

OCTOBER 23, 2017
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: S. McMillan (Chairperson), C. Harrington, J. Hendry, T. Martin, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, N. Waddell, C. Waterfall, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Trustee K. Smith was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees G. Kenyon and K. Shaban were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), M. Gerard, S. Lomax, S. Miller, P. Rubenschuh, L. Read and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: L. Agar, B. Bourgault, V. Ford, J. Herring and N. Manning.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. McMillan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the October 23, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as amended.

- **Refer the motion on Folio #32 from Trustee K. Smith on the Ad Hoc Programs for Secondary Schools to the Agenda Development Committee Meeting of November 6, 2017, for rescheduling.**

Defer consideration of the Policy Review and Governance section of the agenda pending the outcome of the Generative Policy Review discussion.

Add Rick LeClair delegation re Carriage Crossing.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson S. McMillan announced that he had received regrets from Trustee K. Smith for this evening's meeting.

Trustee K. Woodcock announced that she spoke to students at Sandhills Public School during Local Government Week. She also attended the Commencement Ceremony for Huron Heights Secondary School students.

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Trustee C. Waterfall announced that she spoke to students at Blair Road and Chicopee Hills Public Schools during Local Government Week. She also attended the Commencement Ceremony for Galt Collegiate Institute students held on October 20, 2017.

Trustee N. Waddell reminded trustees of the Public Meeting regarding the Fisher-Hallman elementary boundary study to be held at Jean Steckle Public School on October 24, 2017, at 7:00 p.m.

Student Trustee G. Kenyon announced that he recently attended a Youth Sexual Health Advisory Group (YSHAG) Meeting.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations were scheduled to speak at this evening's meeting:

- Julie Leung re Carriage Crossing Subdivision
- Erin Bechtel re Carriage Crossing Subdivision
- Hagen Li re Carriage Crossing Subdivision
- Candace Wang re Carriage Crossing Subdivision
- Rick LeClair re Carriage Crossing Subdivision
- Daniel Couturier re School Bus Transportation on White Buses

REPORTS

FOLLOW-UP TO TRANSPORTATION DISCUSSION

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard and Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region General Manager, Benoit Bourgault, attended the meeting and provided an update regarding the use of white school buses.

Some of the information provided on the use of white school vehicles included the following:

- There is no legislated requirement to use a yellow school bus to transport students
- It was noted that chrome yellow is only to be used for school buses and cannot be used on private vehicles
- A yellow school bus must have overhead lights and a stop arm
- Multi-function vehicles (white buses) are different than yellow buses and operate under a different set of standards
- They are subject to stringent regulations and inspection standards
- Multi-function vehicles can be used for other purposes (transportation of seniors)
- White buses have been used since 2010 are their use is not new in this region
- The majority of white buses transport students in wheelchairs, but can be used to transport all students
- There have been no safety issues with the use of white buses and The Ontario School Bus Association (OSBA) endorses and supports the use of white buses
- It was noted that students are also currently transported to and from school in vans and taxis

Trustee J. Hendry entered the meeting at 7:43 p.m.

Chairperson S. McMillan thanked B. Bourgault for providing clarification on the use of white buses and noted that additional information can be found on the Board website.

UPDATE TO APPROVALS AND FINANCING OF CAPITAL

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided updates on funding required for the completion of projects at the new Riverside and Sir Adam Beck Public Schools and the addition at Grand River Collegiate Institute.

2. Moved by J. Hendry, seconded by C. Waterfall:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board (Board) approve an additional expenditure of \$124,637 for the construction of the new Riverside Public School to support additional project costs and to align with Ministry of Education approvals. The project budget is now \$15,847,638.

-Carried-

LONG-TERM ACCOMMODATION PLAN CONSULTATION

This report was provided for information.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard noted that work on the Long-Term Accommodation Plan is underway which includes a consultation plan for internal and external stakeholders. Consultation workshops will be held in the evenings on November 9 and 16, 2017. Additional information on the time and location will be provided when available.

MOTION – TRUSTEE C. WATSON ON NALOXONE KITS AND DRUG EDUCATION

Trustee C. Watson spoke to a motion she served at the September 25, 2017, Board Meeting as supported by Trustees C. Harrington, C. Millar, N. Waddell and T. Martin. The motion recommends that the WRDSB provide schools with Naloxone Kits and develop a drug education protocol and strategy.

Trustees engaged in a lengthy discussion around the issue of opioid use and how this issue might impact WRDSB students and staff. During the discussion, Trustee N. Waddell noted that she had received information that paramedics in Ontario were not permitted to administer Naloxone to children under 12 without approval. This would mean that Naloxone Kits should only be made available for Grade 7-12 students.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board develop an Opioid Crisis policy and protocol that would include providing Naloxone Kits for every school as well as a prevention and education strategy.

Moved in amendment by M. Ramsay, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That Motion #3 be amended by striking the words “providing Naloxone Kits for every school as well as” so that the motion now reads:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board develop an Opioid Crisis policy and protocol that would include a prevention and education strategy.

Moved in amendment by T. Martin, seconded by C. Waterfall:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board develop an Opioid Crisis policy and protocol that would include a prevention and education strategy; and

That staff provide a report to the Board at the November 20, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting; and

Moved in amendment by N. Waddell, seconded by J. Hendry:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board develop an Opioid Crisis policy and protocol that would include a prevention and education strategy; and

That staff provide a report to the Board at the November 20, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting; and

That staff also provide a detailed report on the costs associated with providing Naloxone Kits to all schools with Grade 7-12 students.

-Amended Main Motion Carried-
-Amendment Carried-
-Secondary Amendment Carried-

As a result of the discussion, Trustee J. Hendry provided the following motion:

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board send a letter to the Minister of Education with copies to all OPSBA and Coterminous Boards, acknowledging that the Opioid Crisis is a national and provincial issue; and

As this crisis is not just a local issue, Trustees are requesting that the Ministry of Education fully fund the provision of Naloxone Kits to schools as well as the release time required for staff training.

-Carried-

Trustee C. Harrington exited the meeting at 9:01 p.m.

GENERATIVE DISCUSSION RE POLICY REVIEW PROCESS

Chairperson S. McMillan provided an introduction to the generative discussion by noting that in previous years it had been necessary to review policies on an ongoing basis, but as this cycle of review had now been completed several times, it was time to consider a change to the review process.

Suggestions for refining the policy review process included:

- Suggestion to place policies that do not require any changes or debate on the Consent Agenda at Board Meetings
- Should a committee similar to the previous Policy & Bylaw Committee be formed?
- Many trustees stated they preferred the transparency that reviewing policies at the board table provided
- How will stakeholders be included in this new process? How will they provide input?
- Is it possible to reduce the number of policies? How and where will this take place?
- Is it possible to group similar policies for discussion together?
- Could policies be recommended for review on a one or two-year cycle? How would these policies be categorized and by whom?
- It was suggested that Agenda Development Committee could make some of the decisions around a new procedure for review, however a concern was raised as this was not part of the purpose of this committee.

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

Chairperson S. McMillan reminded trustees that a decision on a Trustee Retreat had not been finalized. During the discussion, it was noted that none of the proposed dates work for trustees and more dates would be required.

Trustees agreed by consensus to an approximation of costs for a retreat and have agreed to hold the retreat offsite. Trustees J. Hendry and C. Watson were opposed to holding a Trustee Retreat offsite.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Woodcock asked if it was possible, in the short term, to building in more flexibility during the boundary review plan for situations that do not align with our planning timelines so that issues, like the Carriage Crossing area, could be addressed.

Trustee C. Watson asked for clarification regarding the May 18, 2018, date mentioned by M. Gerard and if information would be provided to parents re the Carriage Crossing boundary review on that date? M. Gerard clarified that on May 18, 2018, trustees would be provided with the Planning Department Work Plan for 2018-19 for their approval. He further stated that the Planning Department is short-staffed and all current staff are working on the Southwest Kitchener Boundary Study, which must be finished for approval by the end of January in order to meet staffing timelines. To complete an additional boundary study by the end of January would not be possible at this time, but it was hoped this study would be considered in the work plan being presented to trustees for approval in May 2018.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

5. Moved by T. Martin, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 23, 2017, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:26 p.m.