



# WCDSB BOARD MEETING BULLETIN

**May, 2016**

## Meetings

### Committee of the Whole Board

Monday, May 16, 2016

**Agenda:** [www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/minutes/CommitteeWhole/pdf/2016/agenda/2016-05-16-C-of-Whole-Agenda.pdf](http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/minutes/CommitteeWhole/pdf/2016/agenda/2016-05-16-C-of-Whole-Agenda.pdf)

### Public Board Meeting

Monday, May 30, 2016

**Agenda:** [www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/minutes/reg/pdf/2016/agenda/2016-05-30-Board-of-Trustee-Agenda.pdf](http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/minutes/reg/pdf/2016/agenda/2016-05-30-Board-of-Trustee-Agenda.pdf)

## Highlights

### **2016-17 Extended Day Program Sites Announced**

**Extended Day Programs** enhance the impact of the **Full-Day Early Learning Kindergarten Program** and are taught from a faith-based perspective. The programs are delivered by teams of **Registered Early Childhood Educators (RECE)** who are members of the **College of Early Childhood Educators**.

The extended day teams are dedicated to providing faith based, quality educational programming. Having an educator from the core day provides a seamless day allowing for consistency and security for both parents and children. The extended day program offers parents a convenient school location, equity of access and a safe and healthy environment for young children.

The Extended Day program is optional for parents and offered by boards on a cost recovery basis only where there is sufficient demand to make the program viable. The Ministry of Education sets mandatory viability at an enrollment of 20 children from JK to grade 6.

The complete list of schools offering the program in September, 2016 is provided on pgs. 22-24 under the following link: [www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/minutes/CommitteeWhole/pdf/2016/agenda/2016-05-16-C-of-Whole-Agenda.pdf](http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/minutes/CommitteeWhole/pdf/2016/agenda/2016-05-16-C-of-Whole-Agenda.pdf)

### **Graduation Rates**

The Grade 12 graduation rate for students attending Waterloo Region's Catholic secondary schools has surpassed the provincial average graduation rate, according to figures released yesterday by the Ontario government.

While the margin is small (78.8% for WCDSB vs. 78.3%) the impact on students is large. The graduation rate for those choosing to attend a WCDSB secondary school for a fifth year increases to 84.1%.

Both statistics mark improvements over the previous year. The improvement in WCDSB's four and five year graduation rates are due to a number of factors:

- The board's focus on mental health and well-being -- particularly in the area of resiliency -- has given students the foundation to persevere in their studies, and succeed;

- The board's provincially-acclaimed **Specialist High Skills Major Program** that has the largest senior student participation per capita in Ontario;
- The board's **21<sup>st</sup> Century Teaching and Learning Strategy** has provided students a learning environment that builds their critical thinking, creativity, collaboration, communication and digital citizenship skills through platforms such as **Google Apps for Education** and **Desire to Learn**;
- The board's vastly improved technology infrastructure – including **Brightlinks** interactive whiteboard projectors in every classroom, and a robust wireless network which has allowed the integration of **Chromebooks** on a 5 to 1 student ratio across the school system;
- The board's **Career Cruising IPP Strategy** from grades 7-12, which ensures students have a better understanding of their God-given talents and potential personal life pathway as they make the important transition from elementary school to high school;
- The board's **Student Success Learning to 18 Strategy**, which ensures students that are in-risk have at least one caring adult by their side, an individualized timetable, and a career education plan in place. This individualized approach has had a significant impact on credit accumulation rates. The more credits a student attains in Grade 9, the more likely they will be to graduate.
- The board's emphasis on **Elementary/Secondary "Cross Panel" Activities** -- where elementary students are introduced into the surroundings and culture of their future secondary school. This gradual introduction to high school has a tremendous impact on easing the anxiety of entering Grade 9.

The report provided to the Board of Trustees on May 16, 2016 is provided on pgs. 19-21 under the following link: [www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/minutes/CommitteeWhole/pdf/2016/agenda/2016-05-16-C-of-Whole-Agenda.pdf](http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/minutes/CommitteeWhole/pdf/2016/agenda/2016-05-16-C-of-Whole-Agenda.pdf)

## Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Program

Ontario Regulation 374/10 -- "Supervised Alternative Learning and Other Excusals from Attendance at School" -- enables the school board's **Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee** to excuse students from fourteen to seventeen years of age from attending school while they continue to participate in learning under the supervision of the board or a school of the board. The goal is to maintain a connection to learning for these students and to support their continued progress towards graduation or achievement of other educational and personal goals. The student – and the parent(s), unless the student is at least sixteen years of age and has withdrawn from parental control – must agree to participation in SAL.

SAL is intended to be used for a very small segment of the student population, and only when other measures to help a young person remain in school are not effective. A period of time away from regular school attendance can help a young person resolve an issue so that he or she can return to school later. In all cases, the primary goal is to offer a program that is in the student's best interests, reflects his or her input, and supports the student in meeting his or her goals. The purpose of SAL is to assist students either to return to school or to proceed to one of the five postsecondary options if they reach the age of eighteen – that is, apprenticeship training, college, independent living, university, or the workplace.

A full report on the WCDsb's SAL program is provided on pgs. 5-12 under the following link: [www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/minutes/CommitteeWhole/pdf/2016/agenda/2016-05-16-C-of-Whole-Agenda.pdf](http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/minutes/CommitteeWhole/pdf/2016/agenda/2016-05-16-C-of-Whole-Agenda.pdf)

## Special Education Plan

Every two years, Ontario school boards are required to prepare and approve a report on the special education programs and special education services they provide. Boards are required to review the plan annually, amend it as necessary to meet the current needs of students with special needs, and submit any amendment(s) to the Minister for review. The updated **Special Education Plan** was recommended for approval to the Board of Trustees at the May 26, 2016 meeting of the **Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)**. The plan is provided on pages 18-59 under the following link: [www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/minutes/reg/pdf/2016/agenda/2016-05-30-Board-of-Trustee-Agenda.pdf](http://www.wcdsb.ca/about/board/minutes/reg/pdf/2016/agenda/2016-05-30-Board-of-Trustee-Agenda.pdf)

## Upcoming Board Meetings

### Committee of the Whole Board

None

### Special Public Board Meeting

6:00 p.m. - Monday, June 6, 2016

### Public Board Meeting

6:00 p.m. -- Monday, June 20, 2016

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 96,000 Catholic school supporters, operates 52 schools and four adult education facilities serving more than 40,000 elementary, secondary and continuing education students in Waterloo Region – continuing a 180 year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: **@WCDSBNewsWire - #WCDSBAwesome.**

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### **For more information, please contact:**

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