

FEBRUARY 10, 2014
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: T. Martin (Chairperson), E. Fung, C. Harrington, J. Hendry, A. Mitchell, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Trustees M. Johnston and H. Paisley were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees J. Duimering was in attendance and A. Shantz was absent.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), M.L. Mackie, and M. Schinkel.

Other staff in attendance: D. Cuomo, M. Deacon, J. Herring, L. Meikle, K. Newland and P. Rubenschuh.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson T. Martin called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the February 10, 2014, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations this evening.

CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Trustees K. Smith and M. Johnston attended the Central Ontario Chinese Cultural New Year's Evening for the International Languages Program.

Trustee E. Fung noted that a number of schools participated in Olympic Opening Ceremonies and had Olympic activities in their schools.

Chairperson T. Martin noted that he attended an Olympic Presentation by Executive Officer M. Deacon at the Education Centre.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson T. Martin announced that regrets for this evening's meeting had been received from Trustees M. Johnston and H. Paisley and Student Trustee A. Shantz.

DELEGATIONS

Copies of the following delegation presentation, if provided, is included with the official record of the meeting:

- Christine Rose re Bell Times at Bridgeport Public School

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

APPROVAL OF REVISIONS TO BOARD POLICY 6000 – SAFE SCHOOLS

Executive Superintendent M.L. Mackie spoke to the three policies (Board Policies 6000, 6008 and 6009) deferred from a previous meeting and noted that staff had received additional feedback and wanted to examine the feedback before recommending changes to the policies. Trustees were provided with a copy of a letter from Keel Cottrelle LLP with their best advice on the policies.

M.L. Mackie noted that the changes to the policies were minor and involved references to the Education Act.

Trustee A. Mitchell suggested that all three policies be approved in the same motion.

2. Moved by A. Mitchell, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve revised Board Policies 6000– Safe Schools; 6008 – Student Discipline and 6009 – Student Bullying Prevention and Intervention, as presented at the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 10, 2014. (Folio 1)

-Carried Unanimously-

REPORTS

PERMANENT FINANCING OF CAPITAL PROJECTS - OFA-11

Controller of Financial Services K. Newland provided an update on the status of long-term debt obligations and introduced a report seeking approval for the long-term financing arrangements with the Ontario Financing Authority (OFA).

3. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve and adopt the Waterloo Region District School Board By-law Number 2014-D1 which is a bylaw to authorize a loan from the Ontario Financing Authority in the principal amount of \$757,431 pursuant to a loan agreement under section 12 of Ontario Regulation 466/97; and

That the Board authorizes staff to complete the loan agreement and necessary legal documents pursuant to Waterloo Region District School Board By-law Number 2014-D1.

-Carried Unanimously-

DEVELOPMENT AREA SCHOOL BOUNDARY ASSIGNMENTS – KITCHENER

Senior Planner L. Manske provided trustees with information regarding the school assignments for plans of subdivisions that have been registered with the development areas as identified in the Huron Village Boundary Study and to identify a development in the Grand River South community in Kitchener.

4. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by E. Fung:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board receive as information the report titled ‘Development Area School Boundary Assignments - Kitchener’, dated February 10, 2014. (Folio 65)

-Carried Unanimously-

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee K. Woodcock provided trustees with a verbal report on the composition and progress of the School Year Calendar Committee.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson requested confirmation that Bridgeport Public School is now the only school starting at 9:30 a.m. and requested further investigation around the possibility of moving the start time to 9:20 a.m. Director J. Bryant responded that he had discussed this situation with Executive Superintendent M. Allen and that it was difficult to move the start time by even five minutes as there would be a significant cost and that staff have tried to adjust the schedule as much as possible. He further stated that he would discuss the matter further and would provide a report at the March 17, 2014, Committee of the Whole Meeting. Trustees also requested that the costs involved in moving times be included and the report also address the issue of supervision.

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Trustee K. Woodcock noted that she attended the Student Program Review Overview Committee Meeting (along with several other trustees) and stated that she felt there was a gap between the work of the Student Program Review Committee and the student referral process and requested a flowchart from staff explaining how these were connected. Executive Superintendent M.L. Mackie will provide the requested information.

Trustee C. Watson requested further clarification on closing of schools due to temperature. Director J. Bryant responded that the last time schools were closed was on January 7, 2014, when the temperature ranged from -35 to -42 degrees Celsius and spoke about the risk to students and the problems incurred with temperatures in that range. Discussion followed on the timing around a decision to close schools and the number of factors involved and considerations that must be made before a decision can be communicated.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee M. Ramsay served the following Notice of Motion as supported by Trustees A. Mitchell and K. Smith:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board direct staff to explore possible options regarding the concerns of the school community in regard to the 9:30 a.m. start time at Bridgeport Public School and to provide a report to trustees.

ADJOURNMENT

5. Moved by A. Mitchell, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 10, 2014, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.