

DECEMBER 3, 2018
INAUGURAL BOARD MEETING

The Waterloo Region District School Board held an Inaugural Board Meeting on Monday, December 3, 2018, at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Board Room, with the following members in attendance: J. Herring, K. Meissner, C. Millar, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, N. Waddell, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham 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: E. Burns, B. Jaklic, K. Penticost, S. Reidel, L. Slupeiks and K. Sonnenberg.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Pro Tem J. Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

Director of Education and Secretary J. Bryant announced to trustees that he would be serving as Chairperson Pro Tem (temporary), in accordance with Board Bylaws, and that he would serve in that capacity until completion of the election of the Board Chairperson. He welcomed everyone to the Inaugural meeting and congratulated new and returning trustees.

Chairperson Pro Tem J. Bryant invited trustees and guests to join him in the Cambridge Room for seasonal music and the national anthem sung by Williamsburg Public School Choir. Director Bryant thanked staff and their students for a wonderful performance.

Upon returning to the Board room, everyone remained standing for the Territorial Acknowledgement.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Students of Crossing Borders.

Director J. Bryant presented the Return of the Municipal Clerks, reading out each trustee's name in their respective areas of representation.

DECLARATION AND OATH

Judge P. Hardman officiated the swearing-in ceremony for trustees. Trustees also each signed a copy of Board Policy G201 - Trustee Code of Conduct, signifying that they understand, and will follow, the Trustee Code of Conduct.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON/VICE-CHAIRPERSON

APPOINT SCRUTINEERS

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board appoint Coordinating Superintendents M. Gerard and M. Weinert to act as scrutineers for any elections that may be required for the office of Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson during the December 3, 2018, Inaugural Meeting.

-Carried-

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Pro-Tem J. Bryant provided trustees with a reminder of the procedure for nominations.

Trustee C. Watson nominated Trustee K. Woodcock for the role of Board Chairperson. Trustee Woodcock accepted the nomination.

Trustee C. Millar nominated Trustee J. Herring for the role of Board Chairperson. Trustee J. Herring accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations at this time.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

2. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the nominations for the position of Board Chairperson now be closed.

-Carried-

Following the vote, Director J. Bryant announced that Trustee Jayne Herring had been elected to the position of Board Chairperson for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson J. Herring assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Trustee K. Meissner nominated Trustee J. Weston for the role of Board Vice-Chairperson. Trustee J. Weston accepted the nomination.

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Trustee M. Ramsay nominated Trustee K. Woodcock for the role of Board Vice-Chairperson. Trustee K. Woodcock accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations at this time.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

3. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by C. Whetham:

That nominations for the position of Board Vice-Chairperson now be closed.

-Carried-

Chairperson J. Herring announced that Trustee J. Weston was elected as Vice-Chairperson for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

MOTION TO DESTROY BALLOTS

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

That any ballots cast in the election for the positions of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Waterloo Region District School Board be destroyed.

-Carried-

BOARD VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S INAUGURAL REMARKS

At this time, Board Vice-Chairperson J. Weston presented the following remarks:

“I am humbled to accept the position of Vice Chair of the Waterloo Region District School Board for the upcoming year, and I thank the Trustees for their support. I look forward to being a part of this team and to work with staff, families, students and the community to improve student achievement and well-being.”

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S INAUGURAL REMARKS

At this time, Board Chairperson J. Herring presented her remarks.

“Good Evening. Being elected as Chairperson of the Waterloo Region District School Board is indeed an honour and a privilege.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to my colleagues for their support in providing me with this leadership opportunity especially since electing a first time trustee as Chairperson is quite a departure from past practice. I am proud to note that this is the first time a support staff member has been elected as a WRDSB trustee and now chairperson. This serves as an example that all voices are welcome at this board table and I'm confident that the experience I have gained in my 31 years of service to this organization will assist me in my new role.

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For the first time in a very long time we have five new trustees and we look forward to learning together and providing new thoughts, ideas, insight and change at the board table. At the same time, we are grateful to draw on the knowledge, experience and wisdom of the trustees who are continuing to serve and also our senior staff who are an important part of this exemplary team. I believe we are a great blend of knowledge and experience and I am eager for us to come together to form a cohesive board where we can, and will, debate the issues of the day in an atmosphere of mutual respect.

There is much work to be done. By all accounts we will continue to have challenging times ahead as we learn to work with our new government, enter into a new round of collective bargaining and continue with our focus on mathematics, graduation rates and student and staff well-being. But I believe we are all up to the challenge.

I will need to rely on my colleagues for their continued support and patience in the days ahead as I learn and find my way in this new role as your Chairperson.

With great excitement and renewed optimism I look forward to all of us working together to serve our students, staff and communities as advocates for quality public education while also working to ensure the continued success of the Waterloo Region District School Board. Thank you.”

ADJOURNMENT

5. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Inaugural Board Meeting be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.