The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Committee of the Whole Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Board Room, with the following members in attendance: T. Martin (Chairperson), E. Fung, C. Harrington, J. Hendry, M. Johnston, A. Mitchell, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Trustee H. Paisley was unable to attend this evening’s meeting.

Student Trustee A. Clubine was present and Student Trustee V. Xie was absent this evening.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: L. Fabi (Director of Education and Secretary), D. DeCoene, L. Read and M. Schinkel.

Other staff in attendance: A. Dancey, M. Deacon and J. Herring.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson T. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by K. Woodcock:

   That the agenda of the February 11, 2013, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

   -Carried Unanimously-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations.

**GOOD NEWS**

None at this time.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson T. Martin noted that Trustee H. Paisley and Student Trustee V. Xie were unable to attend this evening’s meeting.
DELEGATIONS

2. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by M. Johnston:

That Josh Cavalier be permitted to appear as a delegation at this evening’s meeting.

-Carried-

Copies of the following delegation presentations, if provided, are included with the official record of the meeting:

- Josh Cavalier re Accessibility at Central Public School

EXTEND DELEGATE PRESENTATION TIME

3. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the presentation by Delegation Josh Cavalier be extended beyond the allotted five minutes.

- Carried Unanimously –

REPORTS

OPTIMIZING LEARNING THROUGH PLAY-BASED DELIVERY IN FULL DAY KINDERGARTEN

Superintendent of Education D. DeCoene gave a brief presentation on optimizing learning in full-day kindergarten and presented a video demonstrating student learning and problem-solving.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee K. Woodcock reported on the first meeting of the School Year Calendar Committee and spoke briefly regarding the three unpaid leave days that have been mandated by the Ministry of Education. Trustee J. Hendry asked for information on how Educational Assistants would be accommodated as they are not required to take the same number of unpaid days.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson asked for further information on the accessibility of Central Public School, specifically on where the front door will now be located and how the planned construction will impact accessibility at this site.
Trustee K. Smith asked for a report on ‘student loss’ in enrolment from Semester 1 to Semester 2 and if possible where students who left the system went. Director L. Fabi noted the official count date for enrolment is March 31st and these numbers would not be available until early April. She further stated that a poll could be done, but it may not be as accurate.

Trustee Smith clarified that she is asking for secondary enrolment numbers, but would also like staff to include elementary students, and she would prefer to receive this information before April and would also like staff to compare this year’s statistics with previous years. Executive Superintendent M. Schinkel commented that it would be challenging to find out where students in previous years have gone once they leave our system.

Trustee M. Johnston again asked for clarification around students paying for courses once they have received 34 credits. Director L. Fabi stated that staff had been waiting for further information on this initiative from the Ministry and staff has recently received some direction from the Ministry on this issue. She further stated there may be some budget implications around encouraging students to return for additional credits for which the Board may not receive funding. It was agreed that once the information is available, communication should take place via a consistent message through secondary schools and information on the website.

Trustee M. Ramsay asked for an update on progress around the reimbursement of student activity fees. M. Schinkel spoke briefly about the complexity of the issue and stated that reimbursement would take place, but staff was waiting to see if extra-curricular activities were going to resume.

Student Trustee A. Clubine stated that students were more concerned about the reimbursement of additional fees for sports and clubs that charged a fee over and above the student activity fee. M. Schinkel responded that a remedy for these types of fees would occur at the school level.

Trustee K. Smith requested weekly updates via Trustee Memoranda around the issue of student activity fees in order for trustees to keep up-to-date on the issue.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

Student Trustee A. Clubine reported on the most recent Student Senate Meeting where Equity and Inclusion Officer D. Ahluwalia discussed equity, inclusion and diversity issues. Next month’s meeting will feature a presentation by Manager of Communications A. Dancey regarding student engagement.

Trustees agreed by consensus to send a letter of congratulations to the new Minister of Education Liz Sandals.

Director L. Fabi reminded trustees of the Canadian Olympic Committee ‘Give Your Everything’ presentation on Febrary 12, 2013, at 10:00 a.m. at Doon Public School.
FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items at this time.

RISE AND RECONVENE

4. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by A. Mitchell

That trustees rise and reconvene to an In Camera Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

The meetingadjourned at 8:02 p.m.