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## **2013-14 BUDGET STAKEHOLDER AND PUBLIC CONSULTATION**

Throughout the 2012-13 school year, the Ministry of Education Supervisor to the Board, Norbert Hartmann, has been undertaking broad-based consultation with stakeholders and the public with respect to the administration and operations of the Windsor-Essex Catholic District School Board. The outcome of this consultation is being reflected in various reports that Mr. Hartmann is producing regarding his findings. These reports are available on the Board's website.

One of these reports, entitled Ensuring Financial Stability, approved a strategy for the elimination of the Board's accumulated deficit by 2014, the elimination of the capital deficit by 2017, and the ongoing financial success of the Board into the future. The strategies included the elimination of funding for post-65 health, dental, and life insurance benefits; outlined changes required in the Board By-Laws to ensure continued financial stability; and detailed the challenges faced by the Board in its contractual obligations and evolving demographic profile.

Mr. Hartmann has requested from the Director of Education a series of reports outlining options the Board could consider to manage these pressures. He also mandated a public consultation process on the above issues, as well as on strategies for the restoration of public trust and confidence. These reports are to be presented to the Board beginning no later than October 2013 and are to be completed no later than December 2013.

The Director of Education is to develop a proposal for public consultation on the future directions detailed in these reports. The public consultation process which ultimately proceeds is to be completed by no later than January 2014.

As a result of Mr. Hartmann's ongoing consultation with stakeholders, the preparation of the Board's 2013-14 budget will proceed based on the consultations already completed. Budgets in subsequent years will be informed by the future public consultation which will take place by January 2014.