

**OCTOBER 28, 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, 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: J. Albrecht, J. Bond, R. Howey, D. Liebermann, S. Reidel, J. Scott, B. Ward and J. Woolley.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the October 28, 2019, Board Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by C. Millar:

**That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of October 28, 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. Smith, seconded by N. Waddell:

**That the agenda of the October 28, 2019, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera with the addition of Director's Performance Appraisal to Other Business.**

-Carried-

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

**That the consent agenda of the October 28, 2019, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

C. Moved by J. Weston, 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**

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

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

Trustee K. Woodcock shared that the OPSBA Central-West Regional meeting is this coming weekend in London, Ontario.

Trustee C. Whetham toured Cedar Creek Public School, Ayr Public School, Elmira District Secondary School and John Mahood Junior Public School.

Trustees K. Smith, C. Millar and K. Woodcock attended the retirement party for Heidi Kolb, retiring principal of Waterloo Collegiate Institute.

Trustee K. Smith also visited Howard Robertson Public School.

Trustee M. Ramsay provided greetings from the Board at both the Southwood Secondary School and Huron Heights Secondary School commencement ceremonies.

Trustee K. Meissner attended the Floradale Public School Turkey Lunch as organized by the school council.

Chairperson J. Herring provided greetings from the Board at both the Galt Collegiate Institute and Glenview Park Secondary School commencement ceremonies. She also thanked Vice-Chairperson J. Weston for chairing the October 21, 2019, Committee of the Whole meeting in her absence.

### **COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

Interim Chief Communications Officer A. Sloan provided the monthly good news update. The update included celebrations of staff with World Teachers' Day, Early Childhood Educators' Appreciation Day and Custodial Workers' Recognition Day. He reviewed the social media statistics, media themes and web traffic for the month and other activities which occurred in October.

### **REPORTS**

#### **STRATEGIC PLAN: 2019-2020 OPERATIONAL PLAN**

Director J. Bryant began the presentation by marking the beginning of our fourth year of implementation of the strategic plan, and 3 years of hard work, focused effort, learning, holding accountable to those being served by public education, most importantly, the students. The report recommends that the WRDSB continues to invest in the strategic plan and that the purpose statement be revisited. By the 2020-21 school year, the WRDSB will have landed on a refreshed, meaningful, engaging, resonating, inspiring purpose statement.

Associate Director L. Read reviewed the Conditions for Learning Framework which emerged from consultation with students, staff, families and the community. She reviewed graphs detailing the mathematics achievement of specific groups of students as they move from Grade 3 to 6 and then from Grade 6 to 9 followed by graphs detailing literacy achievements of specific groups of students from Grade 3 to 6.

Manager of Research Dr. D. Liebermann shared how staff are utilizing EQAO and Graduation Rates in new ways and information about the other measures being used. 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 WRDSB on their unique and chosen pathway to success. This predictive model is entitled the Road Map to 100 and was explained in detail. She also reviewed the Workforce Census, Guarding Minds at Work, the Plasticity Insight Survey and the Middle-years Development Instrument.

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh reviewed the Equity and Indigenous Action Plan areas of focus. Superintendent A. Mercier and System Administrator J. Albrecht reviewed the K-12 Comprehensive Math and Literacy Approaches. Superintendent E. Ranney and Mental Health Lead B. Ward reviewed the K-12 Social-Emotional Learning Program. Superintendent S. Miller reviewed the kindergarten self-regulation initiative.

Director J. Bryant concluded the presentation by expressing deep gratitude to his team, to trustees and staff, who work not only on the strategic plan but for their daily commitment to each and every student.

Trustees asked a number of questions of clarification on data collection tools and results as well as the future of the Strategic Plan.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board continue to invest in our Strategic Plan; and**

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board revisit the purpose statement by continuing to ask for feedback and by listening and learning from all stakeholders.**

-Carried-

#### **INCLEMENT WEATHER PRESENTATION**

This presentation was provided for information.

Superintendent B. Lemon provided trustees with the process involved in decisions to cancel transportation or close schools due to inclement weather as well as related background information on snow clearing and crossing guards.

Trustees asked a number of questions of clarification.

#### **SUSPENSION/EXPULSION REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2019**

This report was provided for information.

Superintendent B. Lemon provided trustees with information regarding monthly and year-to-date suspension and expulsion data. When asked about the increase in suspensions over September of 2018, Superintendent B. Lemon confirmed that staff were looking for trends resulting in the increase. He reviewed the process for positioning staff as caring adults to encourage students to come forward with issues and concerns.

Trustees asked clarifying questions around a recent CBC Marketplace piece related to violence in schools and on restorative justice practices.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend meeting time by 30 minutes.**

-Carried-

### **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board received the following communications:

- Simcoe County DSB to Minister of Education - Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines
- DSB Ontario North East to Minister of Ontario - Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines
- Ontario Public School Boards' Association Media Release - Secondary Class Size
- Waterloo Region DSB to Minister of Education - Private School Lobby Groups

### **QUESTION PERIOD**

Student Trustee M. Robinson asked what is being done around vaping in schools and assisting students who are afraid to enter bathrooms because groups of students are vaping in them. Superintendent B. Lemon confirmed schools use the progressive discipline process including calls home and school-based discipline. Vaping is covered under the Smoke Free Ontario Act and staff hope to be able to issue fines to repeat offenders. Vaping is a concern being addressed within the WRDSB's Mental Health Strategy. Staff are hoping to see changes to advertising reduce the number of students vaping. He noted that bystander impacts are taken very seriously. Staff want to support students who are making good decisions and that schools are still learning and adapting to this issue.

Student Trustee N. Chenthivelnathan stated that he felt progressive discipline is ineffective for vaping and asked if staff are monitoring disciplines and number of incidents, repeat offenders and successful disciplines. Superintendent B. Lemon shared that this data is not being analyzed at this time.

It was the Will of the Board to receive more information on vaping which is to include: information on vaping products sold in schools by students, administrator support, number of incidents and information related to the above comments.

Trustee C. Whetham left the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

Jim Woolley provided trustees with an explanation and handout regarding how class sizes are determined. This included a short exercise.

**ADJOURNMENT**

5. Moved by K. Smith seconded by N. Waddell:

**That the Board Meeting of October 28, 2019, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.