



Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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News Release

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For immediate release

Consultation on Potential Bell Time Changes Extended

Waterloo Region, ON – The Waterloo Catholic District School Board is extending the consultation period on potential changes to school bell times and has added an extra public consultation meeting.

The consultation period now runs until Wednesday, February 15, 2012.

NEW Public Consultation Meeting:

Tuesday, February 7, 2012 (7:00 pm) – St. Nicholas Catholic Elementary School
525 Laurelwood Dr., Waterloo

Members of the public are also invited to participate in an online survey located at:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BellTimes>

This consultation process is intended to assist in aligning the bell times of both the WCDSB and the WRDSB.

All transportation for students in the Region (Public and Catholic) is planned and carried out by Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region. Routes are integrated and buses are used to transport students from both boards.

Bell time alignment with the public school board has benefits for both school boards by optimizing transportation routes to be as efficient as possible. This is done by maximizing the use of the vehicles by using them as many times as possible in any one day. Often, a vehicle is used at least twice each morning, and in some cases three and four times. Alignment of bell times will create further efficiencies.

Elementary school proposal:

- The WCDSB's first starting bell will be no earlier than 8:00 a.m. and no later than 8:45 a.m.
- Most schools will be starting earlier than they are now, with a few minor exceptions.
- About half of the WCDSB's elementary school bell times will be shifted by less than 20 minutes.

Secondary school proposal:

- No school will start earlier than 9:15 a.m. and no later than 9:45 a.m. -- and no school will finish later than 3:45 p.m.

Why is this being proposed?:

- Tangible financial savings for WCDSB amount to approximately \$1,000,000 per year, which will be used to offset classroom expenditures and, where possible, enhance programming.
- Research indicates that younger children learn better earlier in the day and that teenagers learn better later in the day.
- Improved service levels mean fewer buses on the road to manage.

A final decision on bell times will be made at the end of February, 2012 – with any changes taking effect in September, 2012.

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The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 100,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and five adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 176-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: **@WCDSBNewsWire**.

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