



EXECUTIVE REPORT TO STANDING COMMITTEE

TO: STANDING COMMITTEE

FROM: John Malloy, Director of Education

DATE: January 20, 2014

PREPARED BY: Stacey Zucker, Superintendent of Business and Treasurer
Denise Dawson, Manager of Budget

RE: 2014/2015 Board Budget Priorities for Consultation Purposes

Action x Monitoring

Recommended Action:

That the Board approve the 2014/2015 Board Budget Priorities for Consultation Purposes.

Rationale/Benefits:

In the development of the 2014/2015 budget the following key steps and timelines have been identified:

- January: Key Parameters/Assumptions to Guide 2014/15 Budget Development
- January: Budget Priorities for Consultation Purposes
- February: Consultation re Board Budget Priorities
- March: Consultation results for the Identification of Board Priorities
- April: School Staffing Recommendations
- Feb-April: Executive Council and Finance Committee meetings to develop/review budget
- May: Public Finance Committee Meeting to review the 2014/15 Preliminary Budget
- May/June: Approval of Board Budget

HWDSB sees the identification and finalization of Board Budget Priorities as a very important and foundational step in its Budget Development Process. Board stakeholders will be invited to comment on and provide input on the following listing of Board Budget Priorities approved by Finance Committee:

- Early Years Strategy
- Improving Mathematics
- Program Strategy
- School Revitalization
- Special Education and Student Supports
- 21st Century Learning

The following four main benefits of public consultation have been identified:

1. Improves the public's understanding of issues and builds strong lines of communication.
2. Helps the Board to become fully aware of the possible impact of a decision.
3. Allows the Board to make informed educated decisions, considering the public's views.
4. Establishes a better environment for the implementation of decisions because people have been able to participate in the process and understand the reasons for the decision.

The public consultation process is planned to begin on January 29, 2014 and will remain open until February 28, 2014. This end date will facilitate the sharing of consultation results with Standing Committee in March, 2014. Information in support of the consultation process is provided in Appendix A to this report. The communication plan in support of the consultation process is provided in Appendix B to this report.

Background:

The Finance Committee has been assigned the responsibility for “Budget Planning and Development” of the annual budget. Finance Committee reviewed the Budget Development Process deployed last year and agreed that we will continue to facilitate a consultation process on Board Budget Priorities and encourage greater internal stakeholder participation in the consultation process by connecting with more internal groups.

A Leading Budget Planning and Development Practice are to demonstrate that the annual budget is linked to strategic Board-approved goals and priorities. The identification of the Board’s Budget Priorities will assist with the understanding of all Board stakeholders of the core programs and initiatives that the Annual Budget is designed to support. As a school board develops its budget it is helpful to establish a clear statement of the Board’s Budget Priorities to ensure that decisions are influenced by these priorities.

Attachments

- Appendix A Preliminary Listing of Board Priorities for Consultation
- Appendix B Communication Plan in support of the Budget Consultation Process
- Appendix C Public Consultation Survey