

# Board Report Number: 23072

April 13, 2023  
For Information

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**To:** The Chair and Members of the Halton District School Board  
**From:** R. Negoi, Superintendent of Business Services and Treasurer  
C. Ennis, Director of Education  
**Re:** **2023/2024 Budget Consultation - Survey Results**

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## Background

The key objective of the Budget Development Process is to align the allocation of resources with the annual Operational Plan of the Board, the 2020-2024 Multi-Year Plan, and the Special Education Plan; identify school-based staffing requirements; identify budget challenges and opportunities; and gather input from the various stakeholder groups. In preparation for the 2023/2024 Budget, the Halton District School Board (HDSB) invited parent(s)/guardian(s), students, staff and community members to provide input into the budget development process.

## Rationale

An online survey was made available to the public from February 17 to March 6, 2023. The survey was promoted via the HDSB website, Facebook, Instagram, Twitter and through a media release. An email was also sent to all HDSB parents/guardians and staff to notify them of the opportunity to provide feedback. Student Trustees shared the survey invitation with the Student Senate, who communicated it to their peers. The budget survey link was also shared with the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) members.

The survey asked respondents to select the top three priorities that the board should further allocate budgetary investments pertaining to the priority areas: Equity & Inclusion, Mental Health & Well-Being, Learning & Achievement, Environmental Leadership, and Indigenous Perspectives & Awareness.

The survey received a total of 724 responses. Majority of the responses were received from parents/guardians (79%), staff members provided 22% of responses and students 4%, while community members and organizations contributed 12% and 1% of responses, respectively.

## Summary of Findings

The survey findings are provided in more detail in [Appendix A](#) attached to this report. In summary, the top priorities identified by the majority of respondents, by strategic commitments, include:

## *Equity and Inclusion*

- Increase funding for Professional Development programs that reflect the needs of diverse staff and students
- Implement leadership programs for staff who identify as racialized, 2SLGBTQ+ or belonging to other marginalized groups
- Increase the number of Resource Teachers, Educational Assistants (EAs) and consultants to support educators and students
- Prioritize accessibility and outdoor spaces across all schools

## *Mental Health and Well-Being*

- Increase the number of support staff (e.g., social workers, special education resource team, child and youth workers, etc.)
- Invest in support programs and Professional Development for students and staff
- Invest in school-wide social events that are free to attend for students, staff and parents/guardians

## *Learning and Achievement*

- Invest in additional support staff (resource teachers, English as a second language teachers, special education resource teachers, librarians)
- Increase investment in academing programming (mathematics, literacy and science) as well as Arts and STEM
- Invest in learning recovery, literacy and numeracy programs

## *Environmental Leadership*

- Invest in engaging school programs and resources that support students in becoming environmental leaders
- Collaborate with Conservation Halton and municipal partners to offer more outdoor opportunities
- Increase capital investment in projects that support environmental sustainability

## *Indigenous Perspectives and Awareness*

- Continue investment in this pillar and offer more variety of learning opportunities for the whole system
- Invest in the hiring of Indigenous staff, teachers and an Indigenous Student Trustee
- Invest in collaboration initiatives with Indigenous groups, guest speakers and Indigenous elders to engage with students

## Multi-Year Plan Alignment

The budget survey covered all five strategic priorities within the Multi-Year Plan, focusing on areas of investment of resources for the 2023/2024 budget.

## Financial Impact

Feedback received from this consultation is reviewed by senior leadership and will inform the recommendations for budget priorities and new initiatives to the Board of Trustees. There are limitations to which and how many initiatives the funding will allow, and without the release of the Grants for Students needs, there remain many uncertainties with regards to funding continuation, particularly for timed investments. A draft budget presentation is scheduled for the Committee of the Whole on May 24th, 2023, with a draft budget report to be presented to the Board of Trustees at the June 7, 2023 meeting.

### Respectfully submitted,

Roxana Negoii  
*Superintendent of Business Services and Treasurer*

Curtis Ennis  
*Director of Education*