

MAY 15, 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), M. Gerard, S. Lomax, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh and G. Shantz.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. McMillan called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- Deferral of consideration of Board Policies to the June 12, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting

That the agenda of the May 15, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as amended.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustees announced the following:

- Trustee C. Millar attended the 25th Anniversary of Westvale Public School;
- Trustee K. Woodcock provided greetings at the WREA Dinner;
- Trustee K. Smith attended the Day of Diversity at Sunnyside Public School;
- Trustee T. Martin provided greetings at the Official Opening of Vista Hills Public School;
- Chairperson S. McPherson provided greetings at the Official Opening of Riverside Public School;
- Trustee K. Smith announced that the Rotary Club would like to recognize a number of fundraising donors including the largest group fundraiser, the WRDSB.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations this evening.

REPORTS

QUESTION PERIOD FOLLOW-UP – MAY 8, 2017, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh provided a follow-up report on suicide intervention/prevention and postvention procedures and strategies along with the mental health strategy for the Board. He also outlined the process followed by staff during a critical event involving a student.

He noted that the Critical Events Response Team meets weekly to discuss any situation they are responding to across the system and a follow-up debrief with staff occurs on an ongoing basis.

Trustee M. Ramsay entered the meeting at 8:00 p.m.

Trustee C. Watson requested an update regarding the sharps containers. Staff responded that Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert would be providing an update on this topic at the next meeting.

PUPIL ACCOMMODATION GRANT – SCHOOL RENEWAL APPLICATION

Manager of Capital Projects R. Dallan presented a report on the school renewal application.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the 2017-2018 Pupil Accommodation Grant expenditures for the year September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018, not to exceed the estimated level of grant received from the Ministry of Education for School Renewal Allocation, as established in the budget of the report entitled, 2017-2018 Pupil Accommodation Grant – School Renewal Allocation, dated May 15, 2017.

-Carried-

2017-2018 SCHOOL CONDITION IMPROVEMENT – SCHOOL RENEWAL AND NEW GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTION FUND

Manager of Capital Projects R. Dallan outlined the projects for major maintenance that were prioritized and funded from the annual Pupil Accommodation Grant – School Renewal.

Trustee C. Harrington asked for additional information on how the grants are allocated and also requested a copy of grants received at other Boards. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard responded this information could be provided for trustees during the budget discussions.

This report was provided for the information of the Board.

ACCOMMODATION PLANNING 2017-2018

Senior Planner N. Hercanuck provided a report requesting the approval of a proposed boundary study involving Queen Elizabeth, Laurentian, Jean Steckle and Southridge Public Schools.

3. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the commencement of the Fischer-Hallman/Huron Elementary Schools Boundary Study.

-Carried-

CAPITAL PRIORITIES SUBMISSION

Controller of Facility Services I. Gaudet presented the report outlining the Capital Priorities Submission to the Ministry of Education and noted that we have not yet received a response from the Ministry in regard to which projects have been approved, but staff is hoping the priorities will remain the same as previous years.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board (Board) approve the Capital Priorities for submission to the Ministry of Education (Ministry) as listed in Appendix A of the report entitled, “Capital Priorities Submission” dated May 15, 2017.

-Carried-

Opposed
C. Harrington

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

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY UPDATE

Superintendent G. Shantz provided trustees with a brief update on the upcoming move from Waterworks to the use of G Suite (Gmail) as the new email program for the WRDSB. Additional information will be provided closer to the implementation and migration date.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee N. Waddell commented on some disturbing comments made on a community association’s Facebook page in reference to a particular school culture and posed a number of questions to staff including:

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- What is staff doing to help communicate the Safe Caring & Inclusive School Teams Information available on the Board’s website at the school level?
- How is Administrative Procedure 1410 on Parent Support communicated to parents so they are aware of the procedure to handle concerns?
- What is being done to support school administrators and staff in these types of situations and are there measures in place to support their well-being?

Director J. Bryant stated that staff would investigate this issue and take the questions away and a response could come back through the Agenda Development Committee.

Trustee K. Smith noted an increase in “Islamophobia” including racial comments and graffiti and suggested that a session on Equity and Inclusion be provided for trustees in the Fall of 2017. Chairperson S. McMillan stated this suggestion could be presented through the Agenda Development Committee.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Director J. Bryant announced the System Leaders’ Meeting scheduled for Thursday, May 18, 2017, from 3:30-5:30, and noted an invitation will be provided to trustees through E. Burns.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 15, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.