



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

# Balanced Budget

## *Trustees table \$282.4M financial plan for 2022-23*

(Windsor, Ontario, Tuesday, June 14, 2022) – Trustees tabled a proposed balanced budget of \$282.4M for the 2022-23 school year tonight, providing the board with the financial stability required to continue delivering top quality, supportive, faith-filled and inclusive programming for all of its students.

“Every year we consult closely with our community, and our administration develops a budget based on what our constituents identify as their main concerns for our students,” said Board Chair Fulvio Valentini. “This year we heard from more than 4,700 people who identified student learning in the areas of reading writing and math, mental health, and students with special needs as their top priorities. We think this budget delivers on all of those concerns.”

Trustees approved a motion to table the budget for one week to allow for further community stakeholder input. It will be back before the Board for final approval on June 21.

The proposed budget is based on a projected day school enrolment for 2022-23 of 20,375 students, an increase of 225 students compared to the 2021-22 budget estimates. With approximately two-thirds of education funding based on enrolment, the 2022-23 increase in enrolment equates to approximately \$1.6M in additional grant revenue for the board, for a total of \$281.6M. The rest of the budget expenses not funded through grants or other sources of revenue will be funded through the board’s accumulated surplus.

The budget accounts for an increase of expenditures of about \$9.2M, attributed mainly to increased program expenses and increased staffing costs due to the forecasted higher enrolment.

Some of the budget revenues to address the board’s priorities include:

- \$2.09M from the provincial Supports for Students Fund to support the learning needs of students consistent with central agreement obligations.
- \$3.19M from the COVID-19 Learning Recovery Fund to support temporary additional teachers, ECE's, EA's and other education workers to address learning recovery, the implementation of the first year of fully de-streamed Grade 9, the delivery of remote learning, support for special education, and maintaining enhanced cleaning standards.

- \$448,847 from the Student Mental Health Investment to foster the continued learning and well-being of students.
- \$193,741 from the Local Special Education Priorities amount to enhance support for students with special education needs.
- A \$78,460 increase to the Special Equipment Per-Pupil Amount to support more assistive technology for students with special education needs.

“This is a responsible budget that puts us on solid financial ground and allows us to provide the excellent service that our students and their families have come to expect from us,” said Director of Education Emelda Byrne. “This is a roadmap to provide the best possible learning opportunities for pupils, maintain services to meet the needs of all students, budget for contingencies, and allow continued progress towards system growth and achievement of our strategic objectives.”

**For further information contact:**

Stephen Fields, Communications Coordinator  
519-253-2481 ext 1246, E-Mail: [Stephen\\_fields@wecdsb.on.ca](mailto:Stephen_fields@wecdsb.on.ca)

