

**OCTOBER 29, 2018
BOARD MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Board 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), R. DeBoer, I. Gaudet, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, N. Landry, B. Lemon, S. Lomax, A. Mercier, S. Miller, E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, A. Russell, G. Shantz and M. Weinert.

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

At the request of Trustee M. Ramsay, everyone took a thirty second pause to reflect on the tragic attack on the Pittsburgh synagogue.

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

That the agenda of the October 29, 2018, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of October 29, 2018, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

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

A. Moved by C. Harrington, seconded by N. Waddell:

That the agenda of the October 29, 2018, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

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

That the consent agenda of the October 29, 2018, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

C. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by T. Martin:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Carol Coyle, from Vice-Principal at Peel District School Board to (Acting) Principal at Stewart Avenue Public School, effective Monday, December 3, 2018.

-Carried-

D. Moved by C. Waterfall, seconded by C. Millar:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the following Elementary School Vice-Principal appointments, effective Monday, December 3, 2018:

- **Kim Freeman, from Elementary Teacher at Prueter Public School to (Acting) Vice-Principal at Sunnyside Public School**
- **Julie Jackson, from Special Education Resource Teacher at Keatsway Public School to (Acting) Vice-Principal at Westmount Public School**
- **Jenni Rebecca Roberge, from Special Education Resource Teacher / Guidance at Avenue Road Public School to (Acting) Vice-Principal at Coronation Public School**

-Carried-

E. Moved by C. Harrington, 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 K. Smith attended a community gathering reflecting on the tragic attack on the Pittsburgh synagogue.

Student Trustees O. Judelson-Kelly and B. Wahl attended the Bridges of Hope events throughout the Region with Trustee C. Millar.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

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

That the Communications report be received in the minutes.

-Carried-

Opposed: C. Watson

Trustee T. Martin called a Point of Order, as we can still hear a presentation and pose questions without the visual presentation on the screens. Chairperson S. McMillan agreed with the point of order and the presentation commenced.

Chief Communications Officer A. Russell presented on October's month of thanks which included World Teacher Day and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day. Another communication of note in October was the resources sent to parents regarding the legalization of cannabis. When polled, Instagram was the chosen method of communication for students in the WRDSB.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

REPORTS

RESULTS OF THE COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW

This report was provided for information.

Corporate Services and the Communications Department received the draft findings of the Communications Review in September 2018. The report presented the key outcomes and recommendations to the Board so that staff can begin to develop a plan and estimate costs.

The review acknowledges the Board's strengths in: reputation, positive school experience, social media, leadership, diversity and quality of information. The key themes offering areas for improvement are: communication planning/consistency, internal communications, marketing/branding communications and crisis communication. The review also highlights the redevelopment of the external corporate website as a key recommendation and action step.

The Communication Department has immediate plans to bridge the gap through work on the public and internal websites as well as increased social media presence while completing the hiring process for two additional employees in the department.

Consistency in crisis communication will be an area of focus going forward. The Communications Department is working through a plan to connect and reach out to the broader community, not just parents of students in WRDSB schools. Throughout the year, the Communications Department will be reaching out to parent groups who do not have easy access to computers to better understand the best ways to reach these groups.

The Communications Department was thanked for their efforts over the past year.

STRATEGIC PLAN OPERATIONAL GOAL IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE FOR 2018/19

This report was provided for information.

As staff move into the third year of implementing and monitoring the strategic plan, senior staff reflected on the various strategies and actions used to support the plan and achieve the intended outcomes. Director J. Bryant reflected on how the senior team is proud of students and staff and wanted to acknowledge their collective efforts. While EQAO results suggest improvement in the areas of mathematics and elementary literacy, and while staff continues to see slow gains in work related to pathways to graduation and success, the senior team is not yet satisfied.

Trustee T. Martin left the meeting at 8:13 p.m.

Plans for 2018/19 include a continued emphasis on the three operational goals and monitoring of the implementation and outcomes related to these goals. In addition, staff has continued to solicit feedback and input on operational plans. Of particular interest is reaching those students, families and caregivers who represent our communities most marginalized voices. Staff has been working to directly connect with these groups to better understand and meet their needs.

Trustees thanked staff for the report and asked a number of questions of clarification. Staff will continue to review the data collected through the various survey tools. This is the first year using the Safe Caring Inclusive Schools Survey and staff can bring a more detailed report in the future after the best reporting and receiving methods are determined.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communication, as provided by Trustee K. Woodcock:

- Ontario Public School Boards' Association - Board of Directors Meeting September 28 and 29, 2018.

It was the will of the Board that letters of congratulations be sent to the newly elected regional chair and all successful regional councillors, mayors and catholic school board trustees.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Woodcock inquired into the cancellation of Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants from the Ministry of Education and what impact that may have on students and schools carrying out planned activities. Director J. Bryant stated that staff was closely monitoring the situation and that funds received have already been distributed to schools. He suggested that more information may be available in coming weeks.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of October 29, 2018, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.