

APRIL 23, 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), C. Harrington, T. Martin, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, N. Waddell, C. Waterfall and C. Watson.

Trustee K. Woodcock attended via teleconference.

Trustees J. Hendry and K. Smith 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), M. Gerard, B. Lemon, 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. Harrington, seconded by C. Waterfall:

That the agenda of the April 23, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee C. Waterfall toured Westvale Public School and Floradale Public School.

Trustee C. Millar visited Bluevale Collegiate Institute and Lincoln Heights Public School.

Trustee Ramsay joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

Chairperson S. McMillan conveyed regrets from Trustee J. Hendry.

Chairperson S. McMillan asked that everyone speak clearly and directly into their microphones as Trustee K. Woodcock was attending by teleconference.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegation spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Alyssa Holstock – Peanut Ban in School

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 5000 - STAFFING

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 5000 - Staffing as presented at the April 23, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 5001 - APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS - ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

Coordinating Superintendent S. Lomax presented the proposed draft policy which included a change whereby Trustees would receive a report for information rather than a report requiring trustee approval. This change is consistent with policies at other school boards.

Chairperson S. McMillan clarified that staff were providing a recommendation for discussion at the Board. Trustees debated whether or not they were comfortable with this change.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer Policy 5001- Appointment Of Principals And Vice-principals - Elementary And Secondary back to staff; and staff will report back with further explanation and supports, Ministry or otherwise, for the proposed change.

-Carried-

Opposed
T. Martin
C. Millar
C. Waterfall

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1003 - SCHOOL COUNCILS

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1003 - School Councils as presented at the April 23, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REPORTS

RECIPIENT OF THE 2017-2018 TIM WALKER MEMORIAL AWARDS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

This report was received for information.

Student Trustees K. Shaban and M. Stojakovic presented the awards to the following schools:

- Empire Public School
- Trillium Public School
- Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute
- Forest Heights Collegiate Institute

AD HOC FRENCH IMMERSION REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The Ad Hoc Committee has concluded the work contained within the scope of the original motion and presents the attached report with four recommendations for the Board of Trustees' approval.

The recommendations are as follows:

- Enhance parent/caregiver and student voice to better understand what attracts and retains students in the French Immersion program.
- Continue provincial and local efforts to attract and retain additional French language educators
- Addressing French Immersion program boundaries at senior elementary schools
- Initiate a third party to complete a broader review of the French Immersion program.

The third party consultant would be selected through a competitive procurement process.

5. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by T. Martin:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approves the four recommendations contained in the Ad Hoc French Immersion Review Committee Report. Furthermore, that \$150,000 from accumulated surplus be committed to support the recommendations as outlined in the report presented to Trustees at the April 23, 2018, Committee of the Whole meeting.

-Carried-

NEW BOARD POLICY – USE OF SCHOOL BOARD RESOURCES DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

The purpose of this report is to establish instructions for the use of school board resources by trustees and candidates during the Municipal and School Board Election campaign period. It also provides guidelines for activities involving trustees and candidates during the campaign. This policy was drafted based on a template provided by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

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Trustees discussed the policy and agreed on some friendly amendments to the policy. Trustee K. Woodcock agreed to reach out to OPSBA for further information around some of the suggested wording.

6. Motion to amend moved by N. Waddell, seconded by C. Watson:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board strike Section 4.7 from the new Board Policy – Use of School Board Resources During the Election Campaign as presented at the April 23, 2018, Committee of the Whole.

-Defeated-

Opposed
T. Martin
C. Millar
M. Ramsay
C. Waterfall
K. Woodcock

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approves the new Board Policy – Use of School Board Resources during the Election Campaign as presented at the April 23, 2018, Committee of the Whole meeting with the following changes:

- **Add reasonably to 5.1 and 5.3 so they read:**
“Trustees should not participate in activities at school events that could *reasonably* be perceived as campaigning.” and “Current trustees may continue to attend and participate in school-related activities but shall not campaign or conduct themselves in any way that may *reasonably* be perceived as campaigning.”
- **remove the word “legitimate” from 5.4 so it reads:**
“Secondary students may choose to earn their Community Involvement Hours by participating in an election campaign.”
- **add wireless network to 3.1 so it reads:**
“School Board resources may include: staff time, computer, fax, telephone, cellphone, laptop, tablet, website, newsletter, email, *wireless networks*, board or school social media accounts.”;

and that the policy be referred to the Agenda Development Committee to schedule for further review.

-Carried-

OPSBA AGM NOMINATIONS FOR POSITIONS

8. Moved by M. Ramsay, seconded by T. Martin:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board postpone the OPSBA AGM Nominations for Positions to the April 30, 2018, Board Meeting.

-Carried-

MOTION RE: AMENDMENT TO FLAG POLICY

This report contained a Notice of Motion served by Trustee C. Watson at the June 26, 2017, Board Meeting and was supported by Trustees J. Hendry and C. Harrington.

Trustees had conflicting views regarding the impact of flying the pride flag last June. Some trustees felt they should have been informed or consulted prior to the pride flag being raised at schools. Trustees shared both positive and negative feedback they received from the community. Discussions also included community concerns around Canadian flag etiquette and the number of flag poles on school sites. Some trustees expressed concerns regarding governance and did not want trustees to decide on each flag individual schools choose to fly.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 1000 – Display of Flags; and

That the amendment ensures that all flag requests other than the National Flag of Canada, Provincial Flag of Ontario, or flags flown at half mast, come to trustees for approval.

-Defeated-

Opposed
T. Martin
C. Millar
N. Waddell
C. Waterfall
K. Woodcock
M. Stojakovic*
K. Shaban*

*It is recognized that a student trustee is not a member of the Board or any of its committees; however, his/her vote is recorded for the purpose of public record and for accountability to the student body. [Education Act, Section 55 (2)]

10. Moved by T. Martin, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refers Board Policy 1000 – Display of Flags to Agenda Development Committee to be scheduled for review; and that staff review the flag policies of other school boards.

-Carried-

Opposed: C. Waterfall

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

Trustee C. Waterfall announced that the Full Year Schooling Committee will concentrate on the elementary panel. The committee is working on recruitment of community and parent members.

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New trustee volunteers will be requested for Fiscal Task Force and Full Year Schooling Committees.

Trustee K. Woodcock reminded Trustees that Education Day is May 23, 2018 and that Education Day materials have been sent to all Trustees by OPSBA.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee C. Watson provided the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustees M. Ramsay, N. Waddell and C. Harrington:

Whereas transparency and accountability promote public confidence;

Whereas some trustees are not included in the decision making around hiring of consultants or the ongoing use of consultants;

Therefore it be resolved:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board change Board Policy 3003 - Trustee Professional Development as follows:

Section 1.1 also include the hiring of consultants by the Board of Trustees for professional development;

and Section 2.1 also include formal approval of the Board when hiring consultants or ongoing use of consultants, including Board Retreats, with costs;

and Section 2 include a cut off period for professional development prior to an upcoming municipal election;

and that the annual Trustee Expense Reports include categories for Board Retreats and Consultants hired by the Board of Trustees with costs.

ADJOURNMENT

11. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by C. Millar:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 23, 2018, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.