

**DECEMBER 19, 2016
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 and K. Woodcock.

Note: Trustee K. Smith attended the meeting via teleconference.

Student Trustees R. Barnes and H. Jamal were in attendance.

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

Other staff in attendance: J. Herring, N. Manning, K. Penticost and L. Slupeiks.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. McMillan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Chairperson S. McMillan invited attendees to convene in the Artrium for a musical performance by the students from Jacob Hespeler Secondary School.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by N. Waddell, seconded by T. Martin:

That the agenda of the December 19, 2016, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried Unanimously-

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of December 19, 2016, and the actions contained therein, be approved (with the exception of Folio 15).

-Carried-

Folio 15 – 2017 Board Committee Memberships

Chairperson S. McMillan stated that he had removed Folio 15 from the consent agenda to permit additional discussion on the proposed 2017 Board Committee Memberships approved at the December 12, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

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A brief discussion followed on the process used to assign Trustee K. Woodcock to the vacant seat on Audit Committee and Chairperson S. McMillan apologized for his error as the position should have been open to all trustees. He also spoke briefly regarding the reasons for his preference to be replaced as a member of the committee. Chairperson S. McMillan subsequently asked for expressions of interest from trustees re serving on Audit Committee. There were no expressions of interest from trustees at this time.

Trustee K. Smith stated that the appointment to Audit Committee was for a four-year term and it was her opinion that Chairperson S. McMillan was obligated to complete the term. Chairperson S. McMillan responded that there is a process for filling vacancies on the committee and it is outlined in Regulation 361/10. He also reminded trustees that according to Board Bylaw, the position of Board Chairperson was considered to be Ex-Officio which permits the Chairperson to attend and vote on every Board committee.

A lengthy discussion followed on whether trustees would prefer that Chairperson S. McMillan remain on Audit Committee. Chairperson S. McMillan asked for a show of hands amongst trustees to indicate agreement that Trustee K. Woodcock would remain as a member of Audit Committee and that he would serve in the role of Ex-Officio. The majority of trustees indicated agreement while Trustees J. Hendry, M. Ramsay and K. Smith were opposed.

Chairperson S. McMillan confirmed that Trustee K. Woodcock would remain as the member of the Audit Committee as previously-approved at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 12, 2016.

3. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by C. Watson:

That Folio 15, from the consent agenda of the December 19, 2016, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Opposed
K. Smith

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

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

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

That the agenda of the December 19, 2016, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

5. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the consent agenda of the December 19, 2016, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

6. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Harrington:

That the Code of Conduct Committee recommend that Brian Nolan of the firm Shibley Righton, be retained by the Board of Trustees to perform the formal inquiry regarding the code of conduct complaint filed by Trustee C. Watson involving Trustee M. Ramsay.

Moved in amendment by Trustee N. Waddell and seconded by Trustee C. Millar:

That the Code of Conduct Committee recommend that Brian Nolan of the firm Shibley Righton, be retained by the Board of Trustees to perform the formal inquiry regarding the code of conduct complaint filed by Trustee C. Watson involving Trustee M. Ramsay; and

That final costs related to this inquiry will presented to the Board for approval.

-Carried-

Opposed
K. Smith

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

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 of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson S. McMillan announced that Trustee K. Smith was attending the Board Meeting via teleconference.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Communications Officer L. Slupeiks provided an update on activities taking place in various schools and departments within the Waterloo Region District School Board.

DELEGATION

8. Moved by J. Hendry, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That in accordance with Board Bylaw 4.12.2 – Delegation Procedures, the following individual be permitted to delegate at the Board Meeting of December 19, 2016.

- Stephanie Van De Ven re Mindfulness Training in Schools for Students

-Carried-

REPORTS

There were no reports presented this evening.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no reports from Board Members presented for consideration.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

- 35** Toronto District School Board re Curriculum Review Process
- 38** MPP Catherine Fife re Mindfulness in Schools
- 39** Peel District School Board re OUAC Application Change Fee

FOLIO 38 – MINDFULNESS IN SCHOOLS

Trustee C. Watson requested additional information on mindfulness activities in WRDSB schools. Superintendent P. Rubenschuh outlined some of the activities currently taking place in our schools and noted this is an area we are just beginning to explore, but that staff are reporting some very positive results in working with our students who are experiencing challenges and there is currently a pilot program in place to determine effectiveness.

FOLIO 39 – OUAC APPLICATION FEE CHANGE

9. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by T. Martin:

That trustees direct the Chairperson to provide a letter of support on behalf of trustees in regard to the OUAC Application Change Fee.

-Carried-

Trustee K. Smith abstained from voting.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no items for question period.

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

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

10. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by T. Martin:

That the Board Meeting of December 19, 2016, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m.