

JANUARY 23, 2017
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: S. McMillan (Chairperson), C. Harrington, J. Hendry, T. Martin, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, N. Waddell, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

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, P. Rubenschuh, E. Ranney, L. Read, M. Schinkel, G. Shantz and M. Weinert.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. McMillan called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by N. Waddell, seconded by C. Millar:

- Add Delegation Tamara MacKinnon re French Immersion at J. W. Gerth Public School

That the agenda of the January 23, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as amended.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee K. Smith announced that in December she had attended the Snowflake Swap Meet at A.R. Kaufman Public School and a Fun Fair at Howard Robertson Public School.

DELEGATIONS

Tamara MacKinnon appeared as a delegation before the Board to speak to the issue of French Immersion at J.W. Gerth Public School. In her remarks she indicated that she was disappointed with the model of French Immersion programming that would be offered at the school and noted that many of the students currently being driven to J. W. Gerth Public School were from inside the Groh Public School boundary.

MOTION TO DEFER CONSIDERATION

Trustee K. Smith requested that the policies for consideration this evening be deferred as the Parent Involvement Committee was not able to consult on these policies as the order had been revised. Trustee K. Smith also noted that she would be bringing a motion forward to the next meeting recommending that a committee be struck to examine the policy review process.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board defer consideration of the Board Policies scheduled for review at the January 23, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting at 7:38 p.m.

REPORTS

2016-2017 INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT AND FORECAST AT NOVEMBER 30, 2016

Trustee C. Harrington suggested a motion to receive the report prior to the presentation by staff. Chairperson S. McMillan noted that at an OPSBA workshop at the Public Education Symposium he was informed that it is not necessary for Boards to vote to receive a report.

Trustees agreed to adopt this new method and Chairperson S. McMillan thanked Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard for the report.

GROH PUBLIC SCHOOL BOUNDARY – ENROLMENT UPDATE

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard distributed copies of a report at the meeting updating trustees with respect to enrolment projections and school capacities for the schools in the Doon South Elementary Schools Boundary Study (Brigadoon, Doon, Groh, J.W. Gerth and Pioneer Park Public Schools).

Chairperson McMillan thanked Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard for the report.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM FEE

Business Services Manager N. Landry introduced a report seeking approval from trustees for the Extended Day Program Fee for 2017-2018.

It was noted during the presentation that staff were requesting an increase to the recommended rate of \$25.25 per day, per child which represents an increase of \$0.25 from the 2016-2017 rate.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Extended Day Program fee of \$25.25 per day, per child, for the 2017-2018 school year

-Carried-

BOARD REPORT TEMPLATE DISCUSSION

Director J. Bryant and Chief Communications Officer N. Manning provided trustees with a sample of a revised Board Report template and requested that trustees consider adopting the new report template.

N. Manning further stated that the report format meets current accessibility guidelines and best practices for printed documents in accordance with the communications standard in the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, 2005.

It was noted by trustees that a link to the Strategic Plan was no longer included in the report and a lengthy discussion followed on this issue.

Comments on the new report template were very supportive and a request to keep the report writing in plain English rather than educational jargon and to limit the number of verbal reports were noted.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board adopt a new board report template based on standards for accessibility as presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 23, 2017.

-Carried-

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

In her role as OPSBA Director, Trustee K. Woodcock noted that she attended the Public Education Symposium this past weekend and is preparing a report on the workshop to share with trustees.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson requested to revisit the issue of videotaping or webcasting Board Meetings. Director J. Bryant noted that staff could re-examine a report they previously provided on this issue. Trustee Watson requested clarification from Chief Communications Officer N. Manning and he responded that although he wasn't with the WRDSB when this report was presented he was familiar with the issue and has discussed this concept with his colleagues.

Student Trustee R. Barnes stated that he had been informed of changes to the Student Activity Council (SAC) model at Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate Institute (KCI). He had been informed

JANUARY 23, 2017
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

that the school intends to dissolve the SAC and have leadership classes fulfil this role. He asked for information on whether other schools were making the same transition and if staff had heard this was also taking place in other schools and whether students had been consulted re this issue. Coordinating Superintendent L. Read indicated that she has no information on this issue, but that she would follow-up.

Trustee T. Martin asked for information on how many retired teachers are currently on the Occasional Teacher List. Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert indicated that he has just completed a survey that will provide him with this information and he will provide an update to trustees at the next meeting.

Trustee K. Smith suggested that a letter be sent to the Minister of Education by the Chairperson on behalf of the Board requesting that the Ministry of Education address the lack of qualified French Teachers currently available as the demand for teachers far exceeds the supply.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

No future agenda items were identified.

ADJOURNMENT

5. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by N. Waddell:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 23, 2017, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.