

AUGUST 20, 2018
SPECIAL COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Special Committee of the Whole Meeting this evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Boardroom, with the following members in attendance: S. McMillan (Chairperson), C. Harrington, J. Hendry, T. Martin, C. Millar, K. Smith, N. Waddell, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Trustees M. Ramsay and C. Waterfall were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees O. Judelson-Kelly and B. Wahl were not in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh and A. Russell.

Other staff in attendance: K. Penticost and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. McMillan called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the August 20, 2018, Special Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved with the eight delegations.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee C. Waterfall was unable to attend by teleconference due to technical issues in the Boardroom.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- D Morton - Health and Physical Education Curriculum
- Jacki Yovanoff - Health and Physical Education Curriculum
- Jeff Pelich, ETFO - Teacher Perspective
- Stacey Jacobs, SHORE - Health and Physical Education Curriculum
- Sarah-Beth Bianchi - Health and Physical Education Curriculum & Indigenous Curriculum

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- Peter Lehman - Health and Physical Education Curriculum
- Ruth Cameron, ACCKWA - Health and Physical Education Curriculum & Indigenous Curriculum
- Caitlin Glasson - Health and Physical Education Curriculum

2. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by C. Millar:

That the Committee of the Whole recess for five minutes.

-Carried-

The meeting resumed at 7:18 p.m.

Chairperson S. McMillan stepped down to discuss the topic at hand at 7:18 p.m. Vice-Chairperson T. Martin chaired the meeting going forward.

DISCUSSIONS

HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION CURRICULUM

Director J. Bryant provided a short update. The Waterloo Region District School Board has not received official direction from the Ministry of Education. Staff are expecting to receive a Ministry of Education Memorandum before school starts. Staff will continue the great work they are doing with the current curriculum until information is received from the Ministry of Education. Once direction is received, the information will be communicated to trustees. Staff will continue to place a priority on ensuring that students feel included, safe and cared for and that the diversity and the lived experiences of students are validated, respected and celebrated.

Trustees discussed their role and responsibilities as it relates to the Health and Physical Education curriculum including how other public school boards have responded.

3. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by K. Smith:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board maintain the 2015 Health and Physical Education Curriculum until the Ministry of Education's revisions to the Health and Physical Education Curriculum are completed.

Trustees discussed whether or not it is their role to direct teachers.

Director J. Bryant reiterated staff's position to continue teaching the 2015 Health and Physical Education curriculum until Ministry of Education direction is received.

Trustees discussed the importance of public consultation when curriculum is developed. Some trustees felt there was not enough public consultation done for the 2015 Health and Physical Education curriculum.

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Trustees discussed the language of the motion. Directing staff in this way can put teachers in a difficult position.

4. Motion to amend by K. Woodcock:

That the motion be amended by striking out “maintain” and replace with “support our partners in delivering” so that it reads:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board support our partners in delivering the 2015 Health and Physical Education Curriculum until the Ministry of Education revisions to the Health and Physical Education Curriculum are completed.

-Motion to Amend Failed - No Second-

Director J. Bryant confirmed that once direction is received, staff will bring the information to trustees with a plan for addressing parents and staff.

5. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by C. Watson:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board postpone the motion at hand until after Ministry of Education direction is received.

-Carried-

Opposed
J. Hendry
K. Smith

6. Moved by S. McMillan, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees hereby states that we as trustees will support staff in any way possible, so that they can continue to deliver a 21st century education while implementing, promoting and advancing our Board’s strategic plan and ensuring that our students are first, each and every one;

That we will continue the work of creating and providing a safe space that validates the existence and identity of each and every student, while also preparing them for a life in a digital world and empowering them with the skills and confidence to keep themselves safe; and

That we request to OPSBA that they lobby on our behalf for keeping the 2015 curriculum.

Trustee K. Smith requested the motions be split. The motion now reads as follows:

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5. a. Moved by S. McMillan, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees hereby states that we as trustees will support staff in any way possible, so that they can continue to deliver a 21st century education while implementing, promoting and advancing our Board’s strategic plan and ensuring that our students are first, each and every one;

That we will continue the work of creating and providing a safe space that validates the existence and identity of each and every student, while also preparing them for a life in a digital world and empowering them with the skills and confidence to keep themselves safe.

-Carried-

Opposed
C. Harrington
K. Smith
C. Watson

5. b Moved by S. McMillan, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board request to OPSBA that they lobby the Ministry of Education on our behalf for keeping the 2015 curriculum.

-Carried-

Opposed
C. Harrington
C. Watson

INDIGENOUS CURRICULUM

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh provided trustees with an update on the cancelled summer writing in regards to indigenous curriculum. The Minister of Education has stated financial savings as the reason for the cancellation. Staff support indigenous curriculum and the Truth and Reconciliation Calls to Action and will continue to identify additional indigenous resources for schools.

SCHOOL RETROFIT AND ENERGY EFFICIENCY FUNDING

Director J. Bryant provided trustees with a brief update on the wind-down of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Funding (GGRF) program. The ministry stated it “will cover the costs incurred by schools boards, up to and including March 31, 2019, if they have entered into contractual agreements for capital work on or before July 3, 2018.” As of August 3, 2018, the WRDSB has spent all of the 2017/18 allotment of \$3,279,280 and 97.4% of the 2018/19 allotment (\$1,561,525.95 of \$1,602,400). Staff await the ministry’s response confirming that these projects will remain funded. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard will provide further updates in the fall.

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Some trustees expressed an interest in receiving a general update on capital repairs needed at schools.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Special Committee of the Whole Meeting of August 20, 2018, be adjourned.

-Carried-

Opposed: K. Smith

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.