

**JUNE 27, 2016
BOARD MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Board 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, T. Martin, S. McMillan, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, N. Waddell and C. Watson.

Trustee J. Hendry 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, S. Lomax, A. Mercier, K. Newland, P. Rubenschuh, E. Ranney, L. Read, M. Schinkel, G. Shantz and M. Weinert.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson K. Woodcock called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the June 27, 2016, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried Unanimously-

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by M. Ramsay, seconded by C. Harrington:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of June 27, 2016, and the actions contained therein, be approved (with the exception of Folios 32 and 33).

-Carried Unanimously-

Trustee M. Ramsay spoke briefly regarding the comments included under 'Communications' contained in Folios 32 and 33. Trustee Ramsay requested that the following comments be included in the minutes:

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Note: Names have been redacted from the comments provided by Trustee M. Ramsay in keeping with the ruling made by the Chairperson at the June 27, 2016, Board Meeting.

“As I mentioned at last week’s meeting, I reserved the right to make comments regarding the insinuations leveled towards me in the form of a question in a piece of correspondence the Chair chose to read into the record. I will try and keep my comments brief.

First, I am disturbed by the process that the Chair chose to follow regarding this correspondence. The content of the correspondence relates to occurrences that occurred in the past and there was no requirement for a decision, therefore no urgency to deal with it before Trustee [Name] could attend a meeting. Trustee [Name] was clear that the correspondence was a question. I find it troubling that under those circumstances the Chair did not simply ask the Trustee [Name] to raise her questions at tonight’s meeting instead when she could not attend last week.

Second, to ask that a question be posed when you are not prepared to be there to hear the answer or to clarify the question if needed suggests that the question is rhetorical in nature. Having said that, the question has been asked so I will answer it.

I have served on the board since 1988 and during that time I have gained the trust and respect of many staff at all levels of the organization. I did that by listening to them and acting on what I heard. When you listen to those who actually do the work it is amazing what you can learn. Staff are the backbone of the organization and it is staff who are closest to the problems and the solutions. I encourage all trustees, especially the newer ones, to get to know staff and to engage them in conversation.

Staff has confided in me that they were leaving or contemplating leaving because of the current leadership vacuum on the board. If Trustee [Name] would like “evidence” as she demands in her question then I suggest she get out there and gain the trust of staff and listen to them. Then she will have the evidence she desires.

If [Name] wishes to have more objective evidence, then I suggest she move that we return to having performance indicators in the Director’s contract so that key indicators such as employee engagement are measured, so that exit interviews are conducted and acted upon, so that a retention strategy is developed and implemented, so that the correlation between employee engagement and student learning and achievement are measured. I could go on but it would only benefit those willing to listen so I will close with a question to Trustee [Name].

My question: The newspaper article Trustee [Name] quotes in her question named several other trustees whose comments were included. Why did she choose to only challenge the views of two trustees? Is her concern with trustees expressing their views or is her concern with who expresses their views?

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Trustee C. Watson stated that she was going to ask the same question that was posed by her colleague as she was of the opinion that the Board needs to verify if the statements that were made in the press by her two colleagues were in fact true. She further stated that she commended her Trustee Colleague for asking the question and hopes that the same question will be asked again in Question Period this evening.

3. Moved by T. Martin, seconded by S. McMillan:

That Folios 32 and 33, removed for discussion from the consent agenda of the June 27, 2016, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Trustee M. Ramsay abstained from voting on this motion.

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

Note: The following motions were approved in the In Camera session held earlier this evening.

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

That the agenda of the June 27, 2016, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera and be approved as amended.

-Carried-

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

That the consent agenda of the June 27, 2016, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried Unanimously-

STAFFING INFORMATION

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board receive as information the following Secondary School Vice-Principal transfers effective September 1, 2016.

Name	Present Location	Future Location	Effective Date
Olsen, Cindy	On Leave	Waterloo C.I.	To be determined
Shantz, Jim	Waterloo C.I.	Forest Heights C.I.	September 1, 2016

-Carried-

CHIEF COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the appointment of Nicholas (Nick) Manning to the position of Chief Communications Officer, effective August 22, 2016.

-Carried Unanimously-

RISE AND REPORT

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

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest this evening.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE – 2016 PARENT SYMPOSIUM PRESENTATION

The Chairperson of the 2016 Parent Symposium, Jordan Jackson, provided trustees with a recap and presentation on this successful event.

Director J. Bryant and Chairperson K. Woodcock thanked J. Jackson and the Parent Involvement Committee members for their efforts and contributions to the Waterloo Region District School Board.

Chairperson K. Woodcock asked trustees to mark their calendar for next year's event which will be on Saturday, April 8, 2017.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee T. Martin attended the opening of the Open Space and Tranquility Garden at Sandhills Public School.

DELEGATIONS

9. 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 Board Meeting of June 27, 2016:

- Kristin Jukes re Internet Content Filtering
- Jacob Reaume re Internet Content Filtering
- Gary Tomic re Internet Content Filtering

-Carried-

REPORTS

CLARIFICATION OF NEXT STEPS RELATED TO INTERNET CONTENT FILTERING

Chief Information Officer M. Carbone provided a follow-up report in response to a motion passed by Trustees at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 18, 2016.

The report outlined the Request for Information (RFI) process and also provided information on the four vendors that responded to the RFI.

Comments and questions for clarification included the following:

- How does increased filtering affect teachers in the classroom?
- No internet content filtering is fool-proof; there will always be exceptions.
- Will content filtering be an issue for students who use the school library to do their homework?
- Staff reported that when content filtering is increased IT is deluged with tickets from teachers stating that it is interfering with their teaching.

MOTION TO AMEND BOARD POLICY 2012 – ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 2012 - Access to Digital Resources and Technology, to include stronger graduated filtering for elementary grades as well as multi-language filtering; and

That professional development concerning computer technology and filtering techniques be made mandatory including occasional teachers.

During the discussion of the motion on the floor, a motion to defer consideration was presented.

MOTION TO DEFER CONSIDERATION

11. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Board defer consideration of Motion # 9 which recommends an amendment Board Policy 2012 – Access to Digital Resources and Technology to a Special Committee of the Whole Meeting to be held in August 29, 2016, to permit staff to provide additional information.

-Motion Lost-

In Favour

M. Ramsay
K. Smith

Opposed

C. Harrington
C. Millar
T. Martin
S. McMillan
N. Waddell
C. Watson
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.*

After the motion to defer consideration was lost, discussion continued on the following motion to amend Board Policy 2012.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 2012 - Access to Digital Resources and Technology , to include stronger graduated filtering for elementary grades as well as multi-language filtering; and

That professional development concerning computer technology and filtering techniques be made mandatory including occasional teachers.

13. Moved in amendment by K. Smith, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 2012 - Access to Digital Resources and Technology , to include stronger graduated filtering for elementary grades as well as multi-language filtering; and

That professional development concerning computer technology and filtering techniques be made mandatory including occasional teachers; and

That the policy be amended using the lens of the Equity & Inclusion Advisory Group guidelines; and

That the amended policy and a report outlining the costs incurred be provided to the Board by the end of September 2016.

-Amendments Carried-
-Main Motion as Amended Carried-

Trustee C. Harrington abstained from voting on the amendments.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

There were no reports from Board Members this evening.

OPSBA UPDATE

Chairperson K. Woodcock announced that her report from the OPSBA Annual General Meeting is available on the website and that trustees were each sent an email regarding the outcome of OPSBA elections.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

RAINY RIVER OFSAA TRANSFER POLICY

Trustees reviewed the correspondence received by Rainy River District School Board and it was noted that the Chairperson has sent a letter in support of this issue on behalf of the Board and as directed by Board motion.

OTHER BUSINESS

There were no other items of business identified at this time.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Millar apologized if colleagues felt they had been singled out in a recent email, but she stated that their comments had been quoted by the media and she was attempting to find out if the quotes were accurate. She further stated that she was surprised that some of her colleagues were not supportive of asking for answers to the statement that indicated that some members of Senior Administration were leaving the Board. She requested an answer from the Director as to whether this statement was correct and was it in reference to Superintendents or Principals or Vice-Principals. Director J. Bryant responded that he was not aware of any Superintendent who has left the Board to go elsewhere except for one secondment to the Ministry.

Trustee M. Ramsay stated that this information had been shared with him in confidence and questioned if the Board provides exit interviews to staff that are leaving.

Trustee C. Watson thanked Trustee C. Millar for raising this question and asked how staff and trustees could communicate the fact that senior staff are not leaving the Board.

Trustee C. Harrington left the meeting at 9:08 p.m.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (to be referred to Agenda Development Committee)

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

14. Moved by S. McMillan, seconded by T. Martin:

That the Board Meeting of June 27, 2016, be adjourned.

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.