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**Questions and Answers for Trustees**

**TDSB 2019-2020 Proposed Balanced Operating Budget**

**Tuesday, May 28, 2019**

**1. Some boards don’t use Lunchroom Supervisors to provide supervision.  What other mechanisms are used to provide this function. How does this look like in other boards? If boards don’t use Lunchroom Supervisors to provide supervision, do they use teachers?  What other models are used to provide this function.**

**Answer**: Staff are working to collect information about how schools supervise students during the lunch hour and will update trustees as the information becomes available.

**2. Regarding Lunchroom Supervisors, can you provide trustees with more information around this group? Specifically, we know many boards have elementary teachers supervising kids eating lunch in their classrooms, and don't use lunchroom supervisors. Are these mandated because of the collective agreement, and is it locally bargained? Why do we have them and not other boards? We suspect the ratio we use them at is board approved, but can you confirm that? Anything else you can provide us with respect to this being something for us to consider in year two cuts or reductions would be helpful. Not thinking to make the current 1:100 ratio worse, thinking more about whether we can completely rethink our usage of them so that we align with other boards' practices.**

**Answer:**  There are two key factors which influence the availability of teacher supervision. First, under the Employment Standards Act, employees are entitled to a 40 minute uninterrupted lunch period. Most of our schools have 60 minute lunch periods. This means that there is a time period during the 60 minute lunch (e.g. the middle 20 minutes) where assigning supervision would be challenging, if not impossible. The second factor is language around supervision in our Elementary Collective Agreement. It states, “Effective September 1, 2009, the maximum number of supervision minutes for elementary Teachers will be 80 minutes within each period of five instructional days. Scheduled supervision duties include, but are not limited to, yard duty, hall duty, bus duty, and lunchroom duty” The item of supervision was a central item in the 2014-2017 round of bargaining. Since no agreement could be reached on this item, it was deemed to be status quo and is not able to be bargained locally. If a Principal decided to make use of this supervision time by teachers during the lunch period, it would mean that there would be less availability for other key supervision needs – Recess, entry, exit, bus duty, etc.

With respect to supervision in other school Boards, we have reached out to other school Boards. At this point, we know that two other GTA Boards have lunchroom supervisors and have board wide ratio of students to supervisors that is lower than TDSB (i.e. they are staffed at a richer ratio then we are).  If there was a decision to lower the number of lunchroom supervisors, schools would look at how they organize the lunch period (i.e. students eating in their own classroom as opposed to congregated areas) to insure similar levels of supervision. This would vary from school to school based on facility parameters, size of school, etc.

**3. Could we charge a fee for bussing?**

**Answer:** Upon review of the *Education Act*, there is nothing that authorizes Boards to charge a fee for bussing/transportation. Based on this information, and the fact that the *Education Act* provides Boards with direct authorization for other things, staff believe that Boards are not able to charge a fee for bussing/transportation.

**4. By Ward, provide enrolment numbers for schools that have FI/Ext.Fr. programming. Particularly, the numbers (and corresponding %s) of those who are being bussed in.**

**Answer:** We are finalizing the information for this question.

**5. How many TDSB schools currently offer Core French to Grade 12?**

**Answer:** Core French offerings 2018/2019:

* Gr. 10 – 67 schools
* Gr. 11 – 64 schools
* Gr. 12 – 62 schools

**6. If Applied Core French Grade 9 is cancelled; do those students join Academic Core French to get the mandatory credit?**

**Answer:** Yes

**7. Please clarify the following response that was previously provided regarding alternative school staffing and costs: *There is no additional staffing being provided to elementary alternative schools in the 2019-20 Budget and as such, they are operating at no additional cost.* Explain how this staffing model differs from the model related to IB programs.**

**Answer:** For 2019-2020, the recommended plan by staff for a balanced budget includes no supplementary staffing for alternative schools or IB at the elementary level.

**8. Do we have an update on Community Use of Schools fund and Focus on Youth for 2019-20? We know the Summer 2019 Focus on Youth was restored but is there any news on future funding?**

**Answer:** The Grants for Student Needs provides an allocation for Community Use of Schools. This provides financial support to provide permits at subsidized rates for community groups.  For the 2019/20 school year, we have been allocated $3,760,871 to support this initiative. At this time we do not know the funding for Focus on Youth for 2019-20.

**9. Can staff clarify when the next phase of staffing will “hit the ground” and which groups of staff are still awaiting assignment? There has been some confusion around whether Special Needs Assistants and Itinerant staff are being laid off or are still awaiting final staffing confirmation.**

**Answer:** At the current time the following categories of staffing have not yet been confirmed as budget deliberations are continuing:

* central staffing (e.g. central teachers, central support staff, central Principals, student support services)
* school-based profile allocations (teaching and support staff). Information on teacher profile staffing was provided in a previous Q and A.  Information on support staff profile staffing will be provided in an upcoming Q and A.
* holdback - as indicated in the FBEC report of 19 March 2019 we maintain a holdback annually of approximately 1.25% of Elementary Teachers and 2.25% of Secondary Teachers. This is not released until the Ministry of Education Grants for Student Needs are announced (in the Spring) and enrolment projections are realized (in the Fall). This year, an additional 200 elementary teachers are being added to the holdback while we await clarification from the Ministry of Education on class size reduction in Grades 4- 8. Specifically, the Ministry will be funding these grades at an average class size of 24.5. The TDSB’s collective agreement with ETFO requires an average class size of 23.24. This holdback is intended to mitigate against a potential funding shortfall. The TDSB will honour its collective agreement commitments

As shared in the backgrounder on staffing processes provided at an FBEC meeting, we have timelines in our Collective Agreements regarding tentative surplus to Board notifications. Those dates vary from employee group to employee group but generally occur between May 17 and June 10. In recent and upcoming weeks there will be notices given to those where funding for positions is not yet confirmed through the budget process.

**10. In light of the TDSB’s financial picture, is the TDSB still able to provide funding to support community programming?**

**Answer**: As the TDSB has received an allocation for Community Use of Schools, Non Profit organizations will still be able to access subsidized rates for permits, provided they meet the criteria outlined in the Community Use of Board Facilities Policy.  These criteria include City of Toronto residents, serving Children/Youth under 18, Seniors, marginalized groups and adult groups. Staff are working on developing a potential option to support the continuation of free permits at the current PSI schools, provided that there is no cost to the Board.

**11. Is it possible to include a third column, in the International Visa Students chart, to include student enrolments for each of the boards listed?**

**Answer**:

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **School Board** | **Elementary Tuition (2018/2019)** | **Secondary Tuition (2018/2019)** | **2018-2019 Enrolment of International Students****Elementary** | **2018-2019 Enrolment of International Students****Secondary** |
| Algonquin and Lakeshore Catholic | Not applicable | $12,500 | 0 | 30 |
| Avon Maitland District School Board | $12,700 | $13,000 | 9 | 198 |
| Catholic District School Board of Eastern Ontario | $12,100 | $12,900 | 45 | 100 |
| District School Board of Niagara | $12,000 | $13,000 | 35 | 115 |
| Dufferin Peel Catholic DSB | $11,000 | $13,000 | 10 | 200 |
| Greater Essex County District School Board | $12,000 | $13,000 | 62 | 245 |
| Halton Catholic DSB | $13,000 | $14,000 | 19 | 196 |
| Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board | $12,300 | $13,300 | 25 | 225 |
| Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board | $12,600 | $12,600 | 4 | 125 |
| Halton DSB | $13,000 | $14,000 | 65 | 500 |
| Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB | $11,859 | $12,275 | 2 | 25 |
| Lakehead Public Schools | $12,090 | $12,920 | 0 | 17 |
| Lambton Kent District School Board | $11,480 | $12,840 | 3 | 177 |
| Niagara Catholic DSB | $12,300 | $13,300 | 150 | 210 |
| Ottawa Catholic School Board | $12,000 | $13,000 | 14 | 72 |
| Ottawa-Carleton District School Board | $12,000 | $13,000 | 62 | 813 |
| Peel District School Board | $12,500 | $13,500 | 75 | 414 |
| Simcoe County District School Board | Not available | $13,000 | 3 | 265 |
| Sudbury Catholic District School Board | $12,000 | $12,600 | 30 | 33 |
| Thames Valley DSB | $13,000 | $14,000 | 63 | 239 |
| Thunder Bay Catholic | Not applicable | Not applicable | 1 | 10 |
| Toronto Catholic District School Board | $13,000 | $14,500 | 86 | 1280 |
| Toronto District School Board | $13,000 | $14,500 | 400 | 2000 |
| Upper Grand District School Board | $12,000 | $13,000 | 32 | 285 |
| Viamonde | Not available | Not available | 1 | 12 |
| Waterloo Catholic DSB | $12,000 | $13,900 | 25 | 235 |
| Waterloo Region DSB | $16,100 | $17,300 | 10 | 99 |
| York Region District School Board | $13,000 | $14,000 | 300 | 2100 |

**12. The International Visa Students chart notes that some boards are charging $16,000 for elementary and $17,000 for secondary Visa program.  The TDSB is proposing an increase for 2020-21. Would it be prudent to match the increase by Waterloo? Do we know how many students attend Waterloo’s program?**

**Answer**: The Waterloo board serves approximately 110 international students total. One hundred of them attend two of the secondary schools with the majority of students planning to attend the University of Waterloo.

**13. Would school councils be able to offset the cost for IB through fundraising?**

**Answer**: Yes schools could fundraise for IB, however since fundraising can change year over year therefore the  money would need to be raised in advance of the school year to ensure the funding was in place for the school year.  Fundraising would need to identify the purpose for which the funds were to be fundraise, i.e. either to support economically disadvantaged students or for all students at the school.

**14. The Trustee Association Fees for last year were approximately $43,000.  Does staff have an idea of what the amount is for this year?**

**Answer**: OPSBA fees for 2018-19 were $405,864 and we expect similar fees for this year. Funding was provided to support negotiation expenses through the GSN to OPSBA in the amount of $43,316.

**15. The proposed transportation reduction speaks to the redistribution of programs to make transportation easier.  As Staff, do you feel that by relocating these programs in a more equitable manner, it would reduce transportation costs?**

**Answer**: Following your direction in June, we would then need to model different scenarios.

**16. Please help us to understand the cut in funding to PSI, what is the impact on the ground, in real terms?  Can you provide examples of how PSI is used in some of our schools?**

**Answer**:

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **PSI Facility** | **Permits Issued** | **Hours Permitted** | **# Days** | **Participant Daily Use Totals\*** | **Name of Organization(s)** |
| Valley Park MS | 17 | 5,398.50 | 244 | 128,931 | 1.       Afghan Women’s Counselling2.       Go Green Youth Center3.       Kholvad House of Canada4.       Lay-Up Youth Basketball5.       Incorp Ministry in Flemingdon Park6.       TNO(The Neighbourhood Org)7.       Toronto Foundation for Student Success8.       United Girls and Boys Basketball9.       Woodgreen Community |
| Northview Heights SS | 20 | 4,492.50 | 268 | 47,785 | 1.       519 Church St CC2.       Antibes Rhythmic Centre of Sport3.       Bathurst Finch Sports Club4.       Griffin Centre Mental health Services5.       HeartBeat Nation Inc6.       North York Community House7.       North York Harvest Food Bank8.       Skyway Christian Assembly9.       Navy League of Canada #17 RCSCC Ont10.   Navy League of Canada # 29 NLCC Enterprise11.   Welcome House Settlement Services12.   YMCA Toronto |
| C.W. Jefferys CI | 9 | 4,322.00 | 244 | 136,335 | 1.       YAAACE2.       The Foundation for Student Achievement3.       Sea Mission Inc.4.       North York Community House |
| Victoria  Park CI | 13 | 4,246.25 | 234 | 85,440 | 1.       Abu Huraira Center2.       Canadian Afghan Sports3.       First Robotics4.       Impact n’ Communities5.       Maryvale Greek Community6.       Live4Love Social Awareness Org7.       Toronto Police Services8.       Yemen Canadian Community9.       YMCA Toronto |

*\*Note that as per the Ministry reports – the numbers are based on Daily counts, each person is counted on each single day they use the facility.*

**17. Has the PSI funding received always been provided by the Ministry of Education?  What year did PSI come into being? Was funding always capped at $3.6M?**

**Answer:** The initial PSI grant of $2,618,000 was provided in 2009/10 and was intended to provide free permits at 77 locations.  It remained at that level until last year when it was reduced to $1,636,250. This funding has been eliminated for the 2019/20 budget year.