

**NOVEMBER 21, 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.

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, A. Mercier, S. Miller, P. Rubenschuh, E. Ranney, L. Read, M. Schinkel and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: J. Herring, N. Manning 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 T. Martin, seconded by J. Hendry:

**That the agenda of the November 21, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest this evening.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PURPOSE STATEMENT UPDATE**

Chief Communications Officer N. Manning provided trustees with an update on the recent activities surrounding the creation of a new purpose statement. His presentation included a definition of a purpose statement and highlighted the survey that is currently taking place on the WRDSB website. Trustees and those in attendance were encouraged to log on to the website and vote for their favourite purpose statement.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee K. Smith announced that she attended the following events:

- People for Education Conference along with representatives from PIC and WRAPSC on November 12, 2016;
- Event organized by WRAPSC held at the Education Centre on the Strategic Plan;

**NOVEMBER 21, 2016**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

- Attended the half-day session of the Carousel of Learning.

Trustee K. Smith also encouraged trustees to attend a series of workshops organized by the Parent Involvement Council to be held at Franklin Public School for newcomers to Canada. The workshops are on a variety of topics.

Trustee K. Smith also announced the annual Swing Dance at Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute to be held on Saturday, November 26, 2016, from 6:30-10:00 p.m. and noted this event is a fundraiser for the music program.

**DELEGATIONS**

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

**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 November 21, 2016.**

- G. Tomic re Internet Content Filtering

-Carried-

**REFER TO STAFF**

Following the presentation by the delegation, Trustee C. Watson suggested that the information provided by the delegate be referred to staff through the Agenda Development Committee. Director J. Bryant responded that trustees have been provided with comprehensive reports on this issue. In response, Trustee S. McMillan suggested that staff provide reports already generated as this would make it easier for staff.

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

**That the information provided by the delegation at the November 21, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 21, 2016, be referred to staff for further investigation.**

-Carried-

Opposed  
M. Ramsay

Trustee T. Martin rose on a point of personal privilege and provided the following remarks:

*“I would like to make a public apology to Trustee Smith, for some comments I made in a private email with the Vice Chairperson.*

*My email was in response to an email in which the Vice Chairperson indicated he felt uncomfortable with the Chair serving on a certain Board committee. In it, I expressed the opinion that how we feel about the composition of the committee doesn't really matter, since we must follow the policy.*

**NOVEMBER 21, 2016  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

*In the email, I used Trustee Smith's membership on the committee as an example that I might feel uncomfortable with (due to disparaging remarks she had previously made about it).*

*In late October, the Vice Chairperson brought to my attention the inappropriateness of some of my comments, for which I thanked him. Unfortunately – and regrettably – I had used hyperbole when making my points, and used words like “sickened” and “bias” in my email, words which could clearly be hurtful if seen by Trustee Smith.*

*I had planned to make a public apology at the meeting immediately after the Vice Chairperson brought it to my attention, but Trustee Smith was not present then. Although I have since apologized in person to Trustee Smith, I want to take this opportunity to apologize publicly as well.*

*I deeply regret the language I chose to use in the email and apologize for the hurt it caused you, Kathi. I trust that our working relationship will not suffer from this and that our friendship might be renewed.”*

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

**APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 1001 – HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1001 – Health Support Services as presented at the November 21, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 1005 – SAFE ARRIVAL**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1005 – Safe Arrival as presented at the November 21, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 3006 – STUDENT TRUSTEES**

Trustee C. Millar stated she had requested consideration of this policy in order to provide a motion to amend the date of the Trustee Mentor to the end of June to align with the term for Student Trustees.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve amendments to Board Policy 3006 – Student Trustees as discussed at the November 21, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried Unanimously-

**APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 5001 – APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS**

Trustee K. Smith suggested that amendments be made to the policy to include reference to equitable hiring practices and to include a reference to the Annual School Council Survey.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer Board Policy 5001 – Appointment of Principals and Vice-Principals to staff to include additional information.**

-Carried-

**FINAL APPROVAL OF BOARD POLICY 6001 – CODE OF CONDUCT**

This policy had been referred to staff for additional information under 4.1 and 4.3 and is returning for approval by trustees.

8. Moved by J. Hendry, seconded by S. McMillan:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 6001 – Code of Conduct as presented at the October 21, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**REPORTS**

**CATEGORY III OFF-CAMPUS TRIP TO VIMY RIDGE - UPDATE**

Superintendent M. Gerard provided trustees with a status update on the trip to Vimy Ridge as requested by trustees at the November 14, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

The presentation included the following:

- getting close to end of review;
- staff have heard comments from trustees, parents and community and have considered them in the review;

**NOVEMBER 21, 2016  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

- want to make sure we are going through a meaningful process and have obtained all pertinent information;
- safety of students is foremost concern;
- presentation included a timeline of communications to-date;
- met with secondary administrators and teachers on November 21<sup>st</sup> to bring them up to speed on process to-date;
- next steps were recapped;
- reached out to Veterans Affairs re security precautions in place;
- staff need time to continue to review all info and integrate this info in their process;
- AP1580 has been discussed with the Board's insurer;
- lengthy process and there are still a number of steps to take;
- proposed timeline and next steps were presented and it was hoped that a final decision would be communicated to trustees, parents and students by November 28, 2016.

Trustee C. Watson asked if staff would be meeting with parents as a large group to provide them with this information and M. Gerard responded this was his intent.

Trustee C. Millar questioned what other boards are doing. M. Gerard responded we have reached out to other boards and this info is part of the review process. She questioned whether this would impact other trips to France and M. Gerard stated that staff needs to be consistent.

Student Trustee H. Jamal asked if there was any intention to communicate with students and parents prior to November 28th and M. Gerard stated that he had no intention until the review is complete and then would communicate to all by November 28th.

Trustee K. Smith inquired if the parent letter had been circulated to trustees. It has been on the Board website, but a copy will be sent to trustees.

M. Ramsay expressed frustration with the length of time it is taking to make the decision. He stated it had been over a week and the travel advisory had not changed and staff has spoken with the insurance company, but are still not able to provide parents with an answer.

**ELEMENTARY SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM**

Superintendent E. Ranney, along with Teacher Jennifer Burke, a Special Education Resource Teacher from Avenue Road P.S., provided trustees with an overview of the Elementary Summer Learning Program. The program currently operates in nine schools and serves approximately 272 students.

Statistics on the summer learning program were reviewed and it was noted that 58% of students in the program maintained the same level or improved and the attendance rate for students enrolled was approximately 98%.

Chairperson K. Woodcock thanked staff for the report.

**PROPOSED NEW BOARD POLICY 4021 – USE OF VOLUNTEERS**

Director J. Bryant introduced a draft of the new Board Policy 4021 – Use of Volunteers, as requested by Board motion.

Director J. Bryant noted that the policy was developed by himself and Superintendents G. Shantz and M. Weinert along with the Manager of Corporate Services J. Herring.

Director Bryant noted that an accompanying procedure is currently in development by staff.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4021 – Use of Volunteers as presented at the October 21, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**GENERATIVE DISCUSSION: AMENDMENTS TO BYLAW 1.10.2 - INVOCATION**

Chairperson K. Woodcock noted that trustees had previously approved consideration of the Bylaw dealing with the Board’s Invocation, but had not determined what the changes would be to the Invocation. As a result the report was provided this evening with a placeholder motion stating only that the Board had agreed to consider amendments to Bylaw 1.10.2.

It was noted that as this was a Bylaw Amendment, a two-thirds majority vote of trustees in attendance would be required to change the bylaw.

A lengthy discussion ensued and trustees expressed differing opinions as to whether the invocation should be retained or amended, or even required.

Chairperson K. Woodcock sought direction from trustees on how they would like to proceed.

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

**That amendments to Bylaw 1.10.2 – Invocation be referred to Agenda Development Committee to allow for further discussion at a future Trustee Seminar.**

-Carried-

Opposed  
C. Harrington

**STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS**

Student Trustee H. Jamal provided trustees with a presentation on the recent meeting he attended of the Ontario Student Trustees’ Association (OSTA-AECO) on November 17-20, 2016, in Toronto, Ontario. Written reports will be provided for trustees prior to the next meeting.

**NOVEMBER 21, 2016**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

Student Trustee R. Barnes shared a PowerPoint presentation from the recent Student Senate Meeting of November 2, 2016. Trustees, T. Martin, C. Millar, K. Smith and Chairperson Woodcock attended the meeting. An open invitation was extended to all trustees to attend a Student Senate Meeting.

Chairperson K. Woodcock and Director J. Bryant briefly updated trustees on a relationship-building meeting they had with the City of Kitchener. Trustee K. Smith provided trustees with an update on information she received at an OPSBA Program Work Team Meeting.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee J. Hendry requested clarification from Trustee K. Smith on the date of the workshops for newcomers. Trustee K. Smith responded the next workshop would be on November 24<sup>th</sup> and there would be an additional workshop in December and two workshops in January 2017.

Trustee K. Smith requested regular written reports from the Equity Officer around First Nations, Metis & Inuit (FNMI) activities and issues. Chairperson K. Woodcock polled trustees to determine if this was the will of the Board and upon agreement this item was referred to the Agenda Development Committee.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

11. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by T. Martin:

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 21, 2016, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.