

**WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
STUDENT SENATE MEETING**

MEETING MINUTES

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Student Senate Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Cambridge Room, with the following members in attendance:

- Student Trustees/Meeting Co-Chairs
 - H. Jamal, R. Barnes
- Trustees and Adult Attendees
 - T. Martin, K. Smith, K. Donkers
- Student Senators
 - B. Wahl, G. Melchers, V. Koch, N. Campagnolo, A. Tsetsekas, K. Elka, W. McKinnon, M. McLeod, N. Couzens, S. Nelles, A. Macchisio, Z. Rehan, S. Louis, S. Luo, M. Kosovsky, N. Gokhale, J. Dilgert, K. Peters, S. Brennan, A. Paynter, G. Morales, S. Gec, S. Malik, T. Jackson, M. Pisters

RECOGNITION OF ABORIGINAL LAND

We would like to take a moment to acknowledge the territorial lands of the Haudenosaunee, the Neutrals, and the Anishnabee people and thank them for allowing us to do this good work on their traditional lands.

CALL TO ORDER

Student Trustee R. Barnes called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

REVIEW OF AGENDA

Student Trustee H. Jamal reviewed the agenda at 7:02 p.m.

INTRODUCTIONS, ICE BREAKERS, TEAM BUILDING ACTIVITY

Student Trustee R. Barnes led the attendees through a salt and pepper activity to match secondary schools with their mascots at 7:03 p.m.

GUEST SPEAKERS

1. Director of Education, John Bryant; Board Chairperson, Kathleen Woodcock; Chief Communications Officer (CCO), Nick Manning: *Importance of Student Voice to the Board and the Strategic Plan*
 - a. Chairperson K. Woodcock gave opening remarks at 7:15 p.m.
 - b. Director J. Bryant provided an overview of the Board's focus operational targets of improving mathematics education, improving graduation rates, focus on student/staff wellbeing at 7:20 p.m.
 - c. CCO N. Manning provided information on the Board's need for a purpose statement as the last part of the strategic plan (will return in November for brainstorming session), and presented videos on the strategic plan at 7:30 p.m.
 - i. Providing a first class public education, igniting the innovation generation, etc.

- d. CCO N. Manning facilitated a generative discussion on how to reach out to students and community members for feedback on the strategic plan at 7:35 p.m.
 - i. Incrementally build on the purpose statement using Twitter polls; already good engagement, simple, easy
 - ii. Propose a challenge to students; feature a prize for the best idea
 - iii. Have students use Twitter/Instagram to share pictures of what it means to be in school; convey a central idea via an image and convert to purpose statement
2. Board Mental Health Lead, Barbara Ward; Communications Officer, Lynsey Slupeiks: *Ideas for a mental health promotional poster campaign*
 - a. Contact B. Ward directly if interested: barbara_ward@wrdsb.on.ca
 - b. Introduced the purpose of the poster campaign; to promote awareness of mental health/student wellbeing resources at 7:50 p.m.
 - c. Generative discussion from Student Senate on the poster at 8:00 p.m.
 - i. Series of three or four posters that are connected in some way (i.e. same layout, same phrase, etc.) to avoid it becoming ignored
 - ii. Posters should not have people on them; difficult to convey unique/different feelings
 - iii. L. Slupeiks should provide some guidelines on what should be in each poster and what elements should remain consistent
 - iv. Posters should not just be 8.5 x 11 sheets; easily ignored
 - v. Some immediate call to action for students that need urgent help
 - vi. QR codes no longer relevant
 - vii. Big letters for the most important text should appear consistently (same place, same typeface, same colour) on all posters (e.g. "Need help?" in large, bold lettering)

SENATOR ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

- Student Trustees R. Barnes and H. Jamal reviewed the [Senator Roles and Responsibilities](#) at 8:20 p.m.
 - Senators directed to have the form completed and signed for the next meeting (alternate copies can be printed where linked)
- Discussed potential ideas for Senate to "champion" this year at 8:25 p.m.
 - Mathematics marks and teaching practices
 - Graduation rates
 - Student/staff wellbeing

FEEDBACK ON POLICIES BEFORE THE BOARD FOR REVIEW IN OCTOBER

- Student Trustee H. Jamal introduced the concept of policy feedback from Senators at 8:35 p.m.
 - One-page summaries of policies relevant to students in the Board that are scheduled for periodic review in October will be presented for comments
 - All comments/feedback will be provided to staff before the policy comes to the Board of Trustees for review
 - Student Trustees R. Barnes and H. Jamal will present the comments/feedback of the Senators to the Board of Trustees when the policy comes to the Board for review

1. Policy 6011 - Fees for Learning Materials and Activities
 - a. The current policy states that students should only be charged fees for program/course enhancements and for specialized programming (such as International Baccalaureate), and that fees should not be charged for content necessary to receive the credit for the course
 - b. Senator Comments and Feedback
 - i. Grand River Collegiate Institute: Biology teacher asked students for payment to receive course notes/printouts essential for the course
 - ii. Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute: French teacher asked students to pay \$20 for a workbook (grammar skills, etc. necessary for the course)
 - iii. Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute: Students taking Spanish have to pay \$45 in grade 11, \$45 in grade 12 for workbooks
 - iv. Glenview Park Secondary School: Math teacher required students to purchase booklet of printouts containing questions and other course materials
 - v. Similar sentiments mirrored by Senators from Jacob Hespeler Secondary School and Forest Heights Collegiate Institute
 - c. Suggestions for Staff
 - i. Insert clearer wording that students are not to be charged for materials essential to earn a credit for the course
 - ii. Define a course/program enhancement more clearly
 - iii. The act of providing students with materials/booklets essential to the course should always be provided for free
 - iv. Add that whenever possible, teachers should make resources available electronically rather than requiring students to purchase paper notes/printouts
 - v. Note that requiring students to print notes/lessons themselves may also be financially burdensome and asking students to print lessons/notes on their own should not be a substitute for endeavouring to provide the information for free in a printed form
2. Policy 6001 - Code of Conduct
 - a. Senators discussed the policy with general comments

OTHER COMMENTS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Chromebooks - 8:45 p.m.
 - Would like more details on the one-to-one initiative
 - Consider a sign-out system where the Chromebooks stay at the school but students can take them home when needed
 - Technology and socializing with peers
 - Very helpful for the Google ecosystem (Classroom, Docs, Slides, Sheets)
 - Good quality machines that can withstand accidental damage/drops
 - Useful for viewing electronic textbooks and PDFs as well as collaboration
- Desktop computers - 9:00 p.m.
 - Necessary for photography and design courses (Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator)
 - Chromebooks are lightweight and portable, but desktops still serve a purpose
- Would like to invite the Chief Information Office (CIO) to future Board meeting

ADJOURNMENT

Student Trustees R. Barnes and H. Jamal adjourned the meeting at 9:04 p.m.