

JANUARY 11, 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), C. Harrington, J. Hendry, T. Martin, S. McMillan, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, N. Waddell and C. Watson.

Trustee A. Mitchell was not in attendance.

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

Other staff in attendance: J. Herring and L. Slupeks.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson K. Woodcock called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by T. Martin, seconded by J. Hendry:

That the agenda of the January 11, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustee C. Watson announced that she had declared a conflict of interest toward an item in the previous In Camera Meeting as she has a family member who is an employee of the Board.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee K. Smith announced that she had attended the following events on behalf of the Board:

- Winter Wonderland Concert at Howard Robertson Public School;
- Islamic Humanitarian Interfaith Luncheon along with Trustee T. Martin;
- Music event at Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute where students raised \$7200 for the community;
- A.R. Kaufman Public School Dance-a-thon.

Chairperson K. Woodcock announced that she attended the Holiday Concert at Jean Steckle Public School.

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Director J. Bryant announced that trustees were invited to attend the System Leaders' Meeting on January 19, 2016, at the Holiday Inn and also provided an update on the construction at the Education Centre and invited trustees to join staff at the Third Floor Open House on January 25, 2016, from 10:00-12:30 p.m.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations registered for this evening.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 1013 – FIRST NATION, METIS AND VOLUNTARY SELF-IDENTIFICATION

Trustee K. Smith stated that the Parent Involvement Council has suggested adding the report from the Truth and Reconciliation Commission as a related reference.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve amendments to Board Policy 1013 – First Nation, Metis and Voluntary Self-Identification as discussed and presented at the January 11, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 1014 – FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

3. Moved by T. Martin, seconded by C. Millar:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1014 – Freedom of Information and Records Management as discussed and presented at the January 11, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 2000 – ENVIRONMENTAL VALUES

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2000 – Environmental Values as discussed and presented at the January 11, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 2009 – BOARD ADVOCACY

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2009 – Board Advocacy as discussed and presented at the January 11, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 3000 – TRUSTEE HONORARIUM

Trustees discussed the issue of honorarium and it was determined that a similar discussion had already occurred where trustees voted against supporting an honorarium. As a result, trustees determined that further discussion would take place when this policy comes forward again next year as part of the regular review cycle.

Student Trustee R. Barnes also suggested that in order to be consistent perhaps the Student Trustee Honoraria could be included in this policy, although it was noted this information is contained in the Student Trustee Policy.

APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 5008 – STAFF DRESS CODE

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve amendments to Board Policy 5008 – Staff Dress Code as discussed and presented at the January 11, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

Opposed
S. McMillan

REPORTS

TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Trustees were provided with copies of a report outlining Trustee Committee Membership for 2016, and several amendments were noted during the discussion and will be corrected prior to distribution.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the 2016 Board Committee Membership Structure as outlined in Appendix A of the report titled “2016 Board Committee Memberships,” dated January 11, 2016, as amended.

-Carried-

Trustee M. Ramsay entered the meeting at 7:30 p.m.

MOTION FROM TRUSTEE K. SMITH RE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TERRITORIAL LANDS

Trustee K. Smith spoke to a Notice of Motion served at the November 30, 2015, Board Meeting recommending that trustees begin each Committee of the Whole and Board Meeting with an acknowledgement of the territorial lands upon which the Education Centre is located.

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

Whereas the Waterloo Region District School Board unanimously passed a motion to support a Charter of Commitment for First Nation, Metis and Inuit Education in the spring of 2013.

Whereas, the Waterloo Region District School Board supports curriculum that provides all of our students an opportunity to learn about the history of our Aboriginal Peoples.

Therefore, it is recommended:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board, as a sign of respect and support, join other school boards across the province in beginning each Committee of the Whole and Board Meeting with an acknowledgement of the territorial lands upon which the Education Centre is located by having the Chairperson read:

“We would like to take a moment to acknowledge the territorial lands of the Haudenosaunee, the Neutrals and the Anishnabee people and thank them for allowing us to do this good work on their traditional lands.”

Moved in amendment by J. Hendry and C. Watson:

That Motion #8 of the January 11, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting minutes be amended by striking “Committee of the Whole and” so the motion now reads:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board, as a sign of respect and support, join other school boards across the province in beginning each Board Meeting with an acknowledgement of the territorial lands upon which the Education Centre is located by having the Chairperson read:

“We would like to take a moment to acknowledge the territorial lands of the Haudenosaunee, the Neutrals and the Anishnabee people and thank them for allowing us to do this good work on their traditional lands.”

-Amendment Carried-

Opposed
C. Millar
K. Smith
K. Woodcock
R. Barnes*

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-Main Motion as Amended Carried-

Opposed
K. Smith
K. Woodcock
R. Barnes*
A. Takhar*

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

VERBAL STAFF RESPONSE RE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF DAYS OF SIGNIFICANCE REQUEST

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh provided trustees with an update on the ways in which the WRDSB recognizes the days of significance for various groups. The request for a report resulted from a request by the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies to recognize an annual day to commemorate the Holocaust on January 27th.

REFER TO COMMITTEE

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer this matter to the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group (EIAG) for further consideration and for the committee to provide a report with their findings to trustees at a date to be determined.

-Carried-

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh agreed to inform the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee of this request from trustees and Trustee C. Watson suggested the committee also consider a day to encompass other groups and to look at some of the other United Nations Days of Significance.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR REPORT

Superintendent M. Deacon spoke to a report that addressed the requirement for an additional PA day for elementary and secondary schools as a result of recent labour settlements. It was noted that after consultation with various stakeholder groups, and the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, it was determined that the preference would be to add an additional PA Day on February 26, 2016.

Chairperson K. Woodcock noted that as a member of the School Year Calendar Committee she would like to recognize Superintendent M. Deacon for the great job she did in consulting with stakeholder groups on this issue under a very tight timeline.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve February 26, 2016, as the additional Professional Activity Day for the 2015-2016 School Year Calendars.

-Carried-

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

There were no staff and board reports for consideration this evening.

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no items for discussion during question period.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee C. Watson suggested that trustees could review the Invocation currently used at the Board Meetings. This suggestion will be forwarded to the Agenda Development Committee for consideration.

ADJOURNMENT

11. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by S. McMillan:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 11, 2016, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.