

FEBRUARY 8, 2016
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

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: K. Woodcock (Chairperson), T. Martin, S. McMillan, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, N. Waddell and C. Watson.

Trustees C. Harrington, J. Hendry and A. Mitchell were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees R. Barnes and A. Takhar were in attendance.

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

Other staff in attendance: D. Cuomo and D. Elliott.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson K. Woodcock called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by S. McMillan:

- Move the Motion – Trustee C. Watson re Amendment to Board Policy 1012 – Faith and Religious Accommodations (Folio 38) to appear as the first report

That the agenda of the February 8, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as amended.

–Carried Unanimously–

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustee C. Watson stated she had declared a conflict of interest toward an item regarding negotiations in the previous In Camera Meeting.

CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Trustee K. Smith attended the Friday evening entertainment at the Public Education Symposium. “Crossing Borders” was presented by refugees, immigrants and allies who discuss their experiences through the use of the arts.

Trustee Smith also attended a Health and Wellness Family Night at John Darling Public School.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson K. Woodcock announced that she had received regrets this evening from Trustees C. Harrington, J. Hendry and A. Mitchell.

DELEGATIONS

2. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by N. Waddell:

That in accordance with Board Bylaw 4.12.2 – Delegation Procedures, the following individuals be permitted to delegate at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 8, 2016:

- Jacob Reaume re Internet Content Filtering
- Joanna Reaume re Internet Content Filtering
- Sean Sheeran re Internet Content Filtering

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 2003 – EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

3. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by N. Waddell:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2003 – Early Learning and Child Care as presented at the February 8, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

–Carried–

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 3001 – TRAVEL, MEALS AND HOSPITALITY EXPENSES - TRUSTEES

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 3001 – Travel, Meals and Hospitality Expenses - Trustees as presented at the February 8, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

–Carried–

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 3005 – EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

5. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 3005 – Expressions of Sympathy as presented at the February 8, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

–Carried–

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 4003 – TRESPASSING

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4003 – Trespassing as presented at the February 8, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

–Carried–

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 4004 – EMERGENCY NEEDS - EXPENDITURES

7. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by S. McMillan:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4004 – Emergency Needs - Expenditures as presented at the February 8, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

–Carried–

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 4006 – PARKING ON SCHOOL BOARD PROPERTY

8. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by C. Millar:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4006 – Parking on School Board Property as presented at the February 8, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

–Carried–

POSTPONE CONSIDERATION OF BOARD POLICY 6000 – SAFE SCHOOLS

Trustee K. Smith said she was aware of a motion in a report to be considered later on this evening's agenda and proposed to delay consideration of Board Policy 6000 – Safe Schools.

9. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by C. Miller:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board defer consideration of Board Policy 6000 – Safe Schools back to staff, pending discussion at the February 8, 2016 Committee of the Whole Meeting.

–Carried–

REPORTS

MOTION – TRUSTEE C. WATSON RE AMENDMENT TO BOARD POLICY 1012 – FAITH AND RELIGIOUS ACCOMMODATIONS

10. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by N. Waddell:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 1012 - Faith and Religious Accommodations under Section 1.6 to include “Digital Resources and Technology”.

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh clarified that the policy was created in consultation with the Ontario Human Rights Commission and legal counsel. He stated his opinion, that, with all due respect, digital resources did not fit into the policy and that the accommodation referred to in Board Policy 1012 - Faith and Religious Accommodations was around content and not tools. He added that Administrative Policy 4110 - Selection and Reconsideration of Educational Resources included explicit reference to technology.

Although the motion to amend Board Policy 1012 – Faith and Religious Accommodation was moved and seconded, trustees did not vote on the motion but instead voted to postpone consideration.

There was discussion on whether Digital Technology belonged under Faith and Accommodations as it is not a faith issue. The suggestion was that it be included in Board Policy P6000 – Safe Schools, and that it be referred back to staff for consideration.

POSTPONE CONSIDERATION

11. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by C. Millar:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board postpone consideration of the motion to amend Board Policy 1012 – Faith and Religious Accommodations under Section 1.6 to include “Digital Resources and Technology”; and

That staff include information in the February 22, 2016, Internet Content Filtering Report as to the appropriateness of including “Digital Resources and Technology” in Board Policy 6000 – Safe Schools.

-Motion Lost-	<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
	C. Millar	T. Martin
	K. Smith	S. McMillan
		M. Ramsay
		N. Waddell
		C. Watson
		R. Barnes*
		A. Takhar*

**Student trustees have the right to vote; however, legislation prevents their votes from being counted in the official tally.*

Trustee M. Ramsay suggested it was more appropriate to refer this matter to the Agenda Development Committee to reschedule to allow for a more fulsome discussion.

MOTION TO REFER

12. Moved by M. Ramsay, seconded by K. Smith:

The Chairperson announced that she would be voting prior to the vote.

That the Waterloo Region District School Board defer consideration of the motion to amend Board Policy 1012 – Faith and Religious Accommodations under Section 1.6 to include “Digital Resources and Technology” to the Agenda Development Committee for rescheduling.

-Carried-	<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
	T. Martin	S. McMillan
	C. Millar	C. Watson
	M. Ramsay	
	K. Smith	
	N. Waddell	
	K. Woodcock	
	R. Barnes*	
	A. Takhar*	

**Student trustees have the right to vote; however, legislation prevents their votes from being counted in the official tally.*

Trustees discussed their preference to have Agenda Development Committee schedule the motion to the March 7, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL LITERACY TEST – STUDENT SUPPORT STRATEGIES

Superintendent A. Mercier introduced Vice-Principals V. Collis, P. Bender and D. Mintz who provided trustees with a PowerPoint presentation outlining some of the strategies used in schools to support students in preparing for the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Board supports include working closely with the EQAO research team and an outreach worker who works with the secondary vice-principal networking group. Superintendent Mercier concluded the presentation noting that superintendents of student achievement and well-being continue to support staff in conversations around the OSSLT as they relate to student achievement.

Staff were thanked for providing this report to trustees for their information.

ACCOMMODATION REVIEW AND COMMUNITY PLANNING AND FACILITY PARTNERSHIPS POLICIES

Superintendent M. Gerard introduced Manager of Planning D. Cuomo to provide background and information on drafts of two new policies related to Pupil Accommodation Reviews and Community Planning and Facility Partnerships.

The Ministry of Education released a revised Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG) in March 2015, coinciding with the release of the Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline (CPPG) which is intended to replace the Facility Partnerships Guideline. Boards are expected to amend existing policies to reflect the changes before announcing any new pupil accommodation reviews.

The Pupil Accommodation Guideline includes enhanced consultation with municipal governments, requiring consultations and incorporation of linkages with municipal and regional plans in initial staff reporting for an accommodation review.

The Community Planning and Partnerships Guideline, which results in the revisions to Board Policy 1011 Facility Partnerships, includes requirements to become more engaged with municipal partners and to involve potential and municipal partners in discussions in preparation of reports to trustees.

The draft policies are scheduled to be shared with the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) and the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) during the month of March and their feedback will be considered prior to bringing the policies back to trustees for approval.

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13. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by C. Watson:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board receive as information the report entitled “Accommodation Review and Community Planning and Facility Partnerships Policies” as presented at the February 8, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

–Carried–

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

Student Trustee A. Takhar reported on behalf of himself and Student Trustee Barnes on the highlights of the December and January Student Senate Meetings and agenda items for February. Student Trustee Barnes added that a Student Trustee section is being worked on for the board website that will include Student Senate information.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee M. Ramsay asked where union rights begin and end in relation to management rights pertaining to the recent ETFO instructions to their members to boycott The Record by cancelling subscriptions and not using The Record as part of their classroom resources. Superintendent M. Weinert responded that in conversations with the ETFO president, the local union had issued an advisory, not a directive, to their members based on recent editorial comment. They are reviewing and planning to meet with the editorial staff of The Record in the near future. With respect to using newspapers in the classroom, Superintendent Weinert noted that it is a voluntary program and not mandated.

Trustee Ramsay followed up with a question around the difference between an “advisory” and a “directive”? Superintendent Weinert responded that based on local dialogue with federation representatives and their executive, they issued the advisory as a result of information they had from their members. An “advisory” allows individual members to determine if they would (a) cancel their subscription or (b) speak with their administrator to decide if they would use it in their classrooms.

Trustee Smith asked if it was possible to issue a statement encouraging people to use The Record that doesn’t insult the union but supports The Record as she worries about the devastating impact of losing a community newspaper. Superintendent M. Deacon responded that a number of conversations had taken place, particularly around messaging that members are encouraged to speak with their administrators and that we have been clear that we continue to support our community partners who support our students.

Trustee C. Watson requested that staff provide answers to the four questions asked by J. Reaume in his delegation regarding Internet Content Filtering and agreed to provide the questions to staff.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee C. Millar served the following Notice of Motion as supported by Trustees K. Smith and S. McMillan:

Whereas the Waterloo Region District School Board promotes accountability and transparency; and

Whereas the attendance at Board, Committee of Whole and Assigned Board committee meetings are critical components of the Trustee role, Trustee engagement and their ability to be fully informed; and

Whereas Trustee attendance is public information; and

Whereas the public have the right to know.

Therefore, be it resolved that Trustee attendance (including partial attendance – i.e., leaves during meeting or arrives midway through) at each Board Meeting, Committee of the Whole Meeting and assigned board committee meetings be reported on the WRDSB website on a monthly basis and remain posted and regularly updated for the entire term of that Board; and

That this action and information be retroactive to the beginning of September 2015.

ADJOURNMENT

14. Moved by S. McMillan, seconded by N. Waddell:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 8, 2016, be adjourned.

–Carried–

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.