

JANUARY 14, 2019
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: J. Herring (Chairperson), K. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, N. Waddell, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustee C. Millar was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

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, S. Lomax, A. Mercier, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, A. Russell, and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: B. Jaklic, K. Penticost, S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the January 14, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved with the addition of a Student Senate Report in Board Reports.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee K. Meissner attended a seasonal performance at Riverside Public School.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations at this evening's meeting.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 2001- COMMUNICATIONS

2. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2001 - Communications as presented at the January 14, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 2007 - BOARD ADVERTISING EXPENSE

Equity and Inclusion wording will be applied to the Visual Identity Guidelines rather than Board Policy 2007 - Advertising Expense Policy.

3. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2007 - Board Advertising Expense as presented at the January 14, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 6003 - SCHOLARSHIPS, BURSARIES AND PRIZES

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 6003 - Scholarships, Bursaries and Prizes as presented at the January 14, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REPORTS

TRUSTEE PARKING SPOTS

Staff identified several options for a new location for the Trustee parking spots:

- Option 1 - Maintain the current Trustee parking spots that are parallel to Ardel Avenue and convert the spots adjacent to Building 2 into visitor parking.
- Option 2 - Convert the existing Trustee parking spots into visitor parking and move the Trustee spots west of the main entrance and perpendicular to Building 2.
- Option 3 - Convert the existing Trustee parking spots into visitor parking and move the Trustee spots south and adjacent to Building 3.

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- Option 4 - Maintain the current Trustee parking spots and replace 8 of the 11 signs closest to Building 2 to offer public parking before 5:00 p.m. and exclusive Trustee parking after 5:00 p.m., Monday through Friday.

After reviewing Option 1, trustees felt it was not in line with the original motion.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board remove Option 1 from the list of solutions.

-Carried-

Trustees reviewed and discussed the remaining options. Trustees discussed the idea of adding an additional option which would remove the current designated spots and not designate any specific parking for trustees. Some trustees expressed concerns which included finding parking when the lot is near full, icy conditions and safety after dark. Other trustees continued the opinion that trustees should not have privileged parking at the front of the building. Removing the signs and making the current spots available for general use was the preference.

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

Motion to add Option 5 - That no trustee parking be designated.

-Carried-

Opposed:
M. Ramsay
K. Smith
C. Whetham

7. Moved by C. Whetham, seconded by J. Weston:

In accordance with the motion by the Board of Trustees on November 12, 2018, that the Trustee parking spots be relocated further from the main entrance to the Education Centre and in accordance with Option 2 described in the report to Trustees on January 14, 2019.

-Defeated-

Opposed:
K. Meissner
O. Judelson-Kelly*
B. Wahl*
S. Piatkowski
N. Waddell
C. Watson
K. Smith
J. Weston

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C. Whetham
K. Woodcock

Abstained:
M. Ramsay

* Student Trustees votes are recorded for the purpose of public record and for accountability to the student body; however, it is recognized that “a student trustee is not a member of the Board” (Education Act, Section 55 (2))

8. Moved by C. Whetham, seconded by J. Weston:

In accordance with the motion by the Board of Trustees on November 12, 2018, that the Trustee parking spots be relocated further from the main entrance to the Education Centre and in accordance with Option 3 described in the report to Trustees on January 14, 2019.

-Defeated-

Opposed:
K. Meissner
O. Judelson-Kelly*
B. Wahl*
S. Piatkowski
N. Waddell
C. Watson
K. Smith
J. Weston
C. Whetham
K. Woodcock

Abstained:
M. Ramsay

* Student Trustees votes are recorded for the purpose of public record and for accountability to the student body; however, it is recognized that “a student trustee is not a member of the Board” (Education Act, Section 55 (2))

9. Moved by C. Whetham, seconded by J. Weston:

In accordance with the motion by the Board of Trustees on November 12, 2018, that the Trustee parking spots be relocated further from the main entrance to the Education Centre and in accordance with Option 4 described in the report to Trustees on January 14, 2019.

-Defeated-

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Opposed:

K. Meissner
O. Judelson-Kelly*
B. Wahl*
S. Piatkowski
N. Waddell
C. Watson
J. Weston
K. Woodcock

* Student Trustees votes are recorded for the purpose of public record and for accountability to the student body; however, it is recognized that “a student trustee is not a member of the Board” (Education Act, Section 55 (2))

10. Moved by C. Whetham, seconded by J. Weston:

In accordance with the motion by the Board of Trustees on November 12, 2018, that the Trustee parking spots be relocated further from the main entrance to the Education Centre and in accordance with Option 5 - That no trustee parking be designated as added by Trustees on January 14, 2019.

-Carried-

Opposed:

M. Ramsay
K. Smith
C. Whetham

EDUCATION CENTRE RENOVATIONS

This report was provided for information.

As part of addressing the deferred maintenance needs of the Education Centre, several projects have been planned. These projects have been undertaken in an effort to address accessibility, increase Trustees’ access to the Chair’s Office and related meeting space, better align existing spaces with a modern workflow, provide sufficiently sized space for the Chair to hold meetings in closer proximity to the Trustee Office, the Boardroom and the main entrance to the Education Centre, and create sufficient meeting space within the Education Centre to limit the need and cost associated with using meeting space off site. The project is operational in nature and the budget will be supported through the deferred maintenance plan.

Trustees asked various questions of clarification. Individual trustees raised concerns which included difficulty for people to find the chairperson's office, disconnect from staff and use of financial resources. Other trustees were fine with the project as a whole and felt it would enhance the ability to provide supports within the community and enhance staff well-being.

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Director J. Bryant appreciated the trustee feedback and will take take back for consideration.

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

STUDENT TRUSTEE REPORT

Student Trustees O. Judelson-Kelly and B. Wahl updated trustees on the January 9, 2019 Student Senate meeting. They participated in a mental health activity run by Mental Health Lead B. Ward and Superintendent A. Mercier. Trustees K. Meissner and K. Woodcock were in attendance. Next month's meeting will centre around Internet Content Filtering and Information Technology Services.

Student Trustees O. Judelson-Kelly left the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee S. Piatkowski inquired as to when trustees can expect detailed information on the impact of the Education Program - Other (EPO) Grant cuts. It was confirmed that trustees can expect a more detailed update as part of the Interim Financial Report and Forecast at the January 21, 2019 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Trustee J. Weston would like an updated report regarding the alternative education programs provided by WRDSB. It was the will of the Board to receive a report on this subject. Trustees also accepted an invitation from Director J. Bryant to tour one of the WRDSB's alternative education sites.

Trustee K. Woodcock urged staff to attend the provincial pre-budget consultation on January 25, 2019. Staff took note and stated that they continue to focus on working with educational partners such as the Council of Directors of Education (CODE) and Council of Senior Business Officials (COSBO) to provide opinions regarding education funding.

ADJOURNMENT

11. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Whetham:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 14, 2019, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.