

SEPTEMBER 18, 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, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, N. Waddell, C. Waterfall, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Trustee T. Martin 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), R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, S. Lomax, P. Rubenschuh, L. Read and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: E. Burns, V. Ford, J. Herring and N. Manning.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. McMillan called the meeting to order at 7:20 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

- Addition of Trustee Retreat in reports
- Addition of Delegation - Sean Henderson

That the agenda of the September 18, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as amended.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairperson announced that regrets for this evening's meeting had been received from Trustee T. Martin.

Trustee N. Waddell along with members of the senior administration, attended the opening of Groh Public School. Additional information and highlights from this event will be provided at the September 25, 2017, Board Meeting.

Trustee K. Smith recently attended the Awards of Excellence event organized by the Congress of Black Women of Canada – Waterloo Chapter and the K-W Caribbean-Canadian Association.

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Trustee K. Woodcock noted that Local Government week will be the week of October 16-20, 2017. Trustees were invited to email Chief Communications Officer N. Manning if you are interested in speaking to a class regarding the role of Trustee.

Trustee C. Waterfall announced that along with several other trustees and staff, she attended a visit this morning by the Minister of Education to Groh Public School.

DELEGATIONS

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

Carrie Stevenson re Transportation – MacGregor/Albert Area
Sarah Whyte re Transportation – North Waterloo
Sean Henderson re Courtesy/Grandfathered Busing

MOTION TO REFER TO STAFF

2. Moved by N. Waddell, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees refer the issue of the transportation of students in the area of the Waterloo core as mentioned in a delegation presentation, to staff for additional review.

-Carried with Necessary 2/3 Vote-

Trustee J. Hendry also requested that the Travel Planner look at traffic in that entire area including the Light Rail Transit (LRT) construction zones.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4001 – OPENING OF NEW SCHOOLS AND ADDITIONS

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4001 – Opening of New Schools and Additions as presented at the September 18, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

Opposed
C. Watson

MOTION TO REFER TO STAFF - BOARD POLICY 6005 – ALTERNATIVES IN EDUCATION

Trustee K. Smith suggested that a statement be included mentioning a periodic review would take place.

4. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by C. Watson:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer this policy to staff to include additional information.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 6006 - ADULT & CONTINUING EDUCATION

5. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by N. Waddell:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 6006 – Adult & Continuing Education as presented at the September 18, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 6010 – STUDENT DRESS CODE

6. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Millar:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 6010 – Student Dress Code as presented at the September 18, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 6012 – PREVENTION & RESPONSE TO STUDENT CONCUSSION

7. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by C. Waterfall:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 6012 – Prevention & Response to Student Concussion as presented at the September 18, 2017, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REPORTS

MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS QUARTERLY UPDATE

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided a report updating trustees on the status of capital projects greater than \$2.5M. It was noted that all projects are currently on schedule and within the budget allocated.

This report was provided for the information of the Board of Trustees.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS FOR STUDENT TRUSTEES

Student Trustee Mentor Trustee C. Millar noted that student trustees do not currently have any committee assignments and had expressed an interest in membership on board committees. It was noted that while some committees have legislated membership, or are considered to be In Camera, that student trustees are always welcome to attend committee meetings with voice but no vote.

Chairperson S. McMillan requested that the Student Trustees provide a list of committees they are interested in joining and the Board of Trustees will consider their request. Trustee K. Smith also suggested that once committees have been identified that Chairperson S. McMillan consult with the Chairperson of each of the identified committees to determine if there are any factors that may preclude having the Student Trustees in attendance.

Trustee M. Ramsay questioned whether the Student Trustee Policy includes a recommendation for committees that would be suitable for the Student Trustees. It was noted that our current Board Policy 3006 - Student Trustees does not contain this information, but the policy could be amended to include this information.

Trustee C. Millar also requested a volunteer for the Ad Hoc Committee reviewing the Policy G201 – Trustee Code of Conduct. Chairperson S. McMillan noted that Trustee C. Waterfall did not have any assigned committees and Trustee Waterfall volunteered to join this committee. Trustee C. Waterfall was also named as the alternate for the Parent Involvement Committee.

MOTION FROM TRUSTEE C. WATSON RE PROPOSED LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION RE PROVINCIAL NALOXONE STRATEGY

Trustee C. Watson spoke to the motion she served which recommends that the Board of Trustees send a letter to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health requesting a provincial school protocol that would provide schools with Naloxone Kits.

Director J. Bryant invited Superintendent P. Rubenschuh to provide an update on his work with community partners on the issues surrounding the use of Opioids and the regional response. Superintendent Rubenschuh noted that staff is not currently aware of any incident involving a student or a staff member and that schools have not been deemed as high-risk environments at this time. It was also stated that trained first-responders with Naloxone Kits could arrive at any school in the region within 7 minutes.

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Several trustees commented that while they agree this issue is a concern, the Ministry of Education should be leading the way in this initiative rather than leaving it up to individual Boards to develop their own strategy.

7. Moved by C. Watson and seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees send a letter to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health requesting a provincial school protocol that would provide schools with Naloxone, the Fentanyl antidote, for all schools with the Province.

Moved in amendment by C. Millar and seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees send a letter to the Minister of Education and the Minister of Health requesting a provincial school protocol around the opioid crisis that would also include a comprehensive strategy and may include providing all Ontario schools with Naloxone, the Fentanyl antidote.

-Carried-

It was requested that a copy of this letter be shared with all school boards.

Trustee M. Ramsay noted a concern with regard to the impact this issue could have on staff in terms of the training and resources that might be involved.

TRUSTEE RETREAT

Chairperson S. McMillan provided some background regarding the proposed Trustee Retreat and stated the purpose of the retreat was to allow for additional governance training and to allow for collaboration and team-building with senior administration.

In response to a question, the Chairperson stated that trustee relationships would not be part of the agenda for the retreat.

Trustee N. Waddell requested information on the cost of holding the meetings at the Education Centre versus going to another location. Director J. Bryant indicated this information could be provided at the next meeting.

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

There were no reports provided.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee J. Hendry suggested a meeting between staff and the Region of Waterloo to discuss the issues around students walking safely to school given the changes to the streetscape as a result of the recent Light Rail Transit (LRT) construction. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard responded that a presentation by the School Travel Planner scheduled for next week's Board Meeting will provide information on this issue.

Chairperson S. McMillan questioned if staff could provide information on the role of trustees in the areas of equity and inclusion as outlined in the recently-released Ministry of Education's Ontario Equity Action Plan. Director J. Bryant responded that staff is planning an update for trustees on this issue in the near future.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 18, 2017, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:25 p.m.