

NOVEMBER 18, 2013
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, J. Hendry, M. Johnston, A. Mitchell, H. Paisley, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Trustee C. Harrington was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees J. Duimering and A. Shantz were in attendance.

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

Other staff in attendance: M. Deacon, J. Herring and L. Meikle.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson T. Martin called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by H. Paisley, seconded by K. Smith:

That the agenda of the November 18, 2013, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as amended.

- Defer the Policy & Governance Discussion to December 9, 2013

-Carried Unanimously-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations this evening.

CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

None this evening.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson T. Martin announced that he had received regrets for this evening's meeting from Trustee C. Harrington.

Chairperson T. Martin announced that he and Director J. Bryant had recently had a series of meetings with the Mayors of Cambridge, Kitchener and Waterloo.

Chairperson T. Martin also announced that he had represented the Board at Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate's Commencement held on November 15, 2013.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations this evening.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Review of the following Board Policies was deferred to the December 9, 2013, Committee of the Whole Meeting:

- Review of Board Policy 5001 – Appointment of Principals and Vice-Principals
- Review of Board Policy 6003 – Scholarship Prizes and Awards
- Review of Board Policy 5004 – Maximum Teaching Time – Elementary
- Review of Board Policy 5005 – Maximum Teaching Time – Secondary

SYSTEM FISCAL REVIEW

Executive Superintendent M. Allen provided trustees with an update on the System Fiscal Review and provided a handout identifying review areas and potential savings. Also identified were savings achieved to date and outstanding savings to be achieved.

2. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by M. Johnston:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board receive as information the report titled, “System Fiscal Review Update,” dated November 18, 2013. (Folio 5)

-Carried-

REPORTS

2012-2013 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Executive Superintendent M. Allen introduced the draft audited Financial Statements for approval as recommended by the Board Audit Committee Auditors J. Reitsma and D. Bunce from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

3. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by H. Paisley:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2013 as recommended by the Board Audit Committee. (Folio 8)

-Carried Unanimously-

2012-2013 YEAR –END FINANCIAL REPORT

Controller of Financial Services K. Newland provided the final Financial Report for the year ended August 31, 2013.

4. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board receive as information the report titled, “2012-2013 Year-End Financial Report,” dated November 18, 2013. (Folio 38)

-Carried Unanimously-

**WOOLWICH AND WELLESLEY TOWNSHIPS ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS PUPIL
ACCOMMODATION REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS**

Senior Planner N. Hercanuck presented the final recommendations from the Accommodation Review for a decision from trustees on the future of Floradale, Linwood, St. Jacobs and Three Bridges Public Schools.

During the presentation it was noted that the Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) spent a considerable amount of time on two subjects: the condition and equity of the St. Jacobs Public School facility, and the future of Three Bridges Public School as an elementary school facility in the Board. In conclusion the ARC was unable to reconcile the continued operation of Three Bridges Public School within the context of the Review Objectives and the unique role the school plays in the local conservative Mennonite community.

Trustee A. Mitchell noted that the Board had previously voted to close Dickson Public School in Cambridge with a population of 113 students. The school is slated to close in June 2014. Trustee A. Mitchell also noted that the Board must follow the Policies that trustees have previously approved.

Trustee K. Woodcock noted that every school closing is a difficult decision, but that she believes in public education. She also stated that she would lament the end to rural school education.

Trustee C. Watson noted that the school had been allowed to operate for 50 years and questioned if there was some record of the agreement made with this group. In response, Executive Superintendent M.L. Mackie noted that the Board must continue to evaluate policies and procedures and that with the Equity and Inclusion Policy some rules have changed and the Board cannot give primacy to any one faith. She further stated that while the school would welcome other students the changes that have been made to the curriculum would mean that these children would be subjected to the same expectations which would be giving that faith primacy.

Trustee M. Ramsay stated that he had reviewed the report and recommendations and that he was struggling with the implied commitment made by the Board some time ago, but was also compelled to consider the fiscal challenges the Board is facing as presented earlier this evening.

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Trustee H. Paisley stated that he could not support the recommendation to close Three Bridges Public School and spoke at length about the history and cultural presence the school provides the community and the Board.

Trustee J. Hendry questioned why the Board was recommending the closure of Three Bridges Public School when there are other schools that are operating below capacity. He also stated that in his opinion there was some support in the community for the closure of Dickson Public School. He further stated that he is attempting to find some record of the agreement made by the Board with the community.

Trustee E. Fung stated that he has lived in a rural community for the majority of his life and is very sensitive to the decision that is required this evening. He further stated that he wished this decision was not being made while the Board is in a deficit position financially. He questioned if the Board was confident under Scenario 10a that they could accommodate all of the students presently enrolled in Three Bridges Public School at Floradale Public School. N. Hercanck responded that staff have projected the enrolment to the best of their ability and that if the entire population of Three Bridges Public School moved to Floradale Public School there may be a requirement for one or two portables on site.

Trustee K. Smith asked for a clarification around Option 4 and also stated that she in her heart she would prefer not to close the school. She also stated that the Board must work with the parents of Three Bridges students to encourage them to attend Floradale and there must be a comprehensive transition process put in place to assist these families.

Chairperson T. Martin declared his intention to vote on this motion and Trustee J. Hendry requested a recorded vote.

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

(MIDENT # 621080) effective August 31, 2014, and advise the Ministry of Education; and That the Waterloo Region District School Board establish a transition option for the Three Bridges Public School students at Floradale Public School for a period of one year; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Scenario 10a (Option 2) boundaries for Floradale, Linwood, and St. Jacobs Public Schools as illustrated on Appendix A, attached to this report, dated November 18, 2013, effective September 2014; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the grandfathering options as set out on Appendix C of this report titled, “Woolwich and Wellesley Townships Elementary Schools Pupil Accommodation Review Recommendations,” dated November 18, 2013; and

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That the Waterloo Region District School Board direct staff to investigate the feasibility of rebuilding St. Jacobs Public School to address concerns regarding facility equity and condition. (Folio 58)

-Carried-

In Favour

M. Johnston

A. Mitchell

M. Ramsay

K. Smith

K. Woodcock

T. Martin

Opposed

E. Fung

J. Hendry

H. Paisley

C. Watson

RECESS

Chairperson T. Martin announced that the Board would recess for five minutes.

**NOTICE OF BYLAW AMENDMENT – ARTICLE 4 MEETINGS, SECTION 4.32 –
TERM AND TENURE OF OFFICE – BOARD CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-
CHAIRPERSON**

Trustee K. Smith introduced the report that arose from her recommendation originally presented at the October 28, 2013, Board Meeting. Trustees were provided with written notice of the proposed amendment at the November 11, 2013, Committee of the Whole Meeting and approved consideration of the amendment at the November 18, 2013, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

The proposed amendment is to Board Bylaw Article 4 – Meetings, specifically section 4.3.2, which deals with the term and tenure of the Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

In accordance with Board Bylaw Article 7 which outlines amendment procedures, in order for the amendment to be approved it must be approved by a 2/3 majority vote of trustees present.

Manager of Corporate Services J. Herring was asked to respond to a question from Trustee M. Ramsay raised at the previous Committee of the Whole Meeting around whether a term for Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson was defined in the Education Act. J. Herring responded that according to her research the Education Act did not provide a definition of what constitutes a term. She further stated that she had researched the Bylaws of six other Boards and none of the Boards have a bylaw that addresses either the length of term or maximum number of terms for a Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson.

6. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve an amendment to Board Bylaw 4.3.2, to allow that in the case of a partial term for the position of Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson of less than one year, that six months or more be defined as a term.

-Carried with the necessary two-thirds-

Opposed
A. Mitchell
M. Ramsay

EXTEND ADJOURNMENT TIME

7. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by H. Paisley:

That the 9:00 p.m. adjournment time be extended by thirty minutes.

-Carried Unanimously-

ELEMENTARY SCHOOLS BOUNDARY STUDY REPORT – ELMIRA

Executive Superintendent M. Allen presented a report seeking approval of changes to the grade structures for John, Mahood, Riverside and Park Manor Public Schools as well as capital projects to construct additional capacity for John Mahood and Riverside Public Schools. These changes were as a result of the Elmira Elementary Schools Boundary Study.

8. Moved by H. Paisley, seconded by K. Smith:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the construction of a 557 pupil place replacement Riverside Public School on a site to be purchased by the Board within the Draft Approved Plans of Subdivision known as 30T-07702 and 30T-07703 ('Lunor'), tentatively scheduled to open September 2016, pending Ministry of Education approval and funding; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve a change in the school organizations of Riverside and John Mahood Public Schools from JK-5 to JK-6 upon the completion and occupancy of the replacement Riverside Public School; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve a change in the school organization of Park Manor Public School from 6-8 to 7-8 upon the completion and occupancy of the replacement Riverside Public School; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the construction of a 138 pupil place addition to John Mahood Public School pending Ministry of Education approval and funding; and

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That the Waterloo Region District School Board designate the Draft Approved Plans of Subdivision known as 30T-07702 and 30T-07703 ('Lunor') as a "development area" allowing staff to assign each registered phase of development to a school that has space to accommodate the projected enrolment until a permanent solution can be established; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve a 'grandparenting' provision allowing students from the 'development area' in grade 6 the choice to remain at their holding school or attend their home school the year the replacement Riverside Public School opens.

-Carried Unanimously-

BELL TIME UPDATE

Business Services Manager N. Landry provided trustees with an update on the bell time consultation process as requested by trustees at the October 21, 2013, Committee of the Whole Meeting, and to request bell time changes for September 2014.

Chairperson T. Martin announced that Appendix B which was distributed at the meeting and it will be made available on the corporate website tomorrow.

Trustees engaged in a lengthy discussion around the issue of bell times and noted that parents had conveyed a number of concerns including the late start time for some elementary schools, and the concern that some parents have still not had an opportunity to provide feedback. In response to a question from trustees it was noted that the latest a decision could be made regarding bell times would be by December 15, 2013, in order to allow for time to communicate the changes to school and to plan the routes.

MOTION TO DEFER

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board defer consideration of the following motion to the December 9, 2013, Committee of the Whole Meeting in order to allow for further consultation:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board implement bell time changes, effective September 2014, with the understanding that no school will move by more than plus or minus 20 minutes. (Folio 127)

-Motion Lost-

In Favour
K. Smith
C. Watson

Opposed
E. Fung
J. Hendry
M. Johnston
T. Martin
A. Mitchell
H. Paisley
M. Ramsay
K. Woodcock

EXTEND ADJOURNMENT TIME

10. Moved by M. Ramsay, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the adjournment time be extended an additional thirty minutes beyond 9:30 p.m.

-Carried Unanimously-

In response to a question from trustees, N. Landry responded that there may be slight flexibility in individual school bell times, but that it would be very difficult to predict as it would depend on route flexibility and other factors.

Trustee K. Woodcock noted that she may bring a motion at a later date to urge staff to discuss with the coterminous board, the possibility of making a joint change to walking distances.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board implement bell time changes, effective September 2014, with the understanding that no school will move by more than plus or minus 20 minutes. (Folio 127)

-Carried-

In Favour

E. Fung
J. Hendry
M. Johnston
T. Martin
A. Mitchell
H. Paisley
M. Ramsay
K. Woodcock

Opposed

K. Smith
C. Watson

TRUSTEE EXPENSES

Executive Superintendent M. Allen presented trustees with the Schedule of Trustees Expenses as required by Board Policy, for the period of September 1, 2012, to August 31, 2013.

12. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board receive as information the report titled, "Trustee Expenses – September 1, 2012 to August 31, 2013," dated November 18, 2013. (Folio 132)

-Carried Unanimously-

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Student Trustee A. Shantz reported that Executive Superintendent M. Allen and Business Services Manager N. Landry attended a Student Senate Meeting to discuss the issue of bell times.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee E. Fung asked if there would also be meetings between the Chairperson, Director and the Mayor of the Townships. Chairperson T. Martin responded that it would be his intention to meet with as many groups as possible.

Trustee M. Ramsay questioned the new location for the portrait of Queen Elizabeth. Manager of Corporate Services J. Herring responded that the Board does not have an official policy around the placement for the Queen's portrait, but the current location would be re-examined.

Trustee C. Watson asked for an accounting of the cost of developing the Engagement Strategy. Director J. Bryant responded he would provide the cost at a future meeting.

Trustee J. Hendry asked if trustees could be provided with a report on the topics discussed at the meetings between the Director, Chairperson and Mayors. Chairperson T. Martin responded that the meetings were informal in nature. Trustee J. Hendry also suggested arranging an occasion for trustees to meet with city councilors and was informed that under the Municipal Act councillors cannot get together to meet unless it is a formal meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

13. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by H. Paisley:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 18, 2013, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 10:01 p.m.