

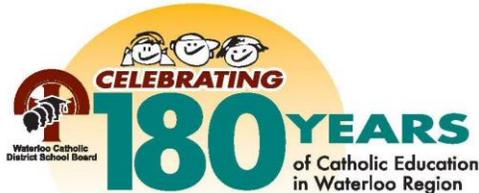


Waterloo Catholic
District School Board

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News Release



June 20, 2017
For immediate release

Catholic Trustees Approve \$271.8 Million Balanced Budget

Student achievement, labour investments and capital improvements are
focus of budget plan; 26 new Educational Assistants
added to support students with special needs

Waterloo Region, ON – Trustees of the *Waterloo Catholic District School Board* last night approved the Board's \$271.8 million 2017-18 school year budget.

The 2017-18 budget anticipates enrolment will continue to increase in both elementary and secondary schools in the upcoming year. This increased enrolment, along with provincially-negotiated labour agreements, accounts for the large year over year funding change for the Board. The planned expenditures are based on the *Grants for Student Needs* and incorporate the aforementioned provincially-negotiated labour agreements, along with new funding to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and continued supports to reach provincial student achievement goals.

Quick Facts

- ✓ The **overall budget** is as follows:
 - ✓ Total Operating: \$252.7 M (+ \$16.7 million)
 - ✓ Total Capital: \$19.2 M (+ \$1.8 million)
 - ✓ Total Operating & Capital: \$271.8M (+ \$18.5 million)
- ✓ A key focus of the budget is ensuring students with special needs receive the support and assistance they need to succeed. To that end, the budget provides for the hiring of an additional **26 Educational Assistants** – an 8.4% increase over 2016-17
- ✓ During the coming fiscal year the board will closely monitor areas of pressure and create further alignment between risk areas and available funding. The budget plan aligns closely with the board's **2015-2018 Multi-year Strategic Plan**.
- ✓ The budget package presented to the Board of Trustees carries on an established staff practice of presenting the board's financial information in a transparent and easily understandable format. This year – for the fifth consecutive year – the board received the **Association of School Business Officials International (ASBO) Meritorious Budget Award (MBA)** for excellence in presentation of the 2016-17 school year budget. The WCDSB is the only school board in Ontario to receive this prestigious award.

Quotes

"We are pleased to present a balanced budget to our Board of Trustees which honours the commitments outlined in our multi-year strategic plan. The budget is built on conservative projections which anticipate growth across the system in an environment

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where more parents and families see value in a faith-based learning environment. In the upcoming year, students will experience the benefits of significant investments in classroom technology, greater numbers of front line staff for our students with the highest needs, and modifications to our buildings to improve building condition and efficiency. Our schools are safe and welcoming places where all students belong and where opportunity abounds. Come join us and experience the difference! We are #peopleofhope!”

~~ *Shesh Maharaj, Chief Financial Officer*

Related Links

[WCDSB 2017-18 School Year Budget Package](#)

[WCDSB 2015-18 Multi-year Strategic Plan](#)

[Ontario Grants for Student Needs](#)

The Waterloo Catholic District School Board, representing more than 96,000 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 180-year tradition of quality, inclusive, faith-based education. Follow us on Twitter: [@WCDSBNewsWire](#) - [#WCDSBAwesome](#).

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