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 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. Carbone, M. Deacon, M. Gerard, L. Hodgins, A. Mercier, S. Lomax, S. Miller, E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, M. Schinkel, G. Shantz and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: L. Agar, D. Cuomo, J. Herring and L. Slupeiks.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson K. Woodcock called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by C. Harrington:

   That the agenda of the November 23, 2015, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as amended:

   - Approval of two additional delegations

   -Carried-

**MOTION TO REVISE AGENDA ORDER**

Trustee C. Watson requested that the report (Folio 112) on Internet Content Filtering be moved to appear as the first report for consideration.

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

   That the Waterloo Region District School Board revise the agenda order to move the motion by Trustee C. Watson to appear as the first report.

   -Carried-
MOTION TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION

Due to a lengthy agenda, Trustee C. Harrington proposed the deferral of the policy review to a Committee of the Whole Meeting in January 2016.

3. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by J. Hendry:

That the policies scheduled for review at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 23, 2015, be postponed for consideration to the first Committee of the Whole Meeting in January 2016.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest this evening.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Student Trustee A. Takhar announced that he attended a recent LGBTQ Night at Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute.

Chairperson K. Woodcock announced that she had received regrets for this evening’s meeting from Trustee A. Mitchell.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations were registered prior to the deadline:

- Joanna Reaume re Internet Content Filtering
- Brandon Bai re Internet Content Filtering
- Eliana Frederick re French Immersion Transportation to Vista Hills
- Zamal Ruffudeen re Doon South Accommodation Changes
- Melanie Roberts re French Immersion Transportation

4. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by C. Harrington:

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 November 23, 2015:

- Jacob Reaume re Internet Content Filtering
- Kristen Jukes re Internet Content Filtering

-Carried-
Note: In accordance with revisions to Board Bylaw 4.12 – Delegation Procedures, copies of the delegation presentations are no longer collected, or kept on file, at the Education Centre.

REPORTS

MOTION FROM TRUSTEE C. WATSON RE INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING

Trustee C. Watson introduced a motion that was presented at the September 14, 2015, Committee of the Whole Meeting and scheduled for consideration at this evening’s meeting.

The motion, supported by Trustees C. Harrington and N. Waddell, requested that staff explore Enterprise level firewall appliances in each school and provide a written report by the end of November 2015. It was also noted that the timeline would require amendment.

Trustee C. Watson called for a division of the question, so that each section of the motion could be voted on separately.

Trustees engaged in a lengthy discussion around the issue of content filtering and consulted with staff regarding clarification of the terminology and the current status of internet content filtering. Trustees voiced concern regarding the images that were being viewed by students. Trustee N. Waddell spoke to an issue involving her son accessing an online game.

Trustees discussed a deferral of the first two sections of the motion until after a written report was received that could provide additional clarification and information.

A lengthy discussion ensued around the type of information that trustees would like to have included in the report:

- Is adding an amendment under Digital Citizenship in Policy 1012 an appropriate accommodation?
- Is there content filtering at the school level?
- Is the WiFi in each school location filtered?
- Is it possible for parents to have an accommodation re technology other than for reasons of faith?
- How do we currently encourage students to be good digital citizens? How is this currently being taught to students?
- What do we use to filter content and what is the condition of our current systems?
- What is the process currently used for people to report blocked content?
- How is blocked content removed and what is the timeline?
- Include consultation with PIC, WRAPC and SEAC.
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

5. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by C. Harrington:

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”; and

That staff explore enterprise level firewall appliances that are user friendly and affordable, and that filter content at the internet gateway for each school; and

That a written report be presented to trustees by the end of November 2015.

MOTION TO POSTPONE CONSIDERATION

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board postpone consideration of Motion #5, of the November 23, 2015, Committee of the Whole Meeting, which reads as follows, to allow for staff to provide a written report by the end of January 2016.

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”; and

That staff explore enterprise level firewall appliances that are user friendly and affordable, and that filter content at the internet gateway for each school; and

That a written report be presented to trustees by the end of November 2015.

-Carried-

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Notes: The Chairperson announced that she would be voting prior to the vote.
*Student trustees have the right to vote; however, legislation prevents their votes from being counted in the official tally.
NAMING OF THE NEW SOUTH KITCHENER SCHOOL

Communications Officer L. Slupeiks provided a report that details the process and a list of suggested names for the new south Kitchener elementary school on Thomas Slee Drive.

It was noted that 223 submissions were received and the committee narrowed down to the selected name of Groh Public School, which was presented to trustees for approval.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the name Groh Public School for the new elementary school located on Thomas Slee Drive in Kitchener.

-Carried-

EQAO 2015 GRADE 9 MATHEMATICS PROVINCIAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS

Superintendents S. Lomax and A. Mercier shared the results of the Grade 9 Mathematics Provincial Assessment conducted in the 2014-2015 school year.

During the 2014-2015 school year in the Waterloo Region District School Board, approximately 4,240 Grade 9 Mathematics students participated in the province-wide Grade 9 Mathematics Assessment. This assessment is for all students enrolled in Grade 9 Applied or Academic Mathematics. Individual Student Reports (ISRs) were sent out by EQAO during the week of September 21, 2015 and were to be shared with students and parents. The Individual Student Report indicates a student’s performance based on the four levels of achievement that are identified in the Ontario Curriculum.

Due to differences in the curriculum, the test for students in Academic Mathematics is different from the test for students in Applied Mathematics. In the Waterloo Region District School Board, approximately 75% of Grade 9 Mathematics students were enrolled in Academic Mathematics.

A lengthy discussion on new initiatives currently being used to help increase the test results followed. Trustee N. Waddell suggested that the link for the Math page contained in the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement be added to individual school websites.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board receive as information the report titled ‘EQAO 2015 Grade 9 Mathematics Provincial Assessment Results as presented at the November 23, 2015, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-
NOVEMBER 23, 2015
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

DOON SOUTH INTERIM ACCOMMODATION CHANGES

Superintendent M. Gerard and Manager of Planning D. Cuomo provided trustees with a report seeking approval for modifications to the motion dealing with boundary changes that was approved by the Doon South Elementary School Boundary Study.

On September 28, 2015, it was confirmed that the opening of the new South Kitchener (Groh Dr.) school would be delayed to September 2017. As a result of the delay in opening the new South Kitchener (Groh Dr.) school, the interim boundaries will be in place for three years instead of two. It also means that additional portables may be required at Doon Public School to accommodate Grade 5 and 6 students for another year.

Chairperson K. Woodcock announced that she would be voting on this motion and suggested a friendly amendment to clarify the intent of the motion.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board modify the approved interim boundary changes as outlined in Appendix A of the report titled “Recommendation Resulting from the Doon South Boundary Study,” dated January 20, 2014, to direct Grade 5 students in 2016/17 and Grade 6 students in 2017/18 to J.W. Gerth Public School from Doon Public School; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board modify the approved Scenario 16 boundary changes as outlined in Appendix A of the report titled “Recommendation Resulting from the Doon South Boundary Study,” dated January 20, 2014, to change the option for Grade 6 students (the year of the change) to be for Grade 7 students in the new South Kitchener (Groh Drive) school boundary who were attending Doon Public School in the year prior to the new South Kitchener (Groh Drive) school opening to remain at Doon Public School until they complete Grade 8; and

That transportation (for those who qualify based on Board Policy 4009: Student Transportation and Administrative Procedure 4260: Student Transportation) be extended for one year only to those affected Grade 7 students attending Doon Public School for the year the new South Kitchener (Groh Drive) school opens.

-Carried-

EXTEND ADJOURNMENT TIME

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

That the 9:30 p.m. adjournment time be extended by thirty minutes.

-Carried Unanimously-
RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WEST WATERLOO ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BOUNDARY STUDY

Superintendent M. Gerard and Manager of Planning D. Cuomo introduced a report seeking approval of the attendance boundary and grade structure for the new Vista Hills Public School, tentatively scheduled to open in September 2016, and resulting in a modification of the boundaries for Abraham Erb, Edna Staebler, and Laurelwood Public Schools.

Trustee C. Watson inquired about the traffic and crossing guard concerns raised by the delegation and asked if staff have been in contact with city staff.

Trustee C. Millar raised the possibility of finding a solution to the transportation issues and asked if staff has considered a central pick-up of students and if this could be provided without additional cost. Superintendent M. Gerard clarified that busing would need to occur for approximately 70 students and also noted that there are Board Policies in place that provide direction to staff and deal with walking distances, out of boundary students and also as a result of reductions to the transportation budget, courtesy busing has been eliminated.

Trustee J. Hendry responded that the Board underwent a transportation study that resulted in saving $1M and as a result courtesy busing was eliminated. He also suggested that this is a boundary issue and there is still time before the school opens for staff to look at all the options.

Chairperson K. Woodcock announced prior to the vote that she would be voting on this motion.

11. Moved by J. Hendry, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the recommendations as outlined in Appendix A of this report titled “Recommendations of the West Waterloo Elementary Schools Boundary Study,” dated November 23, 2015.

-Carried-   Opposed

C. Millar

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

REFUGEE COMMITTEE UPDATE

Superintendent G. Shantz provided trustees with an update on the Syrian Refugee Crisis and plans to relocate refugees in the Kitchener-Waterloo area and what the impact on the WRDSB might be due to the number of families involved. Information provided included:

- Over 200 community agencies recently participated in a discussion around this issue;
- There will be approximately 1,150 refugees settling in this area;
- There may be a large number of small children that will need to attend the WRDSB;
- Families will begin arriving the second week in December and continue to arrive until mid-March;
There are no details regarding available funding at this time, but information is coming. Trustee J. Hendry stated that he was disappointed that adequate funding might not be available when families start arriving in the area. In response, Director of Education J. Bryant noted that discussions are taking place with other Directors of Education regarding the funding issue at a meeting later this week.

Trustee K. Smith noted that the WRDSB has previously had fundraising events for other crisis events in other areas of the world and suggested that a clothing drive or donations could be collected and also involve schools.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

There were no items this evening.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items for consideration.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

   That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 23, 2015, be adjourned.

   -Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.