

JUNE 10, 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: 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 Trustees O. Judelson-Kelly was in attendance and Student Trustee B. Wahl was unable to attend.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), M. Gerard, N. Landry, S. Lomax, E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, 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

Trustees debated the appropriateness of moving items on the agenda when there are other items in need of attention.

1. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by J. Weston:

That the agenda of the June 10, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as amended to move the Galt Collegiate Institute Amphitheatre Fundraising Update and Galt Collegiate Institute Amphitheatre Fundraising Investigation to directly after the delegations.

-Carried-

Opposed:
K. Meissner
K. Smith
K. Woodcock

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustee C. Watson declared a conflict of interest in the In Camera meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Student Trustee O. Judelson-Kelly reminded trustees that tomorrow is the last Student Senate meeting for the year and invited trustees to stop by.

Trustee K. Meissner attended the State of the Township breakfast in Woolwich with Trustee K. Smith.

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting at 7:06 p.m.

Director J. Bryant announced that the Minister of Education will be attending the Janet Metcalfe Official Opening on June 11, 2019.

Trustee S. Piatkowski visited both Baden Public School and Sir Adam Beck Public School.

Trustee J. Weston attended a fundraiser for the Forest Hill Public School Nutrition program on June 2, 2019. She also provided greetings on behalf of the Board at the Pride Flag raising ceremony at the Education Centre on Monday, June 3, 2019.

Trustee K. Smith completed the Parent Involvement Committee member interviews for the upcoming school year. She also attended the Eid Festival at the Aud. Staff and Board turn out was noticed and appreciated.

Chairperson J. Herring emceed the Board Retirement dinner, hosted by trustees, on June 4, 2019.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Jeffrey Shaver – Galt Collegiate Institute Amphitheatre
- Corina Harris – Galt Collegiate Institute Amphitheatre
- Tom Barlow – Galt Collegiate Institute Amphitheatre

Trustees asked various questions of clarification of each delegation.

GALT COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE (GCI) AMPHITHEATRE FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided trustees with an update regarding the inquiry to allow fundraising for the GCI Amphitheatre. Recent correspondence with the Ministry of Education (Ministry) indicated that fundraising should not be used for items that increase operating costs and the Ministry referenced back to Ministry of Education Fundraising Guidelines. The Ministry also suggested some best practices including alignment with priorities and viability. As a growing school board, limited renewal funds need to spent on accessible spaces which meet the needs of students. M. Gerard reviewed the direct and indirect costs of beginning this project as well as the costs already incurred. Next steps will be to review the consultation data collected. He also noted that future costs cannot be determined without a full

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business plan. M. Gerard is meeting with the Friends of GCI on July 8, 2019, and will include their feedback with the consultation report.

Trustees asked questions of clarification around fundraising and board approval. It was mentioned that typically larger fundraising projects on school property result from school-based priorities and are spearheaded by school council. School Council, through site administrators, engage Facility Services and Procurement. Trustees expressed concerns around future costs to the board.

During the discussion, Trustee M. Ramsay called a Point of Order of relevance on Trustee C. Watson, who asked a question regarding what makes this project different from a playground and began to compare projects. Chairperson J. Herring ruled in favour of the Point of Order, asked that the comparison stop and that M. Gerard be allowed to answer the original question. M. Gerard replied that playgrounds are relatively simple projects where school council is engaged, a template which can be followed, and it falls in an acceptable use of fundraising category. The amphitheatre is more complex and would be considered capital renewal. It was noted that security of the site is, and will remain, an issue.

MOTION: GALT COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE AMPHITHEATRE FUNDRAISING INVESTIGATION

The report contained a Notice of Motion served by Student Trustee C. Watson at the May 27, 2019, Board Meeting and was supported by Trustees M. Ramsay and C. Whetham.

Trustee C. Watson withdrew her motion.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4021 – USE OF VOLUNTEERS

Trustees discussed the draft policy and possible amendments. Trustee J. Weston suggested that the policy be renamed to Volunteerism. Trustees discussed the impact of changing wording in section 4 to replace “exceptional” with “certain” and replace “assist” with “act as a supervisor.” Staff confirmed that as long as the Principal’s oversight and responsibility could be outlined and addressed in the procedure, that this would be acceptable.

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2. Amendments moved by J. Weston, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 4021 – Use of Volunteers as follows:

That the title now read Board Policy 4021 - *Volunteerism*; and

That section 4 read : “Under *certain* circumstances, and in accordance with the procedure accompanying this policy, a volunteer may *act as a supervisor* in the operation of an extracurricular activity when a teacher advisor is not available, and only upon the approval of the school Principal”

-Amendments Carried-

Opposed: S. Piatkowski

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4021 – Use of Volunteers as amended at the June 10, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting

-Amended Motion Carried -

Abstained: S. Piatkowski

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 6010 – STUDENT DRESS CODE

It was noted that after review, the policy remains unchanged at this time. Trustees entered into discussion on the policy. Trustees expressed ideas around a central dress code, and concern around how dress codes may unfairly apply to young women and racialized students. Staff confirmed that very few concerns are raised to superintendents in regards to dress codes at schools. Superintendent P. Rubenschuh said he would be happy to look at supporting guidelines to assist school in engaging and developing local dress codes. He mentioned that he could engage student voice in the process.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer Board Policy 6010 – Student Dress Code to staff for further review.

-Carried-

REPORTS

UPDATE TO APPROVALS AND FINANCING OF CAPITAL

This annual report provides trustees with a review of capital projects to ensure that Board approvals align with Ministry funding. The Ministry of Education (Ministry) approved the Janet Metcalfe Public School project and granted its funding allocation of \$15,543,455. Since that time, the WRDSB has expanded the scope of the project to include a specialized space to accommodate medically fragile students, replace unsuitable soil on site and add a bus drop-off zone. The total project cost for Janet Metcalfe Public School is now estimated to be \$16,413,160. It is requested that the additional funding come from Capital Priorities, Educational Development Charges and Donations.

Trustee M. Ramsay left the meeting at 8:45p.m.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) approve an additional expenditure of \$869,705 for the construction of Janet Metcalfe Public School. The project budget is now estimated to be \$16,413,160.

-Carried-

MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS QUARTERLY UPDATE

The report was provided for information.

The report summarizes current capital projects with budgets greater than \$2.5M and uses dashboard symbols to indicate the status of the project relative to the schedule, budget and scope. Significant milestones, along with basic project statistics, were also presented. All projects are proceeding as planned through the design and construction stages.

The Ontario Pipe Trades Council (OPTC) recently rejected the latest offer from the Mechanical Contractors Association of Ontario (MCAO). This impacts as many as 12,000 plumbers and steamfitters in the Industrial, Commercial, and Institutional (ICI) sector in Ontario. Similarly, members of the Sheet Metal Workers International Association (SMWIA) that advocate for rights of over 150,000 workers in construction manufacturing, service, railroad and shipyard industries are striking in various locals including Kitchener and has started to impact school construction in other jurisdictions. At this time, neither of these occurrences have impacted the completion of the projects.

INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT AND FORECAST AT MAY 31, 2019

The report was provided for information.

The report provided an update to the Board regarding key assumptions, the identification of key risks and planned mitigation strategies. The information contained in the report is based on financial results up to May 31, 2019. On the whole, the underlying changes to Board revenues and expenses, which we presented as part of our [Quarter 1 \(Q1\)](#) and [Quarter 2 \(Q2\)](#) updates remain unchanged. However, as we signaled in our Q2 report, staff now expect the Board to finish the year with an operating surplus of approximately \$3.9M, or 0.5% of operating revenues.

Trustee M. Ramsay returned to the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

2019-2020 BUDGET UPDATE

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided trustees with a brief budget update. He reviewed the dates of Ministry of Education communications to date. The process was delayed compared to previous years. He reviewed the upcoming meeting dates.

MEMBERSHIP IN THE ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

The report is to present for review Board Policy 3007 regarding membership in the Ontario Public School Boards' Association. Services provided by OPSBA include labour relations, lobbying, media relations and professional development. The membership fee is based on a formula connected to a school board's student enrolment. Last year, the fee was \$127,397.33 (including HST), and it is anticipated that the fee for this year will be similar.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 3007, and continue with membership in the Ontario Public School Boards' Association for 2019-2020.

-Carried-

FUNDRAISING POLICY & MOTION: FUNDRAISING POLICY DEFERRED

7. Moved by M. Ramsay, seconded by C. Watson:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer Fundraising Policy and Motion: Fundraising Policy Reports back to Agenda Development Committee for rescheduling.

-Carried-

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee J. Weston inquired into the decision to remove staggered entry for kindergarten students. Superintendent E. Ranney shared parent concerns with staggered entry including equity,

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childcare costs and confusion. Parents are welcome to arrange a staggered entry for their child for a smooth transition.

Trustee N. Waddell inquired into how parents can best arrange for an adjusted attendance. It was suggested that parents can reach out to the school or Superintendent E. Ranney.

Trustee C. Watson asked if staff were reviewing field trips and equity among schools. Director J. Bryant responded that this was not under review at this time, but that it does come up in other discussions and could be reviewed in the future.

ADJOURNMENT

Trustees were reminded of the Strategic Plan Trustee Seminar on June 12, 2019.

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

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 10, 2019, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:09 p.m.