

**FEBRUARY 25, 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, M. Ramsay, N. Waddell, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

\*Trustee K. Meissner attended by teleconference

Trustee K. Smith 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: M. Weinert (designate for Director of Education and Secretary), M. Gerard, S. Lomax, L. Read and A. Russell.

Other staff in attendance: S. Reidel and L. Slupeiks.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the February 25, 2019, Board Meeting be approved as amended with the postponement of the Strategic Plan.**

-Carried-

**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by C. Watson:

**That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of February 25, 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 N. Waddell, seconded by J. Weston:

**That the agenda of the February 25, 2019, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.**

-Carried-

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

**That the consent agenda of the February 25, 2019, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Ad Hoc Personal Services Contract Committee be comprised of the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Past-Chairperson.**

-Carried-

D. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by C. Millar:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the following Secondary School Vice-Principal appointment:**

- **Debra Derman, from Department Head at Glenview Park Secondary School to (Acting) Vice-Principal at Jacob Hespeler Secondary School, effective March 18, 2019**

-Carried-

Opposed: C. Watson

E. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by M. Ramsay:

**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**

Chairperson J. Herring shared regrets from Trustee K. Smith.

Trustee K. Meissner is attending via teleconference and trustees were asked to speak into their microphones.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert will be Acting Director for the duration of the Board Meeting.

Chairperson J. Herring provided a note of congratulations for Meena Waseem, a Grade 12 student from Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute (CHCI), who is one of 35 winners to receive a prestigious Loran Award. This was followed by a round of applause by trustees.

Trustee K. Woodcock attended the launch of the Sir John A Macdonald Secondary School's Innovation Lab at Communitech.

Student Trustee O. Judelson-Kelly attended the Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA) Board Council Conference in Ottawa.

Trustee C. Millar provided greetings from the Board at the First Nations Whole School Assembly.

**COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

Chief Communications Officer A. Russell presented the monthly Good News Update. The update highlighted what WRDSB loves, which included activities around the school system. This was followed by the media coverage from both tradition and social media outlets. Weather-related posts resulted in an increase of 1500 new social media followers.

**DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

**REPORTS**

**SUSPENSION/EXPULSION REPORT AS OF JANUARY 31, 2019**

This report was provided for information and included monthly and year-to-date suspension and expulsion data.

Trustees expressed interested in the report including data from additional past years. Trustees asked about alternatives to suspensions and some felt a further analysis of trends would be beneficial.

**STUDENT AGGRESSION REPORT (NOVEMBER 16, 2018 TO JANUARY 31, 2019)**

This report was provided for information and included reported incidences of student aggression for the period of November 16, 2018 to January 31, 2019. Reporting is done through Health and Safety; they only collect data required by the government. Trustees discussed the report and expressed an interest in including the previous report's data and some graphics. Each incident reported is reviewed and a process is followed to reduce or eliminate the opportunity for a repeat incident. Trustees asked a number of questions of clarification and expressed concern for the number of incidents reported. Trustees showed interest in capturing the number of students involved in the incidents as many reports can relate to only a few students.

**TRUSTEE CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

This report was provided for information and provided trustees with information regarding changes to conflict of interest reporting requirements as set out in Bill 68, Modernizing Ontario's Municipal Legislation Act. A digital copy of the document will be shared with trustees and paper copies will be available in the trustee office.

**DISCUSSION: BYLAW REVIEW**

This report was provided for information. Trustees were given an opportunity to weigh in on and ask question regarding articles 16 through 19 on the working draft Bylaws as created by the Bylaw Review Ad Hoc Committee. Detailed notes of the discussion were taken and will be reviewed by the Bylaw Committee at their next meeting. Trustees are also welcome to submit comments to the committee by email.

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

**That the rules be suspended for the Discussion: Bylaw Review agenda item as they pertain to the number of times a trustee may speak on the topic.**

-Carried-

Trustee discussion included the following comments:

- Rationale for moving from a Committee of the Whole to two separate standing committees with the same membership
- Possible name changes for the two new standing committees
- Two committees may be more confusing and create less balance in night lengths
- A couple committees missing from the bylaws
- Some changes were made to reflect changes to the Municipal Act
- Consider adding a maximum number of terms for committee membership
- Definition needed for Past-Chair
- Possibility of removing election process from vacant positions
- Have the document reviewed by a lawyer or parliamentary professional.

## **REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **STUDENT SENATE REPORT**

Student Trustees B. Wahl and O. Judelson-Kelly provided trustees with an update from their most recent Student Senate meeting. It included an Equity and Inclusion update and a presentation on Information Technology Services from Superintendent G. Shantz. Student Senate will also be holding a special meeting in April for the upcoming Student Trustee election.

### **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board received the following communication:

- Premier of Ontario – Consumption and Treatment Sites

Trustees discussed future actions and through the will of the Board decided to wait until the Region of Waterloo consultation report is available before further action is taken.

### **QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee M. Ramsay asked if the WRDSB uses uncertified teachers as mentioned in the February 24, 2019 Globe and Mail article, and if we have considered the addition of a full-time teacher assigned to filling absences. Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert confirmed that, while using uncertified teachers has been looked at, it is rarely done. He also confirmed that the WRDSB has hired a number of Long-Term Occasional teachers to fill absences daily and continue to look at other strategies to fill absences.

Trustee N. Waddell asked about the Ontario Autism Program funding changes and the impact it will have on the system. She asked what the increase to enrolment will be of both new registrants and students moving from part-time to full-time. She also wanted to know if the Ministry of Education is assisting the Board as they indicated. It was the will of the Board to receive an update on this matter at a future meeting.

Further to Trustee N. Waddell's question, Trustee J. Weston asked what additional resources and added funds will be needed to address the increase in enrolment.

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked about exemptions for vaccinations. Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert confirmed that Public Health leads this process and the exemptions where applicable. WRDSB only receives the list of suspensions.

Trustee M. Ramsay asked if we could replace instructional days lost to inclement weather by moving Professional Development Days to the end of the school year. Coordinating Superintendent L. Read confirmed teachers work hard to ensure that students do not miss out on any curriculum and that there are other boards who regularly have 10-12 snow days a year. She mentioned that the Board is not permitted to change a calendar once approved by the Ministry of

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Education without exceptional circumstances and that the growing use of Google Classroom helps students collaborate online.

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked if we need to make any changes in regards to a student's reasonable expectation of privacy. Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert confirmed that we support the ruling and that no changes are needed.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Board Meeting of February 25, 2019, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 p.m.