



## News Release

February 13, 2012  
For immediate release

# No Major Bell Time Changes for Waterloo Region's Catholic Schools

## Results of extensive consultations were clear

**Waterloo Region, ON** – After an extensive consultation period in which feedback was received from more than 7,000 people, Waterloo Catholic District School Board staff today announced the school system will not proceed with wholesale changes to school bell times either now or in the foreseeable future.

This decision applies to both elementary and secondary schools.

“As always, our staff has done an outstanding job of ensuring our stakeholders’ voices were heard as we examined the feasibility of school bell time changes,” said Education Director Roger Lawler.

“I’m very proud that our long tradition of open consultation with our school communities has once again led to a well informed decision that meets the needs of families right across the Region.”

In today’s challenging economic times board staff had a public responsibility to explore the potentially significant savings that may have resulted from a change to bell times.

While a system-level change of bell times could have saved the school system up to \$1 million per year, serious concerns about student safety -- coupled with varying parental concerns about negative impacts on student learning and the daily routines of families -- clearly outweighed the benefits of any potential cost savings.

Despite this decision staff will continue the normal process of addressing school start and end times as needed at individual schools and, while no changes are currently planned for any schools, normal school management practices may from time to time mean minor bell time changes at individual schools.

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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