

**APRIL 29, 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, K. Smith, N. Waddell, C. Watson, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

Trustee C. Whetham was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustee O. Judelson-Kelly was in attendance and Student Trustee B. Wahl was not in attendance.

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by J. Weston:

That the agenda of the April 29, 2019, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of April 29, 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 J. Weston, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the agenda of the April 29, 2019, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

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

That the consent agenda of the April 29, 2019, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Peter Trybus, from Vice-Principal at Chicopee Hills Public School to Principal at Linwood Public School, effective Monday, May 13, 2019.

-Carried-

D. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Marcus Hoare, from Learning Support Teacher, Learning Services to Vice-Principal at JF Carmichael Public School, effective Monday, May 13, 2019.

-Carried-

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

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustee C. Watson declared a conflict of interest during the In Camera Board Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

TIM WALKER MEMORIAL AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

Student Trustee O. Judelson-Kelly presented the Tim Walker Memorial Awards. The following recipients were confirmed to meet the criteria and were selected to receive the 2018-19 Tim Walker Memorial Award:

- J.W. Gerth Public School
- Margaret Avenue Public School
- Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute
- Waterloo Collegiate Institute

Trustee K. Smith attended a parent event at Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate & Vocational School and a sciences and entrepreneurship competition for secondary students at a local university.

Trustee C. Millar shared her experience at the special Student Senate meeting held in the Boardroom last week for the Student Trustee elections. She thanked all the staff who assisted in the event and the Trustees who were in attendance.

Student Trustee O. Judelson-Kelly thanked Trustee C. Millar for her assistance in the election night. He shared that nine students applied for the two student trustee positions for 2019-2020. He informed the Board that Myah Robinson and Narein Chenthivelnathan will be the Student Trustees for next year.

Trustee N. Waddell shared information regarding an upcoming free conference this weekend hosted by Parents for Children's Mental Health. Superintendent S. Miller will be speaking at the conference and Trustees can ask her for details if interested in attending.

Trustee K. Meissner attended a Conestogo Public School Parent Council meeting to speak about the role of a trustee and answer parent questions. She also attended the Voices Conference with Trustees K. Smith, S. Piatkowski and J. Herring.

Director J. Bryant shared a letter from the Terry Fox Foundation announcing that WRDSB schools have fundraised over one million dollars as of 2018.

Student Trustee O. Judelson-Kelly attended the Prime Minister's Town Hall and had an opportunity to speak to the Prime Minister at Kitchener City Hall.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Chief Communications Officer A. Russell provided the monthly Good News Update with an environmental theme highlighting Changemakers Conference, Eastwood Collegiate Institute's \$20,000 award for green initiatives, Water Footprinting and the Reconciliation Tree Plant event. She reviewed the media coverage for the month of April including top social media engagements on the website, Facebook, Instagram and Twitter. Other highlights included the Ed Tech Summit, Council for a Day and the Build a Dream program.

REPORTS

WRDSB WORKFORCE CENSUS

This presentation was provided for information.

D. Liebermann, Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, presented the purpose of the census and what data will be collected. She then reviewed the steps to ensure privacy/confidentiality and how the data will be used.

Trustees asked a number of questions of clarification regarding the timelines and process.

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION REPORT AS OF MARCH 31, 2019

This monthly report was provided for information.

DISCUSSION: BYLAW REVIEW

This discussion was provided for discussion.

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

Trustee discussion included:

- definitions
- if some content was better suited for policies or bylaws
- appointment process for vacant positions
- leave of absence
- groups to consult

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Hastings and Prince Edward District School Board to Minister of Education
- Premier of Ontario – Response Re: Provincial Advocate for Children and Youth
- Toronto District School Board to Minister of Education
- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to Minister of Education and Minister of Training Colleges and Universities
- Bluewater District School Board to Minister of Education
- Peel District School Board to Minister of Education

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Meissner asked if Ontario Regulation 274 is still applicable. Director J. Bryant shared that consultation had occurred on the Regulation, a Guidebook was then created to support the Regulation, and that consultation continues on the Guidebook. Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert confirmed that Boards are still required to follow Ontario Regulation 274.

Trustee Piatkowski asked about a status update on discontinued transportation for students at Elizabeth Ziegler PS. Staff met with school council and will meet with STSWR next week to obtain some clarification on this matter.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee J. Weston served the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustees K. Meissner and C. Millar:

Whereas "[a] strong public education system is the foundation of a prosperous, caring and civil society"; and "all partners in the education sector, including the Minister, the Ministry and the boards, have a role to play in enhancing student achievement and well-being, closing gaps in student achievement and maintaining confidence in the province's publicly funded education systems." [Education Act 0.1 (1), (2) and (3)];

Whereas the increase in average secondary school class sizes from 22 to 28 students will result in less time for teachers to provide individualized instruction and feedback to each student - instruction and feedback which leads to higher student achievement;

Whereas changes to provincial funding for children on the autism spectrum will result in an increased need for specialized supports and programming in schools for these students and that funding for such supports and programs to date have not received adequate funding;

Whereas the decrease to funding for English as a Second Language instruction will disadvantage our newcomer students and be detrimental to their student achievement and well-being;

Whereas the following changes to the education portfolio, which are no less important than those listed above, will also impact student achievement, well-being and confidence in the province's publicly-funded education system:

- Increasing the average secondary class size will result in fewer elective courses being offered - courses that often keep students engaged, provide skills to find jobs after secondary school, and/or allow them to pursue diverse fields of study in post-secondary;
- Increasing the average secondary school class sizes may result in fewer teachers per secondary school to supervise the extra curricular activities that have been shown to increase student engagement and student achievement;

- Mandating e-learning courses as a graduation requirement will hinder the learning and graduation rates for students who cannot learn successfully online or have limited access to the internet;
- Decreased per pupil funding may impact the number of education workers in our schools who all play an important role in the lives of students, who have an impact on the well-being of students in classrooms and who may prevent more costly interventions;
- Changes to OSAP may result in a decrease in students applying to postsecondary institutions and decrease the number of highly-skilled, knowledgeable citizens contributing to our society;

It is recommended:

That the WRDSB Trustees direct the Chairperson to write a letter to the Minister of Education on our behalf, with a copy to the Premier, OPSBA, all local MPPs and all Board Chairs, and direct staff to post a copy on the WRDSB website as information to our families; and

That the letter convey a strong opposition to the cuts to education funding, to the mandatory four e-learning courses and to the increase to average class sizes, and request a reassessment of these changes to ensure Boards can assist the Minister to meet the obligations under the Education Act to enhance student achievement and well-being, close gaps in student achievement and maintain confidence in the province's publicly-funded education systems; and

Recognizing that funding from the Ministry of Education may not be fully returned to the per pupil funding of 2018-19, direct staff to consider that the following guiding principles be approved for the 2019-20 budget process:

- **Maintain a focus on our strategic and operational priorities; and**
- **Maintain our commitment to ensuring our schools and communities are safe, caring and inclusive spaces where each student, staff member, family and community member feel valued; and**
- **Focus on supporting the education of our most vulnerable students.**

Student Trustee O. Judelson-Kelly served the following Notice of Motion on behalf of himself and Student Trustee B. Wahl with support from Trustees C. Millar, K. Meissner and S. Piatkowski:

Whereas, one of the three key aspects of the WRDSB Strategic plan is student wellbeing and the WRDSB encourages students to talk about their mental wellness and issues that may arise at school, or in their lives;

Whereas, students may be hesitant to engage or report these types of conversations and activities, it is crucial that students have a method through which they are able to communicate their own issues of safety or those of their peers.

Whereas, anonymous reporting tools are currently being used in other school Boards to address incidents of bullying and threats or school safety issues.

Recommendation

That the WRDSB Board of Trustees request that staff investigate the possibility of using an anonymous reporting tool to assist students, staff and community members in reporting incidents of bullying and threats or school safety issues, similar to the tool that is currently being used by the Thames Valley District School Board and Durham Catholic District School Board; and

That a written report outlining the feasibility of implementing this type of tool in the WRDSB, along with associated costs, be provided to trustees no later than June 17.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of April 29, 2019, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:38 p.m.