

**JUNE 20, 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, T. Martin, S. McMillan, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, N. Waddell and C. Watson.

Trustees J. Hendry and C. Millar were 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, S. Miller, E. Ranney, L. Read, M. Schinkel, G. Shantz and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: J. Herring, K. Newland, N. Landry 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 S. McMillan, seconded by N. Waddell:
  - Add an item 'Communications' after Folio 53

**That the amended agenda of the June 20, 2016, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Trustees K. Smith and C. Watson declared a conflict of interest toward an item in the previous In Camera session as they have family members who are employees of the Board.

**CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES/ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**PRESENTATION OF THE DENNIS DAUB SCHOLARSHIP**

Dennis Roberts, Marketing Specialist with the Education Credit Union, presented Aleksandar Vujosevic, a student at Elmira District Secondary School, with the Dennis Daub Scholarship. Aleksandar will be heading into the Bachelor of Business Administration program at Centennial College in the fall. Congratulations Aleksander!

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Chairperson K. Woodcock attended the official opening of the BFIT Park at Bluevale Collegiate on Friday, June 17, 2016.

Trustee K. Smith announced that students from U-Turn had attended the Justice Dinner and met the Chief of Police and one mentioned that he would like to be a Police Officer. It was noted that the Chief has arranged a ride-a-long for this student.

**DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations this evening.

**REPORTS**

**SECONDARY AVERAGE CLASS SIZE REPORT**

Superintendent M. Weinert provided this annual report as required under the Education Act, for the approval of Trustees.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve a secondary school average class size of 22, effective September 1, 2016.**

-Carried-

**EXTENDED DAY PROGRAMS VIABILITY REPORT**

Superintendent M. Gerard provided highlights from a report regarding the viability of the Waterloo Region District School Board's Extended Day Programs (EDP) for 2016-2017.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board receive as information the report titled 'Extended Day Programs Viability Report.'**

-Carried-

**MOTION – TRUSTEES C.WATSON, C. HARRINGTON AND N. WADDELL RE AUTISM ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSIONS**

Trustee C. Watson introduced a motion that she and Trustees C. Harrington and N. Waddell served recommending the Chairperson send communication to the Ministers of Children and Youth Services and Education, advocating for roundtable discussions with parents of children with Autism. The communication would also speak to the new Autism Advisory Committee and the development of a new program for students with Autism in schools.

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

**Whereas the Ministry of Children and Youth Services plan on “improving supports for students with Autism while they are in school; and are partnering to improve transitions for children moving from community autism services to school and transitions within school; and improving outcomes for students through collaborative and aligned service delivery among autism providers and educators.”**

**Therefore Be it Resolved that the Waterloo Region District School Board direct the chair to write a letter to the Ministers of Child and Youth Services and Education, requesting meaningful, reciprocal round table discussions with parents of children with autism, SEAC autism representatives, and educators concerning the new Autism Advisory Committee of parents and professionals and the development of the new enhanced Early Intensive Behaviour Intervention/Applied Behaviour Analysis services for students with autism in schools; and**

**That the Ministers of Child and Youth Services and Education also develop an on-line survey that will provide parents and educators with an opportunity to provide information around the development and implementation of the new enhanced EIBI/ABA in schools; and**

**That a copy of the letter be sent to all school Boards in Ontario.**

Moved in amendment by Trustee T. Martin and C. Watson:

**Whereas the Ministry of Children and Youth Services plan on “improving supports for students with Autism while they are in school; and are partnering to improve transitions for children moving from community autism services to school and transitions within school; and improving outcomes for students through collaborative and aligned service delivery among autism providers and educators.”**

**Therefore Be it Resolved that the Waterloo Region District School Board direct the Chairperson to write a letter to the Ministers of Child and Youth Services and Education, requesting meaningful, reciprocal round table discussions with parents of children with autism, Including those removed from IBI Waitlists, SEAC autism representatives, and educators concerning the new Autism Advisory Committee of parents and professionals and the development of the new enhanced Early Intensive Behaviour Intervention/Applied Behaviour Analysis services for students with autism in schools; and**

**That the Ministers of Child and Youth Services and Education also develop an on-line survey that will provide parents and educators with an opportunity to provide information around the development and implementation of the new enhanced EIBI/ABA in schools; and**

**That a copy of the letter be sent to all school Boards in Ontario.**

-Amendment Carried-  
-Main Motion as Amended Carried-

**DRAFT CORRESPONDENCE TO PREMIER WYNNE RE AUTISM SUPPORTS**

At the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 13, 2016, Trustees voted to defer sending a letter regarding the Autism program changes as requested by MPP Catherine Fife. Trustees voted to defer this communication until clarification on the changes to the program were clear.

Trustee J. Hendry and Superintendent S. Miller presented a letter that has been drafted in response to the letter from MPP Fife and as discussed in the motion from the June 13, 2016, meeting.

It was noted that the letter would be amended with this evening's date.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve sending the letter to Premier K. Wynne as presented and as amended the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 20, 2016.**

-Carried-

**2016-2017 BUDGET RECOMMENDATIONS**

Superintendent M. Gerard provided a brief response to the questions posed by Trustees at the Special Committee of the Whole Budget Meeting of June 15, 2016.

Chairperson K. Woodcock announced that she would be voting on the budget motion. After approval of the budget, Chairperson K Woodcock thanked staff for their hard work in preparing the budget for approval.

As a result of the approval of the budget, the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 22, 2016, was no longer required and was cancelled.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the budget as presented in the "2016-2017 Budget Recommendations" report dated June 6, 2016, with revenues of \$708,830,358 and expenses of \$699,284,080 with the difference of \$9,546,278 attributed as follows:**

**Excess of Revenue over Expenditures \$9,546,278**

**LESS:**

**As required by Ministry of Education budget compliance regulations, this budget includes the following appropriations of accumulated surplus:**

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**Increase/ (Decrease) in Unavailable for Compliance - Accumulated Surplus**

• PSAB Adjustment for Retirement Gratuities	5,237,946
• PSAB Adjustment for Interest Accrual	141,689
• Revenues recognized for Land	<u>9,608,447</u>
	<b>\$14,988,082</b>

**SUB-TOTAL – (Deficit) for Compliance Purposes before additional appropriations**  
**\$5,441,804**

**LESS:**

**Increase/ (Decrease) in Internally Appropriated - Accumulated Surplus**

• In-Year Committed Capital Projects	
o Education Centre Maintenance	710,000
o Amortization of committed capital projects	(305,359)
• New Initiatives (per Appendix F)	(5,322,400)
• Education Centre Maintenance – funded from prior years surplus	(500,000)
• To be offset in future years by Sinking Fund Interest earned	<u>( 24,045)</u>
	<b>(5,441,804)</b>

**Difference** **\$0**

-Carried Unanimously-

**WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD STRATEGIC PLAN - 2016**

Director J. Bryant and Chairperson K. Woodcock, assisted by the Co-Chairs and members of the Strategic Plan Working Group, presented the 2016 Strategic Plan and elaborated on the Strategic Priorities and Outcomes.

Trustee T. Martin was asked to assume the Chair to allow the Chairperson to participate in the presentation on the Strategic Plan.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Strategic Priorities, Outcomes and Commitments, as presented in Appendix A of the report titled “Waterloo Region District School Board Strategic Plan – 2016.”**

-Carried Unanimously-

**COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairperson K. Woodcock introduced this item which had been added during approval of the agenda for discussion this evening.

Chairperson K. Woodcock read correspondence from Trustee C. Millar who was unable to attend this evening's meeting. The complete text follows. (*Note: As per the Point of Order outlined below, names have been redacted*):

*To: The Chairperson, WRDSB - please read in entirety*

*As I have informed the chair, due to a previous family commitment I will not be in attendance at the Monday's Committee of the Whole Meeting. If I was in attendance, I would have raised my concern regarding recent media attention and asked some specific questions during the Question Period of this meeting. I believe that we need to address this sooner rather than later. Therefore, I would appreciate if you could please read my question.*

*Recently, there have been both on-air interviews and news articles quoting Trustees from our Board making comments that I believe need to be addressed. This is out of concern of the impression those comments may be leaving with the public specifically regarding our senior administration. I wish to cite two recent and specific instances.*

*A recent on-air interview on Rogers TV and 570 News, ██████ said that "we have lost a number of senior administrators who have chosen to go to other boards and to the ministry to work rather than working here and making the contribution that they wanted to make here and they were essentially drummed out." (direct quote)*

*I would like to know on what basis is ██████ making these statements? What evidence does he have that we as Trustees do not have? From my perspective in my role as a Trustee, I am not aware of senior staff leaving and going to other Boards or the ministry as suggested by ██████.*

*An article by Jeff Outhit titled "Turmoil at public school board threatens learning some Trustees say", appeared in the Record on June 16th. In that article, ██████ argues that trustee turmoil has sent top staff fleeing to other boards, and that senior administrators have had to take stress-related leaves.*

*██████ has been away for a number of months now. Prior to that, her attendance was sporadic and she did not attend her assigned committee work. She has not been active in the Boards work. What she has reported through the news article does not go along with what I see through working here at the Board.*

██████ is on leave yet she is compelled to say things that are not an accurate reflection of what I see through my interactions as a Trustee with senior administration.

*A question I wish to pose and perhaps the Director can speak to some of the specifics is this - two trustees have publicly indicated that senior staff is either leaving the board for others Boards, the ministry and/or taking stress leave. Is this in fact the case? Again, I have not seen this in my tenure with the Board as a trustee. I hope that we can clarify and set the record straight for the public as these types of comments, distractions, most definitely do not aid in instilling public confidence in our system and for what we are really here for, Student Achievement and Well-Being.*

*Thank you.*  
*Carol Millar*

Trustee M. Ramsay rose on a point of order stating that if Trustee C. Millar was unable to attend that she should be providing this information at the next meeting. Chairperson K. Woodcock overruled the point of order and continued reading the correspondence.

Trustee T. Martin rose on a point of order and stated that although he agreed with the Chairperson reading the correspondence, in his opinion the names should be redacted. Chairperson K. Woodcock agreed and stated she would continue without the mention of any names.

Trustee K. Smith rose on a point of order and continuing with this issue would overshadow the celebration of the Strategic Plan and presented a motion to defer discussion of this issue to the next meeting.

The Chairperson announced that she would be voting on the motion for deferral.

**MOTION TO DEFER**

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

**That discussion on the correspondence received from Trustee C. Millar be deferred until the Board Meeting of June 27, 2016.**

-Motion Lost on a Tie Vote-

<u>In Favour</u>	<u>Opposed</u>
C. Harrington	S. McMillan
M. Ramsay	T. Martin
K. Smith	C. Watson
N. Waddell	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.*

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As the motion to defer discussion was lost on a tie vote, Chairperson K. Woodcock continued to read the letter from Trustee C. Millar and Trustee K. Smith then moved a motion to adjourn.

**MOTION TO ADJOURN**

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

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 20, 2016, be adjourned.**

-Motion Lost-

In Favour

C. Harrington

M. Ramsay

K. Smith

Opposed

S. McMillan

T. Martin

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.*

The motion to adjourn was lost and as a result the discussion continued.

Trustee K. Smith exited the meeting at 8:05 p.m.

Chairperson K. Woodcock completed the reading of the correspondence and was indicating that the Director could respond to the questions contained in the letter when Trustee M. Ramsay stated that he would be requesting an uninterrupted opportunity to provide a response to this correspondence at the next meeting. Following his statement, Trustee M. Ramsay exited the meeting and the remaining trustees subsequently voted to adjourn the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 20, 2016, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.