

**SEPTEMBER 23, 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, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Student Trustees N. Chenthivelnathan and M. Robinson were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), M. Gerard, B. Lemon, S. Miller, E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, A. Sloan, G. Shantz and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: R. Howey and S. Reidel.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the September 23, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved with the addition of a Verbal Follow Up on Expulsion Procedure to Board Reports.**

-Carried-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee K. Smith attended the Congress of Black Women of Canada and the Caribbean Canadian Association of Waterloo Region's 18th Annual Awards of Excellence.

Trustee C. Whetham attended the Ryerson Public School Parent Night and toured Jacob Hespeler Secondary School.

Trustee S. Piatkowski toured New Dundee Public School.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

**VERBAL UPDATE ON POLITICAL ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS DURING ELECTIONS**

Director J. Bryant introduced Interim Chief Communications Officer A. Sloan. A. Sloan proceeded to provide trustees with information regarding the visit Sandowne Public School received from the Prime Minister of Canada and the requirements put in place by staff regarding parental permission, media coverage and restrictions on the use of photos taken that day. He agreed to send trustees the current protocol and some examples from other school boards.

Trustees asked questions around the timing of the visit and the timing of the classes correspondence with the Prime Minister's office. Trustees discussed concerns around not being inclusive of all political parties. They also discussed the educational opportunity for students to meet the sitting Prime Minister of Canada. Trustees were in agreement that a policy should be in place to put guidelines during campaign periods.

**REPORTS**

**GALT COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE (GCI) AMPHITHEATRE CONSULTATION UPDATE**

This report was provided for information.

Staff engaged stakeholders about the GCI Amphitheatre both at a meeting held at GCI on May 15, 2019, and through an online survey available from May 16, 2019, to June 13, 2019. The results of the public consultation were shared with trustees and have been shared with GCI administration. GCI School Council will review the information and engage interested parties in a discussion about next steps which may include fundraising for the options contained in the assessment presented to the Board of Trustees on March 18, 2019.

The WRDSB has budgeted \$30,000 to secure the site and remove components of the facility which were deemed unfit for future use. No further financial commitments have been made for work on the amphitheatre; any further renewal of this facility will be completed only if fully fundraised. As the WRDSB owns the amphitheatre land, any construction or maintenance conducted on this site will be at the direction and discretion of staff.

**BOARD REPORTS**

**REQUEST TO DISSOLVE THE EARLY YEARS ADVISORY GROUP**

The Early Years Advisory Group has achieved its mandate and no further meetings are required. Procedures and processes are now successfully in place for Full Day Kindergarten and Extended Day programs.

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2. Moved by C. Whetham, seconded by C. Millar:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board discontinue and dissolve the Early Years Advisory Group effective September 30, 2019.**

-Carried-

**AD HOC BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE REPORT**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board suspend the rules to allow trustees to speak more than twice on the topic of the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee Report.**

-Carried-

Trustees engaged in a lengthy discussion on the Working Draft Bylaws presented by the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee (Committee) and changes proposed by trustees. Decisions were made by a will of the board majority consensus. In instances where a decision was not made, Trustees directed the Committee to return with further information. Detailed notes of the discussion will be reviewed by the Committee and a follow up report along with a revised Working Draft will be presented at the October 21, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

Discussion included, but was not limited to:

- Interest in a lawyer or parliamentary/bylaw professional reviewing the document after trustee changes are complete but prior to public consultation.
- Vacant trustee positions should be offered to the runner up in the election.
- Chairperson should chair all or most Board Room meetings.
- Smudging ceremonies should be removed from the bylaws.
- Past Chair should be handled in the same manner as OPSBA does.
- Trustees would like more information on the use of the term Standing Committee

**UPDATE ON THE EXPULSION PROCESS**

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh reviewed the process by which staff had engaged Miller Thompson LLP to review the expulsion process to ensure the process was fair, consistent and transparent. He shared the recommendations received through this review. At a seminar in the spring, Trustees asked staff to follow up and ensure the Ministry of Education was supportive of the recommended changes. Superintendent P. Rubenschuh shared the response received from the Safe and Healthy Schools Branch of the Ministry of Education, which indicated that the Ministry believes legal council is the best source of advice on the expulsion practice.

Trustees asked a number of questions around the timing and training for the new procedure.

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4. Moved by N. Waddell, seconded by M. Ramsay:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the meeting an additional thirty minutes.**

-Carried-

Trustee C. Whetham left the meeting at 9:31 p.m.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee S. Piatkowski requested an update on the new cell phones in classrooms directive from the Ministry of Education. Superintendent G. Shantz shared that trustees would receive an updated Code of Conduct policy at the October 21, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting and that if approved, the policy changes would then be implemented.

Trustee J. Weston asked about reports that some Academic and University stream courses have 35 students in them. She asked if WRDSB was maintaining the class size average of 22 to 1. Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert stated that staff are currently assessing class sizes and will be responding to OSSTF. Trustees expressed interest in receiving the information when it becomes available.

Trustees asked to receive an update regarding the Ministry of Education mandate on Service Animals in Schools. Superintendent S. Miller confirmed that our current procedure closely aligns with the Ministry's requirements and that an updated procedure will be in place for January 1, 2020.

Trustees also asked for an update on the climate protests anticipated on Friday, September 27, 2019. Interim Chief Communications Officer A. Sloan confirmed that staff are monitoring the situation and will inform trustees as required.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Trustee K. Meissner presented the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustees C. Millar and C. Whetham:

Whereas a recent [study](#) led by Professor David Hammond of the University of Waterloo, found that among those 16-19 years old, vaping increased by 74% from 2017 to 2018; And among grade 10-12 students 14.6% reported vaping in the past 30 days in 2016-17.;

Whereas The [Canadian Cancer Society is calling for immediate government action](#) to address a significant and troubling increase in youth vaping in Canada;

Whereas “Most e-cigarettes contain nicotine; and nicotine is highly addictive and can harm adolescent brain development”; and “Young people who use e-cigarettes may be more likely to

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smoke cigarettes in the future” [[Centre for Disease Control, 2019](#)];

Whereas the Federal Tobacco and Vaping Act (containing guidelines related to promotion and advertising to young persons) isn’t sufficient in preventing vaping among youth. [[Tobacco and Vaping Act 30.1, 30.42.6, 30.45](#)];

Whereas the Ontario government has not moved forward with planned restrictions on advertising and promotion of vaping products;

It is recommended:

**That the WRDSB Trustees direct the Chairperson to write a letter to the Minister of Health on our behalf, with a copy to the Premier, OPSBA, all Board Chairs and The Region of Waterloo Public Health; and**

**That the letter request additional regulations on e-cigarette (vaping) product advertising; and**

**That e-cigarette advertising and displays have similar regulation to that of tobacco products; and to take additional steps to combat the growing e-cigarette epidemic amongst youth.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

5. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by K. Meissner:

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of September 23, 2019, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.