

**JUNE 26, 2017
BOARD MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Board Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Board Room, with the following members in attendance: S. McMillan (Chairperson), C. Harrington, J. Hendry, T. Martin, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, N. Waddell, C. Watson, C. Waterfall and K. Woodcock.

Student Trustee R. Barnes was present and Student Trustee H. Jamal was absent.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, B. Lemon, S. Lomax, A. Mercier, S. Miller, P. Rubenschuh, E. Ranney, L. Read, E. Giannopoulos, G. Shantz and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: G. Alderman, N Carse, V. Ford, I. Gaudet, J. Herring, N. Landry, D. Liebermann, N. Manning, K. Penticost, L. Slupeiks and R. Strang.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. McMillan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by C. Millar :

That the agenda of the June 26, 2017, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried Unanimously-

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by C Harrington, seconded by J. Hendry:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of June 26, 2017, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried Unanimously-

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

Note: The following motions were approved in the In Camera session held earlier this evening.

3. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by T. Martin:

- Appointment of Administrative Assistant to the Chairperson and Trustees

That the agenda of the June 26, 2017, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera as amended.

-Carried-

4. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Millar:

That the consent agenda of the June 26, 2017, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

5. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by N. Waddell:

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Trustee K. Smith announced that she had attended a Turkish celebration of Ramadan which was also attended by many WRDSB families.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Chief Communications Officer N. Manning thanked his staff for their efforts supporting the communications department and wished Communications Officer L. Slupeiks all the best as this is her last Board Meeting before her maternity leave.

N. Manning presented a report which provided an in-depth analysis and synopsis of the social media engagement and the WRDSB top news stories of the school year.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations this evening.

REPORTS

TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT UPDATE

Chairperson S. McMillan announced that at the In Camera session prior to this meeting, a discussion occurred regarding the Trustee Code of Conduct. At the conclusion of the debate, a motion was presented for a vote to occur in Public Session. He also noted that trustees had approved the public release of the conclusion from a report discussed In Camera and that copies were made available at the public meeting, posted on the WRDSB website and provided via email to trustees.

Chairperson S. McMillan reminded trustees that although the vote on whether the Code of Conduct had been breached must occur in public session, no additional debate on the motion could occur in public.

Trustee J. Hendry requested a recorded vote on the motion.

3. Moved by J. Hendry seconded by T Martin,

That the Waterloo Region District School Board Trustees find that a breach of Board Policy G201 – Trustee Code of Conduct by Trustee M. Ramsay did not occur.

-Carried-

Opposed
C. Harrington

Note: Trustee C. Watson abstained and Trustee M. Ramsay was not permitted to vote on this motion.

STRATEGIC PLAN YEAR-END REPORT

Director J. Bryant invited staff to assist him in presenting the year-end report of the Strategic Plan. He noted this would not be the last report received on the operational goals and that this work would be ongoing.

Trustees were provided with an in-depth report on the strategic plan including the mathematics, graduation rate and well-being dashboards and the progress to date in each of these areas.

Chairperson S. McMillan thanked Director J. Bryant and staff for their presentation.

Trustee C. Harrington exited the meeting at 8:17 p.m.

FOOD FOR KIDS UPDATE

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh provided a brief overview of the 'Food for Kids' program, which was postponed from a previous meeting.

He noted that the program originated in Hamilton and the program differs from Nutrition for Learning as students take a package of food home for the weekend. This program is currently being offered at seven WRDSB schools and currently serves 46 families and approximately 106 students. Discussions are currently ongoing in regard to expanding or maintaining the current program.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES ANNUAL EVALUATION QUESTIONNAIRE – SUMMARY

Chairperson S. McMillan noted that the summary of the annual evaluation questionnaire, as completed by trustees was included in the meeting package for discussion and would be entered in the minutes as information.

Trustee K. Woodcock suggested that perhaps the results could be the subject of a seminar or generative discussion. Trustee K. Smith also suggested this could be a topic for a Trustee Retreat.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

68 Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board re OUAC Application Fee

69 Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board re EQAO Testing

71 Peel District School Board re EQAO Reporting of Results

Trustees K. Woodcock and J. Hendry stated they would like to support this letter from Peel DSB and suggested we insert our number of refugees and send a similar letter of support. This suggestion was approved by consensus.

75 Thames Valley District School Board re First Nations Student Trustee

Trustees questioned if this was an addition to the student trustee complement and requested clarification. Trustee K. Woodcock offered to contact the Board Chairperson for clarification.

77 Thames Valley District School Board re Special Education Funding

Trustee C. Watson suggested sending a similar letter of support which could include information on our Board. The suggestion was agreed to by consensus.

78 Thames Valley District School Board re Capital Funding Concerns

Trustee J. Hendry suggested that our board faces a similar issue, not with declining enrolment, but with continuing the funding to support rural schools. He noted that he would support the concept of altering the funding formula to support the continued existence of rural schools as the hubs of the community and since busing of students long distances is not desirable. Trustees agreed to send a letter of support with copies to the Minister of Education and copies to OPSBA Directors.

OTHER BUSINESS

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson noted that she had received a concern from a parent regarding the television screens that exhibits celebrations for all faiths and their holidays and the parent stated they had been told it was not allowed to include Christmas plays or to say grace during Thanksgiving. The parent questioned if other faiths were being respected why the Christian faith was not receiving the same primacy. Trustee C. Watson questioned if this was happening in all schools. Superintendent P. Rubenschuh responded that WRDSB staff encourages the celebration of all faiths and he would encourage the parent to have a conversation with the school administration or area superintendent.

Trustee K. Smith sought clarification around the emails that are being sent to trustees in regard to the Pride Flag issue and whether the Chairperson was responding on behalf of the Board of Trustees. Chairperson S. McMillan responded that he has responded to the majority of emails he has received.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (to be referred to Agenda Development Committee)

Trustee C. Watson served the following notice of motion as supported by Trustees J. Hendry and C. Harrington:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees amend Board Policy1000 – Display of Flags; and

That the amendment ensures that all flag requests other than the National Flag of Canada, Provincial Flag of Ontario, or flags flown at half mast, come to trustees for approval.

Trustee C. Watson served the following notice of motion as supported by Trustees T. Martin and C. Harrington:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees write a letter to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health requesting a provincial school protocol that would provide Naloxone, the Fentanyl antidote, for all schools within the province.

Trustee K. Smith served the following notice of motion as supported by Trustees M. Ramsay and N. Waddell:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board strike an Ad Hoc Committee to study the opening of full-year program in one school in Cambridge and one school in Kitchener; and

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That the program be scheduled to begin in September 2018 for the 2018-2019 school year;

That the programs operate for a minimum of two years with a full evaluation of the program in year two.

Trustee K. Smith served the following notice of motion as supported by Trustees M. Ramsay and C. Waterfall:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board undertake a review to develop new models for secondary schools to attract and retain students; and

That partnering with outside organizations, municipal partners and post-secondary institutions be considered; and

That an Ad-Hoc Committee conduct this review and be comprised of parents, students, staff and community partners; and

That an update and timeline for implementation be provided to the Board of Trustees by May 2018.

Trustee K. Woodcock requested that the topic of a Trustee Retreat be discussed, and that discussion of the Trustee Survey be included at the session.

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by T. Martin and seconded by K. Woodcock:

4. **That the Board Meeting of June 26, 2017, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.