

**Waterloo Region District School Board Student Senate**  
**Wednesday, October 4th, 2017**

**Meeting Minutes**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Student Senate Meeting on the evening of October 4th at 7:00PM, in the Education Centre's Cambridge Room, with the following people in attendance:

- Co-chairs/Student Trustees
  - Kimia Shaban and George Kenyon
- Student Senators
  - Ashley Herteis (Southwood), Matthew Stepien (Glenview Park), Kalia Browne (Jacob Hespeler), Taylor Hamilton (Jacob Hespeler), Ayshia Bailie (Eastwood), Duru Uluk (Cameron Heights), Isabella De la Torre (Cameron Heights), Marko Stojakovic (Cameron Heights), Prachi Hambir (Cameron Heights), Casey Girt (CHCI), Oscar Judelson-Kelly (CHCI), Iris Chen (CHCI), Melda Kiziltan (Grand River), Ashley Heard (Forest Heights), Alex Magon (Forest Heights), Ethan Ioannidis (Forest Heights), Ben Wahl (Waterloo Collegiate), Isabel Drummond (Bluevale), Hunter Tucker (SJAM), Arden White (SJAM)
- Adult attendees
  - Trustee Carol Millar, CCO Nick Manning, Kevin Donkers
- Special guests
  - Director John Bryant, Coordinating Superintendent Scott Lomax

Regrets were also received from Chair Scott MacMillan and Vice-chair Ted Martin, who had prior engagements.

**Recognition of Indigenous land**

Student Senate acknowledges that we meet on the traditional land of the Anishinaabe, Haudenosaunee, and Neutral peoples. We recognize the enduring presence of colonialism, express thanks to the peoples to whom this land traditionally belongs, and commit ourselves to the work of reconciliation moving forward.

**Call to order**

Co-chair Kenyon called the meeting to order at 7:01PM.

## **Review of agenda**

No Senators voiced concern with the Agenda as it was presented.

## **Icebreaker activity**

Co-chair Shaban led a game of “Squirt” to introduce the Senators to each other and learn names.

## **Presentation from Director Bryant**

Director John Bryant delivered a brief speech to the Senators about his background in education, the role of the Director, and the opportunities for Senate to have input at the Board.

## **Presentation from Coordinating Superintendent Scott Lomax**

Scott Lomax spoke about his role as Superintendent, focusing on the job of supporting Senate and student voice in general. He asked Senate to consider how to best reach the *entire* student body and enable student voice for those who often aren’t heard.

## **Discussion re: the role of Trustees, Staff, Student Senate, and Student Trustees**

The co-chairs provided explanations for some of the terms and roles that Senators may not have been familiar with. Co-chair Shaban showed the Senators the Board room.

## **Discussion re: Student Senate communication**

Senators requested that the Co-chairs maintain the unity of various social media platforms, to prevent one platform from missing information that another one has. It

was also requested that the Remind app be used, a suggestion previously made at the end of 2016-17. The Co-chairs will work on this and, if possible, have it implemented in advance of the November Senate meeting.

### **Discussion re: Student Senate location**

Senators discussed the possibility of changing the location of Student Senate, given some of the transportation accessibility challenges of the Education Centre. An informal vote was taken, indicating that the Senators favoured moving to a centrally located school location. A second polling indicated that Senators favoured a single, fixed school location over a rotating schedule of secondary schools, due to the logistical challenges of the latter. This change will be discussed by the Co-chairs in advance of the November Senate meeting, with the aim of implementation in time for either the November or December meetings. Information regarding location will be posted on or before November 1st.

### **Discussion of year-long goals**

Senators engaged in a discussion regarding a goal to be worked at consistently over the course of the year. They then broke off into smaller working groups to narrow down the field, with at least one breakout group being in support of pursuing each of the following goals:

1. Improvement of temperature controls in schools - spoken to by Senators Magon, Tucker, and Stepien
2. Board-level support/coordination for GSAs - spoken to by Senator White
3. Improved student voice information collection (e.g., an online portal) - spoken to by Senator Stepien
4. Keeping recycling & composting programs/reducing carbon footprint - introduced by Senator Wahl
5. Reducing the burden of fees for course materials, programs, and co-curriculars
6. Providing improved resources for refugee students, esp. to contend with potentially disadvantaged home environments - spoken to by Senator Stojakovic

7. Better health care for students through schools, in particular mental health care and public health nurses

Senators debated this issues, eliminating the temperature issue by consensus due to its probable unchangeability for Senate. The discussion was ended prematurely due to time constraints. Ultimately, vote was used to determine four issues to receive further information about. These issues were numbers 4-7 on the list above. The Co-chairs will inquire about these issues' current standings before the November Senate meeting, and the resultant information will be used to make a final decision at that meeting.

### **Policy review**

Senators asked that their prior statements regarding temperature controls at schools be considered when discussing the upcoming review of the Extreme Temperatures policy - in particular, reports of negative effects on how the day is seen retrospectively, negative impacts on focus and learning, and negative physical health impacts. The October policies will be posted in full along with the meeting minutes, and the Co-chairs will post the policies to be reviewed at the November Senate meeting ahead of time.

### **Homework for Senators**

The Co-chairs asked Senators to reach out to the broadest group of their fellow students possible to gain input for upcoming meetings, and encouraged them to engage their school administration if they so wished.

### **Other business**

Senator Uluk informed the Senate of a potential community participation opportunity, as the local Lions' Club is forming a youth section.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:15PM.