

JANUARY 16, 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.

Trustee A. Mitchell was not in attendance at this evening's meeting.

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, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: D. Elliott, N. Manning and L. Slupeiks.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the January 16, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved with the following addition:

- Nutrition for Learning

- Carried -

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations this evening.

CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson S. McMillan announced that Trustee K. Woodcock indicated she may be arriving late for this evening's meeting.

DELEGATIONS

- Ben Wood regarding French Immersion in Ayr.

Trustees were all in favour of Trustee C. Watson's request that the delegation's issue be shared with staff for follow-up.

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

That in accordance with Board Bylaw 4.12.2 – Delegation Procedures, the following individual be permitted to delegate at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 16, 2017:

- Helena Keirstead re Groh Public School Boundaries

- Carried -

MOTION TO ADD TO THE AGENDA

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

That Groh Public School Boundaries be added to the Committee of the Whole Meeting agenda.

- Carried with the necessary 2/3 majority -

Opposed
J. Hendry

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 1003 – SCHOOL COUNCILS

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve amendments to Board Policy 1003 – School Councils as presented at the January 16, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

- Carried -

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 4009 – STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

5. Moved by J. Hendry seconded by C. Harrington:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4009 – Student Transportation as presented at the January 16, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

- Carried -

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 6011 – FEES FOR LEARNING MATERIALS AND ACTIVITIES

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard reported to trustees that a survey was conducted in secondary schools showing that schools are in compliance with the policy.

Trustee K. Smith asked if staff has done an assessment with respect to finding funds for students who might be prohibited from attending specialized programs because of the cost.

MOTION TO DEFER

6. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by J. Hendry:

That approval of Board Policy 6011 – Fees for Learning Materials be deferred to allow staff to provide a report on specialized programs where fees are charged, i.e., Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate and Integrated Arts Programs.

- Carried -

REPORTS

Trustee K. Woodcock joined the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

AD HOC POLICY COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP APPROVAL

Chairperson McMillan advised trustees that he would like to expand the scope of the Ad Hoc Policy Committee Membership to include all five trustees who indicated an interested in being on the committee.

MOTION TO EXPAND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

7. Moved by T. Martin, seconded by C. Watson:

That the Ad Hoc Policy Committee Membership be expanded from four to five trustees: Trustees Millar, Ramsay, Smith, Waddell and Watson.

- Carried -

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

Groh Public School Boundaries

Trustee N. Waddell spoke to the enrolment numbers in Scenario 16, approved by trustees in a 2014, which included French Immersion classes for grades one to four at Groh P.S. during the first year. She questioned the viability of French Immersion at neighbouring schools if French Immersion starts up at Groh P.S. and if numbers in Scenario 16 are still valid.

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Trustee Waddell requested updated projections pertaining to enrolment, portables, teachers and Educational Assistants.

Director J. Bryant offered that staff could provide a verbal update this evening as the situation was being monitored, with further information to follow in a report.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard noted information was provided in December regarding updated enrolment numbers and portables at Groh P.S. but that French Immersion numbers were not included. Moving students to French Immersion at Groh P.S. would require two additional teachers. The number of portables will depend on French Immersion registration. Some time and effort will be required to bring a full report back to trustees.

Trustee T. Martin noted that as well as approving Scenario 16, trustees approved Interim Option F that said we would offer French Immersion initially in grades one to four. He wondered if consideration been given to split grades as some classes may fall below 23 students. Coordinating Superintendent Gerard responded that split grades have happened in the past but that splitting Grades 2, 3 and 4 would cause an increase in the number of teachers required.

Trustee C. Watson asked if there was any flexibility to extend the deadline for French Immersion registration. Coordinating Superintendent Gerard responded that the possibility of extending the deadline would need to be examined based on further consultation.

Trustee J. Hendry added perhaps the lack of communication was something to look at, but that it was not uncommon for a new school to have changes. The French Immersion agreement was approved subject to board policy which is subject to numbers. He agreed that a report to trustees with the numbers and possible alternatives should come back to trustees as soon as possible and that Planning Staff be available to answer questions.

MOTION TO DEFER DISCUSSION

8. Moved by J. Hendry, seconded by C. Millar:

That trustees defer the discussion on French Immersion at Groh Public School until January 30, 2017, to allow staff to provide a written report.

- Motion Lost -	<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
	C. Harrington	T. Martin
	J. Hendry	C. Millar
	C. Watson	K. Smith
	R. Barnes *	N. Waddell
	H. Jamal *	K. Woodcock

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

MOTION TO REQUEST STAFF REPORT

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

That staff provide a report at the January 23, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting on enrolment projections and school capacities for schools in the Doon South Elementary Schools Boundary Study, including consideration of French Immersion programming and a commitment from the School Travel Planner to provide assistance in easing congestion and providing safe walking routes at J. W. Gerth Public School.

- Carried -

Opposed
J. Hendry

Trustees recognized that some items in the motion may require more than one week to provide the information. Director Bryant noted that staff will do their best to deliver a fulsome report.

Trustee C. Harrington exited the meeting at 8:45 p.m.

Nutrition for Learning

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh provided a verbal update to trustees on the Nutrition for Learning program. In November 2015, Nutrition for Learning came to consensus that moving forward with their mission of enhancing the ability to learn by ensuring each student attends school well nourished, they would begin providing two to three food offerings, in bins, in classrooms across the region. The program broadens Nutrition for Learning's reach to all students and removes the stigma to students by making food available in all classrooms so that every student has access.

A review is currently being conducted on how best to deliver the program and meet their mission and mandate. All schools will be limited to one program, e.g. breakfast, morning, lunch.

Superintendent Rubenschuh represents the WRDSB on the Nutrition for Learning Board, along with a principal representative. There is ongoing discussion with the Board of Directors as to how they will move forward but it was a collective decision of the board to move in the current direction.

Student Trustee Report

Student Trustees R. Barnes and H. Jamal presented a report on the Student Senate 2017 Meeting. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided an annual budget presentation and answered questions around International Baccalaureate and Advanced Placement programs, transportation, bell times, and the transportation consortium with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board. Superintendent P. Rubenschuh led a discussion on well-being.

It was determined that Superintendent Rubenschuh would contact Ontario's Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth to get more information related to teaching students how to cope in schools, as requested by Trustee Watson during a conference report by the Student Trustees in November 2016.

QUESTION PERIOD

Related to the earlier delegation this evening on French Immersion in Ayr, Trustee K. Smith requested that the Chairperson write a letter to the Minister of Education to talk about the crisis around the shortage of French teachers in the province. She asked that the letter be copied to all boards across the province. Chairperson S. McMillan responded that he will take the suggestion to the Agenda Development Committee to bring back to trustees for a more fulsome discussion.

Trustee K. Woodcock asked if we offer an opportunity to parents who register their children for French Immersion to provide feedback about their experience in terms of barriers, challenges, even good things that happened. Coordinating Superintendent L. Read responded that it was something not typically provided but something to take into consideration.

Student Trustee H. Jamal asked what protections are in place to ensure student privacy when they install mobile device certificates on cell phones. Chief Communications Officer N. Manning responded that the Board is not using any of the mobile device management features of IntelliGO. The certificate is only to authenticate the people using the Board's secure network.

Trustee C. Watson felt we needed to move quickly with respect to French Immersion in Ayr and that the delegation request was for a public meeting. Chairperson McMillan noted it would take some time to set up a public meeting. Trustee Smith called a point of order saying there is a process in place for French Immersion that takes into consideration a minimum number of students, adding that if we make an exception it will need to be made for everyone.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 16, 2017, be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

- Carried -