Items

2.1 2025-26 Operating and Capital Budget Report

Michael McDonald, Director of Education & Secretary provided insight into the steps and progression which have been taken in the past several months. By using the strategic plan as a roadmap for our goals and for our budget, allocations were created to achieve these goals and to improve the three pillars for our students. Some additions in certain/specific areas through the budget process highlight how we are able to facilitate the vision for our students and the Board. The Board has seen exponential growth (20% over the past 5 years). Due to this increase we



have made additions to staffing to accommodate the enrolment growth. This includes the addition of central office staff, support staff and teachers, along with repurposing some of our accumulated surplus to go directly to classroom supports.

Rajini Nelson, Superintendent of Business & Treasurer explained the 2025-26 operating budget. The BHNCD SB has long been committed to excellence in learning and faith formation while ensuring belonging and well-being for all. Our 2025–2026 budget reflects these priorities by ensuring that money, including an operating portion of our accumulated surplus, has been spent strategically and judiciously to support our students in our classrooms. Additional staffing, technology, new curriculum resources along with special education and mental health supports were all prioritized throughout the budget process to inspire our students to live out our vision where our faith based BHNCD SB community inspires lifelong learning and service to others.

OPERATING BUDGET:

The 2025-26 operating budget is estimated to receive \$201.97 million in total revenue, an increase of \$13.1 million compared to the 2024-25 Revised Estimates and includes other ministry grants supported by the Responsive Education Program (REP). Although not all the REP funding has been released, the majority of the funding has been announced for the BHNCD SB.

The expenditures are estimated to be \$201.76 million, an increase of \$13.1 million compared to the 2024-25 Revised Estimates. Total salaries and benefits account for about 79% of the total operating expenditures and are relatively in-line with other school boards. The salary benchmarks and benefits funding amounts reflect the recent collective agreements and terms and conditions. BHNCD SB has proportionately increased the school-based staffing in Classroom Teachers, ESL teachers, Special Education staff, CYWs, ECEs, and Library resource staff to directly support the increased classroom needs. The staffing list was presented.

The Student Transportation Funding has been updated to reflect routing simulations, enrolment and benchmark changes and the BHNCD SB total student transportation funding is \$9.47 million, an increase of \$286.56 thousand compared to the 2024-25 Revised Estimates

School operations allocation includes a 2% increase to the non-staff portion to assist school boards with inflationary increases to utilities, insurance and other costs.

CAPITAL BUDGET:

The 2025-26 capital budget outlines the capital investments for BHNCD SB to address the emerging accommodation needs, growth and the planned school condition improvements along with the renewal of building components to keep up with the useful life of the buildings.

Although a capital project is a multi-year plan, the estimated budget for the 2025-26 spending reflects the approved funding allocations and current priorities.

There are three main capital funding categories from the ministry that a school board receives:

1. Capital priorities (CP) – to address the most urgent pupil accommodation needs.



2. School Renewal (SRA)– to address renewal needs in support of preventative maintenance and health and safety.
3. School condition improvement (SCI) – 70% is used to address the critical improvements of major building components to support student safety and energy efficiency while 30% is allocated to address the visible elements of schools to improve public confidence in support of students' well-being.

For the 2025-26 school year the board is anxiously waiting, and it is anticipated to undertake the construction for St. Padre Pio Catholic Secondary School in Brantford. Also, the board is in the process of purchasing the lands for Paris and South-West Brant elementary schools.

In addition, the ministry announced the Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) fund which will be allocated to school boards to address accessibility improvements and replacement, however the specific funding amount to the boards are yet to be released.

USE OF RESERVES:

School Boards have three types of reserves:

1. Working fund reserves (operating surplus) - have no definitive purpose and results from prior years and current year operating efficiencies.
2. Internally restricted – funds set aside to address specific expenditures including committed capital for temporary accommodation, unfunded WSIB, other insurance expenditures and school budget carryovers.
3. Restricted and unavailable reserves – represents reserves for future employee benefits, land purchases and school generated funds through fundraising.

Throughout this budgeting process the working funds and internally restricted reserves have been repurposed and reallocated to serve the growing needs of the students. Continued usage of the working funds in the future will result in an operating shortfall and it is recommended that the board keeps 2% contingency to protect the board from any financial risks. Currently there is approximately 1.5% accumulated operating surplus carried to 2025-26.

Superintendent Nelson noted that the collaboration which transpired among departments has had the framework of what is best for the system, best for the students and will continue to be in line with the strategic plan.

Dialogue took place regarding further explanation of some of the key points listed in the tables including ongoing plans and projects. Highlights from the capital budget categories included potential project suggestions for improvements in our existing schools. Additionally, the staff development category was elaborated on to explain the needs and plans for mentorship opportunities between senior staff and new hires.



Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Budget Committee recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2025-26 total OPERATING budget in the amount of \$201,762,652 million.

Carried

Moved by: Mark Watson

Seconded by: Carol Luciani

THAT the Budget Committee recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2025-26 total CAPITAL budget in the amount of \$40,499,942 million.

Carried

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Budget Committee recommends that the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board approves the 2025-26 realignment of the accumulated surplus (working funds) in the amount of \$2,400,000 million.

Carried

3. Future Meetings

Chair Blake noted that the next Budget Committee Meeting will be on Thursday, December 11, 2025.

4. Adjournment

Moved by: Carol Luciani

Seconded by: Mark Watson

THAT the Budget Committee adjourns the meeting of July 22, 2025.

Carried

Next Meeting: Thursday, December 11, 2025