

SEPTEMBER 17, 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, J. Hendry, T. Martin, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, N. Waddell, C. Waterfall, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Student Trustees O. Judelson-Kelly and B. Wahl were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), M. Gerard, B. Lemon, S. Lomax, A. Mercier, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, A. Russell and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: D. Liebermann, S. Reidel and L. Slupeiks.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. McMillan called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the September 17, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee K. Smith attended the Chloe Callender Awards

Trustees C. Waterfall and K. Woodcock attended a Leaders in Training event where students in Grades 4-6 encouraged parents not to use the school drop off zone.

Trustees T. Martin, C. Millar and K. Woodcock attended the Mayor's Dinner.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 2003 – EARLY LEARNING AND CHILD CARE

The policy was revised based on trustee feedback to strengthen the commitment to child care and early learning.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2003 – Early Learning and Child Care as presented at the September 17, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REPORTS

BANK BORROWING RESOLUTION REPORT

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard presented this annual report recommending, as part of the normal course of business, that the Board borrow money to meet its operating expenditures.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board (Board) adopt the Resolution, as outlined in Appendix A of this report, authorizing the borrowing of money to meet current expenditures of the Waterloo Region District School Board for the fiscal year 2019.

-Carried-

INTEGRATED DRUG STRATEGY VERBAL UPDATE

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh provided trustees with an update on the Integrated Drug Strategy. He spoke to the WRDSB work to provide consistent messaging with Public Health. Age-appropriate curriculum supports have been developed with a focus on student safety. In collaboration with community partners, three letters were shared with the community last year highlighting concerns and providing parents with resources. Staff will continue to share resources with families. Secondary schools are being provided with Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act wallet cards for students and staff will continue to be encouraged to follow the emergency response process in place. Sharps and needles procedures are being finalized and include the use of third party vendors for disposal. While the Supervised Injection Sites (SIS) and Supervised Consumption Sites (CSC) are under provincial review, staff made clear their concerns regarding proximity to schools. Student drug education is focused in the Health and Physical Education curriculum but staff are encouraged to have discussions with students in current issues, media studies, law and any other opportunities provided in the curriculum.

Trustees expressed concerns for secondary students no longer taking Health and Physical Education classes and those students not being exposed to this education.

DISCUSSION - DIRECTOR PERFORMANCE APPRAISAL PROCESS

Trustees have been working with Mr. Wayne Joudrie to create a metric for the Director Performance Appraisal. The final step is for trustees to determine the measurable goals for the director.

After discussion, it was the will of the Board to reach out to Mr. Joudrie for availability, then put a call out for trustees available then. Geographic representation will be considered where possible when selecting four trustees to develop the measurable goals. The goals will be brought to the Board for approval.

MOTION – TRUSTEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Trustee C. Watson presented a Notice of Motion served at the April 23, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting which was supported by Trustees C. Harrington, M. Ramsay and N. Waddell. She would like Board Policy 3003 - Trustee Professional Development to provide further transparency and clarity around the hiring of consultants. Trustee C. Watson, asked that each part of the motion be voted on separately.

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

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.

Trustees discussed each part of the motion. Trustees, while in agreement that the additional transparency is a good idea, had difficulty with the motion as written.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer the motion to staff to revise Board Policy 3003 - Trustee Professional Development and bring back to the Board for policy review.

Trustees would like to see staff survey best practices from other school boards around professional development, and that it is important to include the hiring of consultants in the policy. Trustees want to ensure the policy does not contravene any other policies or procedures and that it come back to trustees as soon as possible.

6. Moved by K. Woodcock:

That the question be called on referring the motion to staff.

-Motion to Call the Question Carried-

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer the motion to staff to revise Board Policy 3003 - Trustee Professional Development and bring back to the Board for policy review.

-Motion to Refer Carried-

MOTION – SUPERVISED INJECTION SITES / SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION SITES

Trustee C. Watson presented a Notice of Motion served at the June 18, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting which was supported by Trustees C. Harrington and M. Ramsay. She went on to state the importance of keeping students safe on school property and that the two proposed Cambridge Supervised Consumption Sites (SCS) are both within a three minute walk from schools. Trustee C. Watson asked that the motion be split and each part voted on separately.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter of concern to the Premier of Ontario and the Minister of Education about recent recommendations that would place Supervised Injection Sites (SIS) and Supervised Consumption Sites (SCS) within a short distance from Public Schools.

-Carried-

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board develop safety training and protocols for students and staff as well as information sessions for parents around safety protocols and processes for students around SIS and SCS sites.

At the September 24, 2018, Board Meeting the motion was postponed.

Trustee C. Watson ask that trustees defer the motion in the event training is needed at a later date if a Safe Consumption Site is placed close to a school.

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

That the following motion be postponed until such time as the safe consumption sites are finalized:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board develop safety training and protocols for students and staff as well as information sessions for parents around safety protocols and processes for students around SIS and SCS sites.

-Carried-

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

AD HOC CODE OF CONDUCT COMMITTEE UPDATE

The Committee requested an extension for reporting due to scheduling conflicts. It has been difficult to get the members of the committee together.

Chairperson S. McMillan acknowledged with the increased number of committees, it has been difficult for many of them to schedule meetings.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the Ad Hoc Code of Conduct Committee reporting deadline to the end of October 2018.

-Carried-

QUESTION PERIOD

As a result of Trustee C. Watson's request for further information, it was the will of the board for trustees to receive a report following up on the University of Waterloo Adjustment Factor for engineering students. Staff will reach out to our university partners to learn more.

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11. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 17, 2018, be adjourned.

-Defeated-

Opposed:
T. Martin
C. Millar
N. Waddell
C. Waterfall
K. Woodcock

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee T. Martin served the following notice of motion with support from Trustees C. Millar, C. Waterfall, and K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board develop a policy, effective December 1, 2018, that provides pregnancy/parental leave for trustees, including leaves that are the result of the trustee's pregnancy, the birth of the trustee's child, or the adoption of a child by the trustee; and

That the trustee is not required to seek approval for such a leave that lasts 20 consecutive weeks or less.

ADJOURNMENT

12. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 17, 2018, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.