

JANUARY 21, 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, N. Landry, S. Lomax, A. Mercier, L. Read, A. Russell and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: R. Howey, S. Reidel and L. Slupeiks.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by C. Watson seconded by N. Waddell:

That the agenda of the January 21, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting be amended to include delegation J. Barlow to speak on the Galt Collegiate Institute amphitheatre.

-Carried-

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

That the amended agenda of the January 21, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director J. Bryant provided a follow up to the January 14, 2019, Committee of the Whole meeting regarding a trustee tour of an alternative education site. Arrangements have been made for February 11, 2019, between 4:00 p.m. and 6:15 p.m. with a detailed email to follow.

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The Education Centre is having a Winter Warm Up mid-year get together on January 30, 2019, and an invitation was extended to trustees.

Chairperson J. Herring shared a friendly challenge from the Waterloo Catholic District School Board trustees to attend the 3rd Annual K-W Trivia Challenge fundraiser.

PIC INTRODUCTION

Trustee K. Smith introduced the Board of Trustees to the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and thanks them for their attendance at tonight's Committee of the Whole meeting. PIC is an important vehicle for communicating with parents in the school system. Co-Chairs M. Jenkins and B. Robson provided a brief overview of PIC and each member introduced themselves. Upcoming PIC events are being held on March 27, March 30 and April 3, 2019. Trustees were invited to observe a future PIC meeting.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegation spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Janice Barlow - GCI Amphitheatre

Trustees asked a number of questions of clarification regarding community consultation and possible funding through the Heritage Fund created in 2002.

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

That suggestions made by this evening's delegation regarding alumni and community consultation and any past information provided be forwarded to staff for review; and

That staff follow up with trustees.

-Carried-

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 5009 - TRAVEL, MEALS AND HOSPITALITY EXPENDITURES - STAFF

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 5009 - Travel, Meals and Hospitality Expenditures - Staff as presented at the January 21, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REPORTS

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT AND FORECAST AT NOVEMBER 30, 2018

The report was provided for information.

The information contained in the report was based on financial results up to November 30, 2018. The ability of staff to significantly alter our forecast of the year-end financial position based on three months of operations is limited. Consistent with the approved budget for 2018-19, WRDSB is expected to finish the year in a balanced position.

In terms of key assumptions and risk areas, there are factors which may impact the year-end results. Total enrolment is projected to be higher than the budget forecast by 102 students, Special Education Allocation revenues and funding support for ESL/ELD learners are projected to be higher than budget forecast.

At November 30th, 2018, revenue received through Other Grants, which includes but is not restricted to Education Program Other (EPO), was projected to be \$2.5M, or 65.92% higher than the budget forecast, and in December 2018, the Ministry provided additional details on the status of various EPO grants. The net effect to the WRDSB at time of this report is estimated to be a reduction of approximately \$331,000 for EPO grants included in the 2018/19 budget.

The following expenditure areas are forecast to be higher than the budget forecast: classroom teachers and early childhood educators to accommodate increased enrolment, supply cost expenditures and non operating costs. The supply cost pressure is a province wide issue.

Trustees asked a number of clarification questions. N. Landry, Controller, Financial Services, agreed to provide trustees an email update on the status of the Special Education LD reading pilots after being asked about a constituent who was not able to access the funds.

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting at 7:39 p.m.

Staff continues to work with provincial groups and associations to voice WRDSB concerns as the Ministry of Education reviews their provincial spending.

MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS QUARTERLY UPDATE REPORT

The report was provided for information.

Current capital projects with budgets greater than \$2.5 million were outlined in the report, including the status of the project relative to the schedule, budget and scope. Significant milestones, along with basic project statistics, were also presented. All projects are proceeding as planned through the design and construction stages. The report also included Annex A - Galt Collegiate and Vocational Institute Amphitheatre. The annex noted that Facility Services staff in consultation with school administration, have identified a need to remove the existing stage and

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the stairs and the ramp structures to help mitigate ongoing health and safety concerns. This would leave the existing benching in place to ensure slope stability and for future use.

Trustees discussed Annex A - Galt Collegiate and Vocational Institute Amphitheatre in depth and asked clarifying questions. Trustees expressed interest in extending any consultations beyond just the school community to involve the Cambridge community as a whole. Demolition is slated for spring or summer but the contract is not yet procured. Trustees are interested in receiving the report back prior to the demolition. Coordinating Superintendent M Gerard confirmed that any work needed to address risks and safety concerns will need to proceed but it does not preclude discussions of future development. The poor sightlines from the school increases the board's risk exposure, which includes illicit activities taking place, needles and broken glass and individuals taking up occupancy under the stage. The amphitheatre is condemned and unusable in its current state. The Heritage Fund mentioned by the delegation will be examined and included in the requested report back. Any redevelopment will need to be considered among other system priorities and within the limited funds available.

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM FEE FOR NEXT YEAR

The Extended Day Program (EDP) fee is established annually in accordance with Ministry of Education (Ministry) guidelines outlined in O.Reg 221/11. A costing template issued by the Ministry is used to calculate the fee. The underlying objective in establishing the fee is to ensure it bears a reasonable relationship to incremental operating costs incurred by the WRDSB and that the program operates on a cost recovery basis. It was noted that the fee does not contemplate any increases to salary grids for Designated Early Childhood Educators or Educational Assistants, which may be negotiated as part of the central labour process as existing contracts expire August 31, 2019. If increases are negotiated, they would be reflected in the 2020-21 rate.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Extended Day Program fee of \$26.00 per day, per child, for the 2019-2020 school year.

-Carried-

Abstained: K. Smith

MOTION: PROVINCIAL ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH ACT

This report contained a Notice of Motion served by Trustee S. Piatkowski at the December 10, 2018, Committee of the Whole Meeting and was supported by Trustees C. Millar and K. Meissner. Trustee S. Piatkowski provided a brief history of the advocate position and mandate. He confirmed that including the letter in the Board Meeting agenda under Board Communications would be an acceptable form of publicization.

Trustees discussed the transfer of the duties to the ombudsman. Some were in support of this and others felt there was not enough information at this time.

6. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by N. Waddell:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board Chairperson write and ask staff to publicize an open letter to the Premier of Ontario to request that the decision to repeal the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act, 2007 be rescinded and the independence of the position of Ontario's Child Advocate remain in place to provide a voice for Ontario's children and youth; and

That the Chairperson send a letter to all Public School Boards and the Ontario Public School Boards' Association requesting that they advocate for the retracting of the decision to repeal the Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act, 2007.

-Carried-

Opposed:
M. Ramsay
K. Smith
C. Whetham

Abstained
C. Watson

**DISCUSSION: UPDATE ON CONSUMPTION AND TREATMENT SITE (CTS)
LOCATIONS**

Chairperson J. Herring started the discussion by speaking about the upcoming public health public consultation sessions as listed on folio 41 of the agenda package. All meetings require advance registration. One proposed site - 150 Main Street, Cambridge - is in close proximity to Central Public School.

It was confirmed that A. Mercier will be attending the Cambridge invitation-only session with Central Public School's principal. Staff had not assigned anyone to attend a Kitchener session at this time. Staff has already provided input on all sites through the Waterloo Region Integrated Drug Strategy (WRIDS).

Trustees discussed attendance at the public consultation sessions. As the sites are not final, there were concerns that continued staff and trustee input was still required for both Kitchener and Cambridge. Of Kitchener's three proposed sites, there may be one preferred over the others. The board has provided information on the corporate website regarding the proposed sites and how community members may take part in the consultation. Trustees were encouraged to ensure any language used at the public consultation is respectful to citizens using CTS services.

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7. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Watson:

That the Chairperson, or designate, and a staff member attend both a Kitchener and a Cambridge public consultation session to share the Board’s perspective on Consumption and Treatment Site proximity to schools

-Carried-

Abstained: S. Piatkowski

Trustee Watson shared a photo of 150 Main Street as taken from the school yard at Central Public School. The City of Cambridge has a Bylaw preventing CTS from being established within 500 metres of the core downtown areas. This would include 150 Main Street.

Through various friendly amendments and much discussion, a motion was formed to express support to Cambridge City Council for Bylaw 55-18.

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

That the motion to express support of City of Cambridge Bylaw 55-18 be postponed until after the consultation sessions.

-Defeated-

Opposed:
K. Meissner
M. Ramsay
C. Watson
J. Weston
C. Whetham
*B. Wahl
*O. Judelson-Kelly

* 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))

Trustees continued to discuss the motion to support City of Cambridge Bylaw 55-18. Some Trustees expressed concern that supporting the bylaw was overstepping and that trustees should be concerned with proximity to schools exclusively, not to downtown cores.

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

That a letter be written to Cambridge City Council to express support of the maintenance of City of Cambridge Interim Control Bylaw 55-18 as it relates to Central Public School; and

That a copy of the letter be sent to Regional Council.

-Defeated-

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

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ADJOURNMENT

10. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 21, 2019, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.