

**FEBRUARY 4, 2019
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: J. Herring (Chairperson), K. Meissner, C. Millar, S. Piatkowski, K. Smith, N. Waddell, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustees M. Ramsay and C. Watson were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustee O. Judelson-Kelly was in attendance. Student Trustee B. Wahl was unable to attend.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), R. DeBoer, I. Gaudet, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, B. Lemon, S. Lomax, A. Mercier, E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, A. Russell, G. Shantz and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: R. Howey, K. Penticost and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the February 4, 2019, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of February 4, 2019, 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 K. Woodcock, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the agenda of the February 4, 2019, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

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

That the consent agenda of the January 28, 2019, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

C. Moved by N. Waddell, seconded by C. Whetham:

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 extended an invitation to trustees to attend the WRAPSC Meeting at Forest Heights Collegiate Institute on February 5, 2019. Speakers include Director J. Bryant and Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard. She also invited trustees to attend the Coalition of Muslim Women of KW's Women Who Inspire Awards Recognition Dinner 2019 on March 2, 2019.

Trustee K. Smith attended a Consumption and Treatment Services public consultation.

Chairperson J. Herring shared regrets from Trustees M. Ramsay and C. Watson.

Chairperson J. Herring provided greetings to staff at the Winter Warm Up event at Education Centre.

Chairperson J. Herring confirmed the Trivia Challenge was moving forward and interested trustees would receive an email confirming their participation.

Trustee S. Piatkowski recognized former trustee John Hendry. Hendry received the OPSBA President's Award at the Public Education Symposium last week.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Chief Communications Officer A. Russell provided trustees with the monthly communications update. Many fresh start stories including kindergarten registration, french immersion registration, the Caregivers' Guide to Accessing Support for Students with Anxiety and Educational Assistants and Child and Youth Workers Appreciation Day on January 18th. She reviewed statistics of traditional media mentions, most accessed website posts and social media posts and impressions for the month.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations at this evening's meeting.

REPORTS

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION – ANNUAL REPORT

Director J. Bryant shared the Annual Report with trustees. The Director of Education Annual Report is a Ministry of Education Requirement. The report can be found on the corporate website and includes the Director's Message, Letter from Student Trustees, Strategic Priorities and Commitments, Operational Goals and Our Stories. There is also an infographic on the budget and enrolment. This year's report is in the form of sharing stories and celebrating achievements.

Chief Communications Officer A. Russell provided a walk through of the Annual Report website. The Annual Report has been shared with the Ministry of Education and will be shared with other boards and posted on the corporate website and social media.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Trustees had a brief discussion on the Public Education Symposium that many attended in January.

OTHER BUSINESS

SEVERE (INCLEMENT) WEATHER UPDATE

Superintendent B. Lemon provided an update on the inclement weather process and procedure. Buses and special education vehicles travel on over ninety percent of the roads in the region, not just primary and secondary roads. Vehicle, pedestrian and crossing guard safety are all considered. Current conditions and the forecast for the rest of the day are considered. Freezing rain is an additional complication.

Trustees asked numerous questions of clarification. When keeping students in at Nutrition Break, principals consider the localized conditions, procedures and use professional judgement to make that decision. Schools take reasonable actions to make sure students are safe. Parents and staff receive ongoing reminders through social media and on the corporate website. Additional reminders are sent out when inclement weather may be in the forecast. Inclement weather communications were sent to schools and on social media prior to exam week.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee S. Piatkowski had two questions regarding the Parents Reaching Out (PRO) Grants. First, he asked why WRDSB received less funding in the 2018-2019 school year. In response, Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard confirmed less funds were received because less schools applied for the funding and the regional portion of the grant was reduced. The second question related to timelines, in past years schools knew early in the fall if they would receive their funding, this year they received notice at the end of 2018. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard confirmed the timeline and that feedback will be provided to the Ministry of Education where the opportunity is available.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (to be referred to Agenda Development Committee)

Trustee S. Piatkowski served the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustees N. Waddell and K. Woodcock:

Support for Continuation of Full-Day Kindergarten

Whereas, the Premier and the Minister of Education have given confusing and sometimes contradictory signals regarding the future of Full-Day Kindergarten in this province (guaranteeing its continuation for only the next school year and referring to “full-day learning” when pressed to specifically commit to Full-Day Kindergarten); and

Whereas, independent studies of the current model for delivering Full-Day Kindergarten have shown numerous positive outcomes (including better results in reading, writing, numeracy, and “self-regulation” among students who have attended Full-Day Kindergarten).

Therefore, be it resolved:

(a) That the Chair write an open letter to the Minister of Education (copied to the five MPPs representing Waterloo Region) indicating that the WRDSB supports the current model for funding and delivering Full-Day Kindergarten and calling on the Provincial Government to continue funding that model throughout Ontario beyond the 2019/2020 school year; and

(b) That the Chair send a letter (with a copy of this motion) to all other Public School Boards in the province and the Ontario Public School Boards Association for their information and any action that they deem appropriate.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of February 4, 2019, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.