

**MINUTES FROM THE MARCH 20, 2017
WOODBIDGE BOARD OF EDUCATION MEETING**

Class Size Guidelines – The Board reviewed the guidelines that have been in place since 1997. The original guidelines were developed after extensive research during a year-long process with a group comprised of administration, staff, community-at-large and Board members. The current guidelines are:

Grades K-3: 17-19 per Class

Grades 4-6: 19-21 per Class

The Board has a responsibility to ensure that class size guidelines were aligned with current practice. Further, since the Board chose to increase Open Choice slots, it is prudent that the Board review and assess whether additional changes are necessary. As the current guidelines are relatively low in comparison to other districts, a proposal was made to modify them accordingly:

Grades K-2: 17-19

Grades 3/4: 19-21

Grades 5/6: 19-23

The proposed changes would have minimal impact and primarily affect the intermediate grades. Since classes in the Middle School are typically larger, children should be prepared as part of their development process. Discussion ensued for whether adjustments were actually necessary. It was noted that, classes in the upper grades generally exceed the guideline without adding additional staff. Since there is a tendency to exceed the guidelines, if the guidelines are increased as proposed, it is possible classes could be significantly larger which could directly impact teaching, student learning as well as budget. It was agreed the current guidelines would be referred to the Policy Committee to engage in more thoughtful discussion and development of a recommendation for how to proceed prior to commencement of the 2018/19 budget process.