

**NOVEMBER 27, 2017
BOARD MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Board 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, K. Smith, C. Waterfall, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Trustee N. Waddell 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, E. Giannopoulos, S. Lomax, S. Miller, P. Rubenschuh and L. Read.

Other staff in attendance: V. Ford, N. Manning and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. McMillan called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the November 27, 2017, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried Unanimously-

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of November 27, 2017, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried Unanimously-

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

Note: The following motions were approved in the In Camera session held earlier this evening.

3. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by C. Waterfall:

That the agenda of the November 27, 2017, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

4. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by C. Waterfall:

That the consent agenda of the November 27, 2017, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved

-Carried-

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

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Trustee C. Waterfall visited three elementary schools and observed various activities at these schools.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Communications Officer V. Ford provided an overview of the activities across the Board including an update on the WRDSB media coverage, website updates, parent posts and social media engagements and impressions during the last month.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

REPORTS

SEVERE WEATHER POLICY PRESENTATION

Superintendent E. Giannopoulos presented an overview of the severe weather policy including school closures and bus cancellations. Chief Communication Officer N. Manning provided an update on the severe weather communication strategy including a short video about the process.

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. In previous discussions, it was suggested to place policies that do not require any changes or debate on the Consent Agenda at Board Meetings.

Suggestions for refining the policy review process included:

- Initiate a committee to decide what policies need to be reviewed and when.
- Initiate a committee to review policies and recommend changes.
- Change the review cycle for some policies to be every two to three years.
- Allow Parent Involvement Committee and Special Education Advisory Committee to provide feedback and recommendations for policies.
- Develop a procedure to better allow trustee, parent, and student input into changes needed on policies outside of the Board Meeting environment.
- Policies reviewed that do not require changes be approved as part of the Consent Agenda at Board Meetings.
- It was noted that the Agenda Development Committee already schedules the policies for review.
- Improve alignment between policies for review and upcoming reports.
- Review the overall committee structure and requirements for trustees.

Chairperson S. McMillan will decide next steps for the discussion as consensus was not reached.

DISCUSSION ON BOARD POLICY 2009 - BOARD ADVOCACY

Chairperson S. McMillan reviewed Board Policy 2009 - Board Advocacy. He site recent experiences in which some secondary schools allow or invite elected officials to commencement and others do not. The second incident spoke to a Government of Ontario announcement in which the elected official for the riding was not invited. Trustees began a lengthy conversation on the matter.

Trustee C. Harrington left the meeting at 8:30 p.m.

Most trustees were in agreement that commencement invitations are at the school's discretion. It is also important that new principals are reminded to invite the trustees for their riding.

Trustee T. Martin left the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

The Board of Trustees agree the next step is to find out what the Government of Ontario protocol is for funding announcements on school sites and the process they use to determine who is invited to such events.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee K. Woodcock will be attending an OPSBA Directors meeting this weekend. Trustees were asked to send any questions they want answered at the meeting. Trustee K. Woodcock also reminded everyone that registration is open for the Public Education Symposium.

QUESTION PERIOD

Superintendent S. Miller addressed the question Trustee K. Smith posed at the November 20, 2017 Committee of the Whole meeting in regards to supports for students with autism. Superintendent S. Miller advised he may be able to further assist if he knows which schools are in need.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (to be referred to Agenda Development Committee)

Trustee C. Watson served the following Notice of Motion as supported by Trustees N. Waddell and C. Harrington:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting a thorough review of the Special Education funding formula, and that additional funding be provided to school boards for resources to help support students with high risk behaviours.

Trustee C. Watson served the following Notice of Motion as supported by Trustees C. Harrington and C. Waterfall:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board provides Naloxone kits in its rural schools, secondary schools and alternative programs; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board provides Naloxone kits in its elementary schools.

ADJOURNMENT

6. Moved by J. Hendry, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Board Meeting of November 27, 2017, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.