

APRIL 16, 2018
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 Boardroom, with the following members in attendance: S. McMillan (Chairperson), J. Hendry, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, N. Waddell, C. Waterfall and C. Watson.

Trustees C. Harrington, K. Smith, T. Martin and K. Woodcock were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees K. Shaban and M. Stojakovic were in attendance.

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

Other staff in attendance: S. Longeway and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by C. Waterfall, seconded by N. Waddell:

That the agenda of the April 16, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee C. Waterfall attended the PIC Parent Conference.

Trustee C. Millar attend Better Beginnings at Cedarbrae Public School. She also attended the Mayor's Breakfast in Waterloo.

Student Trustees attended the Elevate Waterloo, a mental wellness seminar for secondary students on April 7, 2018.

Chairperson S. McMillan attended the Education for Change fundraising dinner. Many board staff and retirees were in attendance.

Trustee J. Hendry joined the meeting at 7:08.

Chairperson S. McMillan asked for a third volunteer for the expulsion hearing tomorrow evening. Available Trustees should contact K. Sonnenberg.

Regrets were received from Trustees K. Woodcock and T. Martin.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations at this evening's meetings.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1003 - SCHOOL COUNCILS

Trustee C. Watson requested that the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) be added to the policy as it includes parents who provide advice to WRDSB.

2. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer Board Policy 1003 - School Councils back to staff to review the addition of SEAC to the policy.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1014 - FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND RECORDS MANAGEMENT

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1014 - Freedom of Information and Records Management as presented at the April 16, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 2009 - BOARD ADVOCACY

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2009 - Board Advocacy as presented at the April 16, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 5008 - STAFF DRESS CODE

Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert confirmed that, as a reminder to staff, this policy will be included as part of school start up each September.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 5008 - Staff Dress Code as presented at the April 16, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REPORTS

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT AND FORECAST AT FEBRUARY 28TH

This report was provided for information.

The development of the operating budget includes many underlying assumptions which, over the course of a school year, can change significantly. On a quarterly basis throughout the year, staff provides updates to the Board regarding key assumptions, the identification of key risks and planned mitigation strategies. The Board is expected to finish the year in a balanced position which is consistent with the budget passed by the Board in June 2017.

MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS QUARTERLY UPDATE

This report was provided for information.

Current capital projects with budgets greater than \$2.5M were outlined in the report. Significant milestones, along with basic project statistics, were also presented. All projects are proceeding as planned through the design and construction stages. A brief update for each project was provided.

FISCAL TASK FORCE QUARTERLY UPDATE

This report was provided for information.

The Fiscal Task Force developed a survey which was posted to the Board's public website for the purpose of soliciting public feedback. The survey was available from February 20, 2018 to March 16, 2018 and received an overwhelming response. The feedback gained from the survey will be analyzed and integrated into the budget process for the 2018-19 school year, as applicable.

Due to scheduling conflicts, Chairperson S. McMillan will replace Trustee C. Watson on the Fiscal Task Force.

HUMAN RESOURCES RESPONSE TO ONTARIO'S EDUCATION EQUITY ACTION PLAN

Director J. Bryant shared that staff was looking at how best to integrate equity into the Strategic Plan and staff have been working closely with the Deputy Minister of Education. This type of request would typically be part of the budget process, but approval is being requested early in order to have someone in place before the start of the new school year.

An initial review has been conducted of Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan and compared against the Board's existing strategic priorities and operational goals. Four key areas identified in the Equity Action Plan include:

1. School and Classroom Practices
2. Leadership, Governance and Human Resource Practices
3. Data Collection, Integration and Reporting
4. Organizational Culture Change.

The hiring of a Workplace Equity Officer is recommended to assist in positioning the Board and Human Resource Services to move forward in fulfilling the plan's outcomes and performance measures.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert will inquire and share the salary range with Trustees.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the hiring of a Workplace Equity Officer to support the implementation of components of Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan.

-Carried-

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

7. Moved by N. Waddell, seconded by C. Millar:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 16, 2018, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.