

MARCH 18, 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: K. Meissner, C. Millar, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, N. Waddell, C. Watson, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

Trustees J. Herring, K. Smith and C. Whethem were 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), R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, B. Lemon, S. Lomax, A. Mercier, S. Miller, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, A. Russell, and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: N. Hercanuck, R. Howe and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

Chairperson J. Herring is unable to attend this evening; Vice-Chairperson J. Weston will chair this evening's meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by C. Millar:

That the agenda of the March 18, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved with the addition of the four delegations for Galt Collegiate And Vocational Institute (GCI) Amphitheatre and that the GCI Amphitheatre Assessment report be moved to the beginning of the reports section.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Vice-Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Chairperson J. Herring and Trustee K. Smith.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting regarding the Galt Collegiate And Vocational Institute (GCI) Amphitheatre:

MARCH 18, 2019
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

- Tom Barlow
- Corina Harris
- Jamie Colwell
- Janice Barlow

Trustees asked a number of questions of clarification regarding rental space, funding and private partnerships. Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Order stating that the delegations were here to provide their information and should not be put on the spot regarding detailed plans. Vice-Chairperson J. Weston agreed with the Point of Order and thanked the delegations for their time.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4009 - STUDENT TRANSPORTATION

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4009 - Student Transportation as presented at the March 18, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REPORTS

GALT COLLEGIATE AND VOCATIONAL INSTITUTE AMPHITHEATRE ASSESSMENT

This report was provided for information.

As reported in January 2019 increased issues related to needle, drug, and homeless activities in the community of Galt have become a significant health and safety concern. The Amphitheatre, program viability, community use, and facility rejuvenation have become a topic of significant interest of late by concerned stakeholders in the media. This report included the architect study, financial status and an engagement process so that the community can have input regarding the Amphitheatre. Community consultation will include a public session similar to the Boundary Study process and an online survey. At the end of the consultation, a decision, with financial implications, will need to be made.

Trustees asked numerous questions around the consultation process and current safety concerns. Partnership discussions with the City of Cambridge will be a part of the consultation process. Ministry requirements will need to be considered in decision making. Administrative Procedure 4989 - Partnerships and Sponsorships outlines the acceptable and unacceptable uses of fundraising proceeds. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard confirmed that there is little

MARCH 18, 2019
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

salvage value to the existing structure and that safety needs to be addressed. The Board would be liable in the event of an injury. Demolition is unable to proceed until the ground thaws.

Trustee M. Ramsay called a Point of Order as Trustee C. Watson continued to ask questions which were already answered. Vice-Chairperson J. Weston agreed that the questions had been answered and noted that the report was provided for information.

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS 2019-2020

Superintendent E. Giannopoulos presented the School Year Calendars to trustees. In accordance with Regulation 304, district school boards are required to prepare, adopt, and submit to the Minister of Education, on or before the 1st day of May, a School Year Calendar. In preparation of the 2019-2020 School Year Calendars, a consultation process was established with representatives from stakeholder groups within the Waterloo Region District School Board. In addition, discussions related to the alignment of School Year Calendars have occurred with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) and neighbouring school boards. It was the committee's goal to ensure that the calendar is aligned as closely as possible with the calendar proposed by the WCDSB. The 2019-20 school year will begin on Tuesday, September 3, 2019 and end on Friday, June 26, 2020.

Trustees asked a number of questions of clarification around unaligned PD Days and the associated costs.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the 2019-2020 School Year Calendars containing 194 school days, as outlined in Appendices A and B of the Report titled "School Year Calendars – 2019-2020."

-Carried-

FRENCH IMMERSION ENROLMENT FOR 2018-19 AND PROJECTED ENROLMENT FOR 2019-20

This report was provided for information.

At present, the number of elementary schools offering the program is 41. For the 2019 - 2020 school year, Janet Metcalfe Public School will offer one class of Grade 1 French, bringing the total to 42. Superintendent B. Lemon reviewed the enrolment charts provided in the report.

Trustees questions of clarification were answered by Superintendent B. Lemon. The French Immersion Review Consultant Report is anticipated in the fall. The French Immersion Review Committee is working to understand enrolment decreases in the higher grades.

As requested, Superintendent B. Lemon will confirm by email if there are enough french immersion students living in the Janet Metcalfe boundary to sustain a Grade 2 French Immersion class in 2019-2020.

LONG-TERM ACCOMMODATION PLAN

This report was provided for information.

The Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) identifies short-term (one to five year) and medium-term (six to ten year) recommendations where student accommodation needs have been identified. Recommendations include new classroom additions, boundary studies, partnership opportunities and pupil accommodation reviews. The initial Draft LTAP was first presented to the previous Board on January 22, 2018, and the final version presented on March 19, 2018. Senior Planner N. Hercanuck provided trustees with a review of the LTAP.

NORTH WEST WATERLOO AND HESPELER DEVELOPMENT AREA DESIGNATION

The Planning Department regularly reviews residential development plans to estimate projected enrolment growth and assess the capacity of nearby schools to accommodate anticipated growth. In response to current and future enrolment pressure being experienced at Vista Hills Public School, Development Areas are proposed to be established around two phases of a residential subdivision near the school. In response to current and future enrolment pressure being experienced at Silverheights Public School, Development Areas are proposed to be established around proposed plans of subdivision.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the creation of Development Areas for the elementary panel for those portions of plans 30T - 05403, 30T-97024, 30T-11402, and 30T-05402 in North West Waterloo shown on Appendix A; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the creation of a Development Area for the elementary panel for the area known as 151 & 171 Guelph Avenue (30T-18103), City of Cambridge, as shown on Appendix B; and

That Waterloo Region District School Board approve the creation of a Development Area for the elementary panel for the area known as 4045 Maple Grove Rd.(30T-16101), City of Cambridge, as shown on Appendix B.

-Carried-

**LONG TERM FISCAL SUSTAINABILITY AND STABILITY TASK FORCE
QUARTERLY UPDATE**

This report was provided for information.

As part of the committee's work in preparing the Board's budget for the 2019-20 school year, the Fiscal Task Force worked on a survey which was posted to the Board's public website for the purpose of soliciting public feedback. The feedback gained from the survey will be analyzed by the Fiscal Task Force and integrated into the budget process for the 2019-2020 school year as applicable. Cost pressures identified will be detailed in the April Interim Financial Report and Forecast.

AUTISM SPECTRUM DISORDER (ASD) FUNDING – VERBAL UPDATE

Coordinating Superintendent S. Miller provided an update on ASD funding in light of the changes to the Ontario Autism Program. Staff are working closely with service providers to transition students as many are already attending school part-time. Many families are finding ways to continue their programming during a transition phase between now and June. The Ministry of Education (Ministry) announced that we will be eligible for the Per Pupil funding, which is usually not available for students enrolling after March 31. Professional development will be made available for staff.

Trustees discussed their concerns for next year and the impact on classrooms, students and staff.

Trustee N. Waddell proposed a motion which was followed by a friendly amendment by M. Ramsay to ensure that we align our stance with the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and their recent letter to the Ministry. Trustees discussed the motion.

MARCH 18, 2019
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter to Minister of Education Lisa Thompson and Minister of Children, Community and Social Services Lisa MacLeod, regarding our concerns with the challenges and limitations to the Ontario Autism Program in keeping with OPSBA's position on this; and

That it our concern for the potential negative impacts it may have on the learning environment, as well as the well-being of all our students, educators, administrators, and other staff, primarily due to the financial uncertainties and logistical difficulties in securing the additional professionally trained personnel needed to provide the supports and appropriate accommodations necessary to help each and every student diagnosed with ASD to succeed to their fullest potential; and

That this letter be copied to OPSBA, as well as to all our local labour partner associations and federations.

-Carried-

Abstained:
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

MOTION TO EXTEND

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the Committee of the Whole meeting end time by thirty minutes.

-Carried-

MOTION: SUPPORT FOR CONTINUATION OF FULL-DAY KINDERGARTEN

The report contained a Notice of Motion served by Trustee S. Piatkowski at the February 4, 2019, Board Meeting. The Notice of Motion was supported by Trustees N. Waddell and K. Woodcock. Trustee S. Piatkowski spoke to the motion.

Trustee C. Watson left the meeting at 9:26 p.m.

Trustees discussed the information provided by the Ministry of Education thus far.

Trustee M. Ramsay moved to table the motion until further information is provided by the Ministry of Education. There was no seconder for the motion, therefore it was not considered.

Trustee M. Ramsay requested a recorded vote on the motion.

MARCH 18, 2019
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board Chairperson 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

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.

-Carried-

In Favour:

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

Opposed:

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))

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

OPSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING - FEBRUARY 22 AND 23, 2019

Trustee K. Woodcock provided trustees with the summary from the February OPSBA Board of Directors Meeting. She also reminded trustees to complete any proposed resolutions or constitutional amendments for the OPSBA Annual General Meeting. There are also award nominations due in the coming weeks for interested trustees.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Millar requested an updated on supports in place for school staff to develop tools needed for conversations with students around racist comments/actions in light of recent events. She asked about developing both staff awareness for biases and then providing tools to have discussions in a safe environment. Superintendent P. Rubenschuh shared that school staff have been learning about their own biases and how to build inclusive environments. Training includes how to engage students with a variety of identities and create healthy relationships between all students and staff. She also asked about ongoing supports being provided to administrators for

MARCH 18, 2019
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

recent incidents. Coordinating Superintendent S. Lomax confirmed that administrators are being engaged in next steps and that they have been receiving similar training to other school staff.

Trustee Waddell requested an updated on the Naloxone kits in secondary and alternative schools. Superintendent P. Rubenschuh updated trustees on the the comprehensive training provided to 162 school staff from the 18 school sites. Staff have secured the Naloxone kits and storage units. Resources have been reviewed and implementation will occur at the end of March. The site inspection process and site training sustainability process have both been developed.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 18, 2019, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:44 p.m.