

**SEPTEMBER 30, 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, 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), R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, B. Lemon, A. Mercier, S. Miller, E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, G. Shantz, A. Sloan and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: S. Reidel, J. Scott and L. Slupeiks.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the September 30, 2019, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of September 30, 2019, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folio 3.

-Carried-

Trustees asked for further information on the Policy Review section of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meeting minutes. It was confirmed that any changes to the policy review process will not occur until the current bylaw review was complete. It was the will of the board to have Director J. Bryant follow up with B. Davidson and his letter to trustees regarding policy review.

3. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That Folio 3, from the consent agenda of the September 30, 2019, Board Meeting, 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 S. Piatkowski:

That the agenda of the September 30, 2019, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

- B. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by J. Weston:

That the consent agenda of the September 30, 2019, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

- C. Moved by J. Weston, 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

Trustee M. Ramsay attended Climate Action activities at Edna Staebler Public School with Grade 8 students.

Student Trustees N. Chenthivelnathan and M. Robinson shared excitement for the first Student Senate meeting of the school year happening tomorrow, October 1, 2019. The Student Trustees just returned from attending the Canadian Student Leadership Conference in Abbotsford, British

Columbia. N. Chenthivelnathan shared well-wishes from past Student Trustee B. Wahl from the University of British Columbia.

Trustee K. Meissner attended the Waterloo Region Active Transportation Forum organized by Intermunicipal Partnership for Active Transportation (IMPACT).

Trustee C. Millar announced that she would be sharing an invitation to the Bridges of Hope ceremony on Saturday. This event was created by two WRDSB students.

Trustee C. Whetham toured both Jacob Hespeler Secondary School and Preston High School.

Trustee K. Smith spoke about the Principals' Conference this past weekend.

COMMUNICATIONS BRIEF

Interim Chief Communications Officer A. Sloan shared a short presentation on Orange Shirt Day at WRDSB and how it is a way to honour residential school survivors, those who did not survive, and their descendants.

He then reviewed a number of upcoming events including National Custodial Workers' Recognition Day, Outdoor Education 50th Anniversary, World Teachers' Day, IWALK Day and the next Communications Good News Update.

REPORTS

STRATEGIC PLAN - EQAO AND GRADUATION RATE OUTCOMES FOR 2018-2019

This report was provided for information.

Director J. Bryant started the presentation by sharing an update on the status of the Strategic Plan. As WRDSB moves into the fourth year of the implementation and monitoring of the Strategic Plan, senior staff have continued to reflect on the impact of collective work and the ability to meet the needs of each and every student. While EQAO results and graduation rates suggest improvement, we are not yet satisfied and remain committed to implementing our operational goals that include a focus on mathematics, graduation rates and student and staff well-being.

Superintendent E. Ranney shared an update on EQAO Assessment results. Since first implementing the Board's Strategic Plan in 2016, EQAO assessment results for WRDSB students have on the whole improved. WRDSB has seen improvement in four of the six areas in Primary and Junior Assessments. Since 2015-2016, student achievement has improved in both Grade 9 math assessments. Results for the OSSLT have decreased in this same period. While concerning, provincial results are also trending in the same direction. As part of the ongoing Strategic Planning and School Improvement work, staff will be supporting schools to continue to address both mathematics and literacy from kindergarten to grade 12.

Superintendent R. DeBoer shared an update on graduation rates, which is another key outcome measure of our Strategic Plan. Staff are pleased to see that the target of an 85% five-year graduation rate has been met. While the results are positive, staff remain committed to ensuring each and every student who attends a WRDSB school graduates and is prepared for success on their chosen pathway.

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh provided an update on the Equity and Indigenous Action Plan. Engagement outcomes taken together with our EQAO, graduation rate, MDI and Workforce Census data, make it clear that in order to achieve our aggressive goals and targets we need to create a more inclusive, more equitable education system that recognizes and celebrates the lived experiences of our students and their families.

Associate Director L. Read shared that the Research Department has been engaging in statistical analysis of data from WRDSB students to determine exactly what the predictors of graduation are that can help ensure that 100% of students graduate from the WRDSB. This predictive model is entitled Road Map to 100. She reviewed the indicators of student success for successful transitions to secondary schools. This model reflects a significant shift in work as staff use data to get more precise in the strategies and interventions utilized.

Director J. Bryant thanked all those involved in the Strategic Plan. The October Strategic Plan Board report will provide an update on the operational plan, including new strategies reflective of the data, of the feedback received and of the need to continue to develop a more equitable and inclusive experience for our students, staff, families and community.

Trustees asked a number of questions of clarification.

SUSPENSION/EXPULSION REPORT AS OF JUNE 30, 2019

This report was provided for information.

Superintendent B. Lemon provided Trustees with information regarding monthly and year-to-date suspension/expulsion data for the 2018-2019 school year.

As a result of Trustee inquiries, Superintendent B. Lemon shared additional information on Keeping Kids in School, a Ministry of Education pilot project WRDSB was selected to participate in. This pilot project will provide another avenue to learn about suspension processes and the impact of suspensions on racialized and marginalized students.

Trustees expressed an interest in seeing more data regarding the number of suspension days and the number of students suspended. Superintendent B. Lemon shared that the Ad Hoc Suspension Review Committee will have an opportunity to explore the data, within privacy limits.

When asked about staff training, Superintendent B. Lemon confirmed that Annual Safe Schools training is provided for administrators and managers, and that the training includes Progressive Discipline.

QUARTERLY STUDENT AGGRESSION REPORT

This report was provided for information.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert provided Trustees with information regarding reported incidences of student aggression for the period of April 16, 2019 to June 28, 2019.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee K Woodcock shared a verbal report on the OPSBA Board of Directors meeting this past weekend. Summary notes will be shared with Trustees when they become available. Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, visited the group to speak to recent work done. There is a regional OPSBA meeting on November 2, 2019, in London, with professional development on board self-evaluation. The Canadian School Board Association conference for 2020 is in Banff, Alberta.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Peel District School Board to the Minister of Education - Private School Lobby Group in Ontario

It was the will of the Board to write a letter to the Minister of Education stating that we share the concerns of Peel District School Board.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Woodcock asked for the criteria used by the Ministry of Education for the Capital Priorities Program. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard confirmed that Memorandum 2019:B17 - Announcement of launch of 2019-20 Capital Priorities Program (CPP) provides the criteria.

Trustee C. Millar asked that staff review the recent email received from Regional Chair Karen Redman regarding Human Sex Trafficking in Waterloo Region and asked that students be educated on this matter. Director J. Bryant confirmed that staff are reviewing the information and resources available to determine age appropriate education. If needed, an update report can be brought back to the Board. Trustee S. Piatkowski suggested that the education should also address the risks of becoming perpetrators of sex trafficking, not just victims.

Trustee K. Woodcock asked for an update on PPM 162 Health and Physical Education exemptions and the status of WRDSB's exemption procedure. Director J. Bryant confirmed that

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staff are working on this procedure and that it will be implemented before the November 30, 2019 deadline outlined by the Ministry of Education. The finalized process can be shared with Trustees.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of September 30, 2019, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.