

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

Chairperson J. Herring 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), R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, N. Landry, B. Lemon, S. Lomax, A. Mercier, E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, A. Russell, G. Shantz and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: D. Liebermann, K. Penticost, S. Reidel, J. Scott and J. Weber.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Vice-Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

**That the agenda of the March 25, 2019, Board Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by N. Waddell:

**That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of March 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 K. Woodcock, seconded by M. Ramsay:

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

-Carried-

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

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

-Carried-

C. Moved by K. Meissner, seconded by C. Millar:

**That we rise and report in public session.**

-Carried-

*Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.*

#### **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Both Trustees C. Watson and C. Whetham declared a conflict of interest in the In Camera Board Meeting.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES**

Vice-Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Chairperson J. Herring.

Trustee K. Meissner attended Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School for the Sphero Robot Obstacle Challenge for students in grades 4 to 6. She also attended a parent engagement evening at St Jacobs Public School with a focus on family resilience.

Trustees B. Wahl, C. Millar, K. Woodcock and S. Piatkowski attended the Abraham Erb Public School parent council meeting to share information on the role of trustees and the Board.

Trustee S. Piatkowski shared greetings from the Board at the United Nations' International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination event at Kitchener City Hall.

Trustee K. Smith attended the 2019 Convergence conference presented by United Way Waterloo Region Communities and the Waterloo Wellington Local Health Integration Network. She also attended The Many Roads to Freedom in recognition of Canadian Black History at the First Unity Church in Waterloo.

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Trustee K. Smith encouraged all trustees to attend the Parent Engagement events held over the next two weeks:

- March 27, 2019 at Bluevale Collegiate Institute
- March 30, 2019 at Elmira District Secondary School
- April 3, 2019 at Galt Collegiate Institute

Superintendent G. Shantz invited trustees to attend the 7th Annual Ontario Summit on April 6 and 7, 2019, at Jacob Hespeler Secondary School. This year's focus is on special education need in the system and assistive technologies. Over 500 staff members will be participating. Trustees will receive an email with further information.

Trustee J. Weston attended the Crestview Public School Science Fair. She also attended the Kitchener-Waterloo Model United Nations (KWMUN) event at Kitchener City Hall. Student Trustee Judelson-Kelly is the President of KWMUN.

**COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

Chief Communications Officer A. Russell presented the monthly Good News Update. This month's theme was unity and included such activities as the Gay Straight Alliance Conference, Black History Monday, Senior Leaders' Meeting focusing on equity and the Voices Conference. She also shared the traditional and social media trends for March.

**DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

**REPORTS**

**STRATEGIC PLAN**

This report was provided for information.

The report served as a mid-year check-in on the work related to the three to five-year implementation of the Strategic Plan and Operational Goals. The senior team consistently assesses and reflects on the various strategies designed to reach our collective goals. As staff continue to review this input, feedback and data with our many stakeholders staff are reassured that our strategic priorities, operational goals and our conditions for learning reflect what families and students most value in their educational experience. Staff also continue to make use of a variety of survey tools to seek input and feedback on the strategic plan and implementation efforts.

Trustees asked questions about the Operational Goals and thanked staff for the presentation and their focused efforts on the Strategic Plan.

**BETTER BEGINNINGS WATERLOO PRESENTATION**

This presentation was provided for information.

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh introduced Julie Weber, Principal at Cedarbrae Public School, as well as Heather Powers and Jeremy Horne from Better Beginnings Waterloo. Better Beginnings Waterloo is a community-based undertaking offering quality programs for children, parents and families in the North Waterloo area. Their programs closely align with the WRDSB Student Outcomes found on the Conditions for Learning Framework in the Strategic Plan. The presentation included some example programs and daily activities at Cedarbrae Public School. It also shared a story of how the program helps students and their families through asset-based community development and research-based programs. Trustees were invited to visit the program.

Student Trustees O. Judelson-Kelly and B. Wahl left the meeting at 8:59 p.m.

**COMMUNICATIONS REVIEW – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

This report was provided for information.

The report summarized the findings from the Communications Review as mentioned at previous meetings of the Board. The review identified areas of strength, challenges and areas for improvement. Current updates, based on this third party assessment, include:

- development of new website
- hiring of a Creative Specialist
- hiring of an Internal Communications Officer
- increased use of social media and providing timely information
- researching more consistent means of communication with parents and the broader community

**SUSPENSION/EXPULSION REPORT AS OF FEBRUARY 28, 2019**

This report was provided for information.

The report included monthly and year-to-date suspension/expulsion data. In addition to the monthly report, Superintendent P. Rubenschuh provided some additional information and context in the form of provincial data and comparisons.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve an extension of an additional thirty minutes for the Board Meeting of March 25, 2019.**

-Carried-

**DISCUSSION: BYLAW REVIEW**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve to suspend the rules for Bylaw 6.1.7 limiting the number of times a trustee may speak on the same question.**

-Carried-

This report was provided for discussion.

Full and detailed trustee comments have been provided to the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee for review.

Trustee discussion included:

- reviewing Standing Board Committee names
- delegation procedures and opportunities
- possible question period for the public; its purpose, benefits and challenges

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board received copies of the following communications:

- WRDSB to Premier of Ontario – Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act
- WRDSB to Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) – Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth Act

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee C. Watson requested information on the tendering process for the architecture report from 2017 and if any tenders have been done for upcoming site work. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard responded with the vendor pool process for the 2015 tender for the and the Request for Quote process to be followed for demolition but that no contracts have been struck for upcoming work. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard agreed to email Trustee C. Watson a copy of his response to forward on to the inquiring parties.

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked about the Ezra Street party on St. Patrick's Day and how the Board mitigates issues with MacGregor Senior Public School and its students. Superintendent P. Rubenschuh confirmed that staff are actively engaged with the City of Waterloo and Waterloo Regional Police Services. Security is present and the school administrators provide messaging to students and their families.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 p.m.