

2013-2014 Budget Survey

Question:

If necessary, please add any additional comments you may have on the budget process.

<i>answered question</i>	96
<i>skipped question</i>	770

Response Date	Response Text
Mar 4, 2013 8:44 PM	Some schools need air conditioning!!
Mar 4, 2013 8:56 PM	Plese don't give up on Tech. renewal...we pride ourselves in having quality facilities!
Mar 4, 2013 8:56 PM	The scope of this survey is extremely limited and applies only to very few, very specialized programs affecting a small percentage of the total number of students served by the Board. As such, it is pretty much meaningless to most people likely to be interested in providing input and advice. While I appreciate the chance to give input, I'm not optimistic that the changes needed where I work will be brought to light. Bottom line: if this is considered the Board's "Budget Consultation Process" it is highly unlikely to yield significant policy change and as stated previously, practically meaningless to the vast majority of stakeholders.
Mar 4, 2013 8:58 PM	It is hard to see money wasted away when we have trades people in our board that can have positive input on the future of this facility services department. These people are not included enough to give valuable input for the future of these buildings.
Mar 4, 2013 9:16 PM	Thank you for seeking and encouraging our input.
Mar 4, 2013 9:22 PM	Support must be provided for students that need it. There are LARGE numbers of students in the schooling system that need help with reading skills, mathematics support and special education needs that are not being met. What the board deems as a standard for what is necessary for human support is unacceptable. Students who need academic support are not given it. It is supposed to be supplied by the classroom teacher but there is only one teacher in the room and 25-30 students. This isn't right.
Mar 4, 2013 9:38 PM	Being that I am in the library I think now that the percentage should increase. Material is costing alot more then it did 15 years ago.. It should be raised to 12 or 13 percent of the school budget which would really help in purchasing books for our students.
Mar 4, 2013 10:00 PM	If the Board is going to change the temperature settings in schools, they also need to allow staff/students to have greater flexibility in their "professional" attire and uniforms.
Mar 4, 2013 10:09 PM	Funds should be allotted to where the most student improvement needs to be achieved. - schools are not the same and budgets should not be either - some schools need more human support to deal with behaviour issues, academic issues, etc in order to improve student learning -
Mar 4, 2013 10:36 PM	Please provide better supports for school administration... remove teaching from VP's and assigne leadership development money to training.
Mar 4, 2013 10:42 PM	Questions 2, 3, 4, 5 and 6 require answers "all of the above with a spread of some monies being allocated to each answer. We cannot swing in one direction to fulfill the needs of all students. There must be a happy medium of dividind the funds in all areas to meet all learning stlyes, even if that means less money in each.
Mar 4, 2013 11:18 PM	Not exactly sure how the budgeting process works; however, why are there "have" and "have not" schools. Why do I have to buy basic resources for my classroom and yet other schools have an abundance of materials (duotangs, paper, construction paper, paint, pencils etc.) How are funds allotted? Shouldn't we all have the same consumables for the students. The equity in the budgeting doesn't come through at the classroom level. More of a general comment mixed with some frustration on my part. Thank you

Mar 5, 2013 12:25 AM	too hot in spring/summer warmer months please decrease temperature of 24...who keeps their house at that temperature with air conditioning?
Mar 5, 2013 12:49 AM	Each school should have a computer lab that houses enough computers for all students in an average sized class to use comfortably, regardless of the size of the school. It is ridiculous that the "smaller schools" could have a library with less than 10 computers.
Mar 5, 2013 12:57 AM	With the MOU the EASP becomes redundant, which is three salaries which do not need to be paid.
Mar 5, 2013 1:18 AM	It would be nice to see management look into the long-run costs over the next 5-years of a project to see if it is worth making the change/investment or not
Mar 5, 2013 1:29 AM	I would like to see more money available for busing so that students can have experiences outside the classroom without breaking the parental bank for transportation.
Mar 5, 2013 2:12 AM	Thanks a lot for asking for my input. That's really cool. Hopefully you get some good feedback from parents with it!
Mar 5, 2013 2:21 AM	My preferred response for Q#3 is "None of the above", but I was forced to choose one.
Mar 5, 2013 2:30 AM	Ultimately, you will do what you wants, which will be to allocate money to personal projects of administrators and people at the board. Put money into the classroom please, and special education.
Mar 5, 2013 2:31 AM	Allow unused budget amounts to be carried forward to a subsequent year if not used within the current year. Don't force money to be spent within the year or they will lose it.
Mar 5, 2013 2:59 AM	Keep the children and their education in mind when making decisions. The numbers in the Early years are too high and will effect their learning down the road. Just think what these children can learn in smaller classes to prepare them for their educational career.
Mar 5, 2013 3:05 AM	We need more budget for photocopies and resources!
Mar 5, 2013 3:19 AM	Lets become efficient, effective, cut the red tape, save resources and make te education of our kids better. The unions and wasted board spending is killing public education.
Mar 5, 2013 12:12 PM	Does a snow day cost us only wages or is funding for students also forfeited?
Mar 5, 2013 1:07 PM	Thank you for asking for input from a wide group of stakeholders!
Mar 5, 2013 1:14 PM	Revenue stream - advertising in high schools...
Mar 5, 2013 1:23 PM	Teachers still need a photocopy budget for their classrooms. Slashes to this area are counter-productive and hurt the neediest students the most.
Mar 5, 2013 1:29 PM	Digital Books- this is an unfair spending of money for many elementary students who would not be able to use them at home.
Mar 5, 2013 1:53 PM	I'm a Library Tech with the Board and was surprised to see question 3 on a public survey before I had heard of this issue. It made me uneasy that I wasn't informed of any possible model changes before the question was even asked.
Mar 5, 2013 2:05 PM	It's hard to make suggestions into how to save money as I do not know what the budget looks like. Can this be published where we could drill down into items?[] I believe that the tax system is a bit broken. I believe that taxes for schools should be taken and divided per child and assigned to each school based on how many children attend that school. I am not sure why this is not the way it's done...
Mar 5, 2013 3:02 PM	We need to up the supervision levels in the schools of EA and EYCW support. Sometimes additonal supports are called in because the staff are not following program-either incapable of it or choosing not to. This becomes a supervision issue-not something that we throw more staff at.
Mar 5, 2013 3:33 PM	No questions, but amusing that the air condition preset of 24 degrees question had no option of lowering it. I wonder if all the questions were skewed in such a manner.
Mar 5, 2013 3:40 PM	As per our Catholic Faith, I think it is time that we get more involved into looking at the reading materials in our schools. ie books that are promoting new age thinking (yoga which tells people to bow to the god sun, god moon), witchcraft books like: harry potter, books promoting self reliance rather than God reliance, books / movies / with zombies, talking to the dead, books about vampires...

Mar 5, 2013 3:52 PM	Schools that have outside groups use their facilities for before and after school programs should be reimbursed for the wear and tear and loss of properties in the school.
Mar 5, 2013 3:52 PM	Thank you for giving space for specific ideas and questions. I think ordering is an area where classroom teachers should be consulted. If Staples glue sticks are garbage, lets work on a better price on UHU glue sticks. If we are buying pastels at an art store at a significant cost, lets find a way to get a bulk price and save money. There are frustrated parents and staff that see money being wasted on ordering that would be willing to spend time on a committee to work for improvements in this area.
Mar 5, 2013 3:58 PM	Pay attention to the continuing education teachers. Their time is valuable and they are making a big difference in the community. Currently Continuing education teachers are not allowed to apply for the LTO roster and this is a discriminatory practice.
Mar 5, 2013 4:02 PM	The more we cut the budget with staff reductions, the more our most vulnerable students lose their access to a quality education. Since special ed. is by necessity a relationship-based system, cutting their support staff changes the accessibility and quality of education for those who struggle because of their disabilities. When this happens and continues to happen, we are no longer providing a quality, inclusive education to all our students. This reality needs to be discussed and addressed honestly when budget cuts happen to ensure that all are well aware of how these cuts are effecting the quality of education we deliver for our students. With every cut to special education we become less inclusive.
Mar 5, 2013 4:36 PM	-put money in the classroom to support learning not the board office!!!
Mar 5, 2013 5:00 PM	In whole survey there was no question about Techology and e-learning , i was hoping to find that question somewhere..
Mar 5, 2013 5:10 PM	it doesn't make sense to me for the board to close St. Ambrose then spend thousand of dollars renovating St. Annes for ambrose students to attend there for a couple of years until the new east galt catholic school open whe not leave ambrose open and save this money?
Mar 5, 2013 5:51 PM	I believe our board is becoming too top heavy- we have more superintendents than we need and are losing EA s and support workers each year which we are in depserate need of. As a worker in an unairconditioned and frequently unheated school I would think we should look at how much money we are spending on people to supervise ratehr than to cut costs around student well being and learning.
Mar 5, 2013 6:22 PM	The board needs to find a way to get around allocation of funds to schools based on enrollment. Some of the schools with fewer students have more need and the disparity between schools seems to grow. We should be looking more at equitable access.
Mar 5, 2013 6:46 PM	It's nice to be given an easy way to offer input into the budget process!
Mar 5, 2013 8:02 PM	This survey is costing money that could be used for students in schools. Students need attention and help in the classrooms, not better technology.
Mar 5, 2013 8:14 PM	being in the warehouse I see a lot of money waited because of different budgets. It needs to be planned better.
Mar 5, 2013 8:19 PM	Thanks for asking for my input!
Mar 5, 2013 9:51 PM	In a climate where we are inundated with finding ways to bring our level 2 students to a level 3, we continually get slashed in special education and EA support. It is impossible for one person, in a class of 30 students, in a split grade class, to give the individual attention needed to these students. If you want to improve your scores, channel more money towards EA support and give these students the attention they deserve. Perhaps money can be reallocated from the top down to fund this venture.
Mar 5, 2013 11:48 PM	This may be a more school-specific question...at our previous school we did not have to pay or contribute to special speakers coming into the school for the children and there was only 1 fundraiser. At our new school (we moved within the last year) we have had more than one fundraiser plus we are constantly being asked to send in money for a variety of things. The difference is quite apparent. Are schools not funded the same way? Why are some schools fundraising more than others and why are we having to pay for presentations and speakers (this does not include field trips, which we understand there is an obvious cost associated with)?

<p>Mar 6, 2013 3:37 AM</p>	<p>It seems that several other school boards in this province have worked out a model in which Adult Education teachers are paid on the salary grid; I wish that our board would do the same. These teachers work so hard, for far more instructional hours a day than regular secondary school teachers, and yet still are not paid for only the number of hours that they are standing in front of a classroom. They have no support staff or programs for the countless should-be-identified/Special Education students, no prep time, no marking time outside of 3 hours once every 7 weeks, and very few classroom resources. They spend 5.5 hours a day in front of huge classes of 45 students per class (if they're lucky enough to get classes that are not cancelled because, at 20 students, they are too small to run), are faced with numerous unpaid PD days, forced unpaid school holidays, and an overall sense that they are valued far less than the rest of the board's teaching staff. These people work extremely hard, yet so many of them feel neglected, undervalued, unappreciated, looked down upon, and hardly a part of a catholic community where hope, opportunity, and success for all is the core value. I urge you to consider allocating a greater portion of the budget toward remedying this situation before spending large amounts of money on digital books and other initiatives.</p>
<p>Mar 6, 2013 2:18 PM</p>	<p>Re: heating and cooling, our school temp i.e. Canadian Marytrs is not well controlled. Please provide air conditioning and assess HVAC to improve a standard temp environment for all.</p>
<p>Mar 6, 2013 2:45 PM</p>	<p>For many of these questions, there is more than just one answer. For example question #3 if you don't train Library techs how can you transform the library or allow reading engagement for students. Once you train the library techs then you will achieve the other things.</p>
<p>Mar 6, 2013 4:45 PM</p>	<p>Suggestions:[] <ul style="list-style-type: none"> •Increase money allocated to school PD[] •Increased and “ visible” monies allocated to Principal leadership PD[] •Monies allocated to removing teaching duties from VP’s while keeping elementary allotment of VP’s same or better. </p>
<p>Mar 6, 2013 5:00 PM</p>	<p>I would like to see more money allocated to supporting the students then on transportation. Supporting the students should be #1 thought when allocating funds to schools.</p>
<p>Mar 6, 2013 5:16 PM</p>	<p>Providing agendas to students are very worthy, so I'd like to see them stay in our budget.</p>
<p>Mar 6, 2013 7:37 PM</p>	<p>Teacher's should have less planning time, [] as over the many years I have worked for the board I have observed lots of socializing (coffee getting) during this precious time. This time is not being used for the purpose intended. Great loss of money.</p>
<p>Mar 6, 2013 8:30 PM</p>	<p>Budget allocation to hiring of more E.A.'s and CYCW's would be beneficial.</p>
<p>Mar 6, 2013 9:59 PM</p>	<p>teaching VPs is not a great solution, need to relook at that model</p>
<p>Mar 7, 2013 1:04 PM</p>	<p>I strenuously object to classrooms being boarded up when there is a need for these rooms (ie., spec. ed., instrumental music, ESL, etc...)</p>
<p>Mar 7, 2013 3:43 PM</p>	<p>It might help to understand current funding for non gov't grant supported programs. Intensive French being the hot issue now... Can we take from Peter to give Paul?</p>
<p>Mar 7, 2013 6:12 PM</p>	<p>Use the ministry money for VP's rather than diverting it to other areas. Remove the teaching periods for VP's.</p>
<p>Mar 7, 2013 6:43 PM</p>	<p>I'm impressed you are seeking outside input. Good job!</p>
<p>Mar 7, 2013 7:07 PM</p>	<p>I am very concerned about the lack of administrative supports in elementary schools. The monies that are allocated to the board from the ministry of education for elementary vice principals and principals should be spent for that purpose and the continued erosion of these funds should be stopped. In terms of succession planning and school improvement there should be more elementary vice-principals with no teaching responsibilities. It will attract high quality candidates to the position and ensure that the board's improvement plan can authentically be implemented. Elementary vice principals are staying in the role much longer than they used to be. Having a teaching assignment does not properly prepare them to take over the critical role of principal and school leadership. The board is moving to a K-12 framework for learning. The supports between elementary and secondary administration should be equitable and consistent to ensure these goals are met.</p>

Mar 7, 2013 11:05 PM	the published budget should be a web document that allows me to drill down on any expense line to see further detail of what is included in that line
Mar 7, 2013 11:49 PM	The WCDSB is in need of a stronger second language program. I understand that Intensive French instruction is much more effective than the traditional Core French program, money should be allotted to ensure this continues. It is also my hope that Immersion will find a place at WCDSB alongside French being taught with Intensive strategies. It is unfortunate that we have to choose between sending our children to a Catholic school, or a French program that we know will benefit them in life as being bilingual has benefitted both myself and my husband in every aspect of our personal and professional lives.
Mar 7, 2013 11:55 PM	Please put money into teacher resources and technology for elementary schools.
Mar 7, 2013 11:56 PM	I wish that WCDSB had a better French program! Core French is not useful, I am not fluent in French and would never attempt to speak it out in public. I wish I could have gone through immersion, but my parents wanted me to go to a Catholic school. I heard that they have "Intensive French" now, and that students are much more fluent, that's great! Every student should have a chance to learn a second language and be successful! Core French is NOT the way to go, and time I can never get back with nothing to show for it.
Mar 8, 2013 12:36 AM	need for better French programming and continue intensive French program
Mar 8, 2013 12:59 AM	I really appreciate having the opportunity to respond through this survey.
Mar 8, 2013 2:12 AM	I cannot understand why the board would think that cutting a quality program such as intensive French could save money. Parents want it. Students want it. It costs no extra money to keep it running. It is something that the public board does not offer and children with special education needs can and do exceed expectations in it
Mar 8, 2013 3:57 AM	The intensive French program in our catholic school board is the greatest. My children love there teachers and the program. Very great asset to the school board. Keep it up
Mar 8, 2013 12:00 PM	French immersion is a well-proven life-learning tool to help students adjust to an ever-changing society. It's invaluable for learning to experience diversified life-skills.[] Our experience with the program is invaluable.
Mar 8, 2013 12:54 PM	More money needs to be allocated to meet the needs of our special needs students, including those who are experiencing mental health issues.
Mar 8, 2013 2:21 PM	There is inequity in resources between "have" and "have not" schools fund raisers produce much more in affluent communities - could the board relocate funds to "have not" schools who do not have as much gym equipment, indoor recess games, library books, guest speakers, laptops, etc
Mar 8, 2013 6:10 PM	Raise the mileage allowance as it does not cover the expenses for high gas prices
Mar 8, 2013 7:08 PM	thank you for this opportunity to participate in this budget survey. (parent).
Mar 8, 2013 8:25 PM	Would like to ensure that we have no teaching Principals at any school.[] Would like to see an increase in the number of Vice Principals at elementary schools.[] Would like to ensure that no Vice Principal teaches more than half time.[] Would like to ensure that our big elementary schools have full time (no teaching) Vice Principals.
Mar 8, 2013 11:06 PM	Thanks for inviting input!
Mar 8, 2013 11:18 PM	Thank you for the opportunity to provide input.
Mar 9, 2013 3:23 AM	More French programming! Intensive French programming at more schools and for more grades. This is an important option to develop our children.
Mar 9, 2013 9:56 AM	Would like to see Intensive French continue in our schools and see more more programs in general.
Mar 9, 2013 5:09 PM	When I read the papers, it saddens me to think that we have reached the point where we are looking at modifying the school's inside temperature to save a few bucks when the elephant in the room is the hundreds of millions of dollars that are wasted at the provincial and federal government levels....the inefficiency is not in our schools...it is above and beyond that. Thank you for the efforts to try and reduce your costs but with compensation as your primary expense and little opportunity for revenue generation...well, I don't think I need say more.
Mar 9, 2013 9:08 PM	Everyone is living leaner with less let's budget for success!!!

Mar 10, 2013 2:26 AM	Better teachers: As a student, it's important to me that my teachers are as enthusiastic and motivated as I am. I want teachers who inspire me to do better. So many teachers of mine just come to work, assign questions, and go home. All with a frown on their face. I've had some teachers that didn't even know their own curriculum. I sit there thinking "Man, they let anyone be a teacher nowadays". Teachers should have to do a test every few years to ensure they're qualified teachers. If they don't pass, you finally have a good excuse to lay them off and usher in a new generation of better, smarter, more driven teachers that I'll remember in my graduation speech.
Mar 11, 2013 12:16 AM	spend money to keep Catholic religion foremost in the schools. The reason we are enrolled in WCDSB is for the Catholic teaching - don't water it down, and keep the Church at the forefront of our childrens' education!
Mar 11, 2013 12:35 AM	I think that it's important for students living in Canada need to be bilingual, the conventional Core Program is not effective. I would like to see French Immersion in this board, in conjunction with Intensive French, which has been said to be highly effective in making our children bilingual within the core context.
Mar 11, 2013 12:59 AM	Budgeting more support for students with learning disabilities. They just fall through cracks and are completely lost in their lives in the future. We need more hands on programs like life skills, to support them
Mar 11, 2013 2:14 AM	The Intensive French and/or French Immersion Programs are so valuable in our school systems, ensuring our students are bilingual from an early age pays off in the future a hundred fold.
Mar 11, 2013 6:03 PM	Please continue to provide French Immersion and Intensive French as options.
Mar 11, 2013 7:15 PM	In this budget, please think of individual school needs and not force schools to adhere to initiatives and ideals that may not relate to them at all. It frustrates staff and doesn't help the kids. Spend money on nutrition programs for low income schools, money on enrichment for very high achieving schools, and do what you need to to keep our principals in the building - we need them there, even if the school runs smoothly without them.
Mar 12, 2013 12:49 AM	I support Intensive French. In addition, I encourage the board to be committed to having 50% of its graduates able to function in a second official language (French, for most of us).
Mar 13, 2013 12:58 AM	intensive french is a blessing and should become a mainstay
Mar 13, 2013 1:40 AM	There are ways to be more efficient, but by reducing staff without changing the way teams work is creating frustration and is making people resent the leaders making these decisions. Morale has never been lower. We all understand that there needs to be reduction in staff, but changing the way we work must flow from that - people expect the same service with less staff and that is just unfair. Thank you for asking for input.
Mar 13, 2013 10:30 PM	If staff can get a supply cheaper from another store, like significantly cheaper (50% less) why are we discouraged from doing so. We could get twice as many crayons if we bought them during back to school sales compared to the prices we pay from our supplier. Staff see the waste and are frustrated but are told to be quiet and carry on so they stop caring.
Mar 15, 2013 3:35 PM	Understanding that it is a daunting task, I do not envy those in a decision making role when it comes to the budget, but can we be transparent with our staff at all levels to show where the money allocated goes, and therefore show what we truly hold important?
Mar 15, 2013 9:52 PM	Question 7 ¶ There is a provincial law requiring landlords to maintain a minimum temperature during the winter months. This should be the standard for schools as well.