

NOVEMBER 18, 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), R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, N. Landry, B. Lemon, L. Read, G. Shantz, A. Sloan and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: L. Agar, S. Galliher, K. Penticost and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by N. Waddell:

That the agenda of the November 18, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

Trustee N. Waddell declared an indirect and deemed conflict of interest for the Preferred Option And Recommendations Of The Southwest Kitchener Secondary Boundary Study Working Group.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee C. Whetham toured Preston High School.

Trustee J. Weston provided greetings from the Board at the Eastwood Collegiate Institute commencement. She attended a Parent Council meeting at Forest Heights Collegiate Institute and presented on the role of trustees.

A number of trustees attended the Nutrition for Learning Community Breakfast.

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Trustees J. Herring, J. Weston, K. Woodcock and Student Trustee N. Chenthivelnathan attended the Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council Annual Justice Dinner.

Trustee K. Woodcock participated in a walking school bus pilot walk at Laurelwood Public School and attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Eastwood Collegiate Institute.

Trustees C. Millar and K. Woodcock attended Learning Together to Stand Against Intolerance and Hatred at Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School.

Trustees K. Meissner and C. Millar attended an assembly at Park Manor Senior Public School.

Trustee S. Piatkowski attended a number of events including visits to Cedarbrae Public School, Elizabeth Ziegler Public School, MacGregor Senior Public School and Winston Churchill Public School, Socktober at Elizabeth Ziegler Public School, Commencement at Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and the Annual Conference of People for Education.

Trustee K. Smith represented the Board at the Remembrance Day ceremony in Elmira.

Chairperson J. Herring marched in the Remembrance Day Parade in Cambridge.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 2002 - PARTNERSHIP AND SPONSORSHIPS

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard will follow up via email as to why the document references the *Conference Board of Canada - Ethical Guidelines for Business-Education Partnerships*.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2002 - Partnership and Sponsorships as presented at the November 18, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4012 - SCHOOL ATTENDANCE AREAS

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4012 - School Attendance Areas as presented at the November 18, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

Opposed: K. Woodcock

REVIEW OF NEW BOARD POLICY - SCHOOL SIZE AND CONFIGURATION

The policy was developed to replace Board Policy 3002 Elementary School Size and Configuration and Board Policy 4013 Secondary Schools to allow for more flexible solutions.

Trustees discussed the policy at length and some felt that too much guiding information has been removed from what was included in the original policies. For example, information included reference to magnet schools, configuration of elementary schools and optimizing the number of students who can walk to school.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer New Board Policy - School Size and Configuration back to staff for consideration of trustee comments.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4018 - FRAUD MANAGEMENT

It was decided that the policy should include a legal reference regarding the Audit Committee.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4018 - Fraud Management as presented at the November 18, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting with the additional Legal Reference of Regulation 361/10.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 5003 - RECOGNITION OF RETIRING EMPLOYEES

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 5003 - Recognition of Retiring Employees as presented at the November 18, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REPORTS

**INVESTING IN CANADA INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT - SOUTHEAST CAMBRIDGE
(JOINT USE PROJECT)**

This report was provided for information.

At the request of the City of Cambridge (City), the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) is providing a letter in support of the City's application for the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Grant for Community, Culture and Recreation projects. The City will be submitting an application for its recreation complex construction project. This project is tied to the WRDSB's new Southeast Cambridge (Joint Use Project) elementary school. This letter is in support of the joint use opportunities that exist within this project. It does not bind the WRDSB to anything it has not already committed to, and it has not financial implications.

Trustees asked questions of clarification and will receive updates when available about the success of the City's application as part of the Major Capital Projects Quarterly Update Report.

2018-19 TRUSTEE EXPENSES

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided a brief introductory statement about the next three reports and advised they are the result of the hard work of the Financial Services department and auditors.

This report was provided for information.

Board Policy 3001 Travel, Meals, Hospitality – Trustees direct staff to present, annually, a public report regarding Trustee reimbursable expenses during the previous fiscal year.

2018-19 FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT

This report was provided for information.

The Board of Trustees (Board) approved the 2018-19 operating budget on June 13, 2018, and at that time the Board approved a balanced budget. The 2018-19 year-end financial position is an

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in-year surplus of \$1.97M; this represents approximately 0.3% of the WRDSB's operating budget for the year. In terms of key assumptions and risk areas, the report provided material changes from the budget forecast, which help explain the year-end results. It should be noted that these items are consistent with the information presented to the Board throughout the year.

Controller of Financial Services N. Landry reviewed the material changes in both revenues and expenses. Trustees asked questions of clarification.

2018-2019 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The draft 2018-2019 Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Consolidated Financial Statements were presented. Dale Zorgdrager, Partner in the Audit and Assurance Group of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, was present during the meeting and elaborated on the audited statements.

Trustees asked a number of questions of clarification.

7. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by C. Whetham:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2019, as recommended by the Board Audit Committee.

-Carried-

**PREFERRED OPTION AND RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SOUTHWEST
KITCHENER SECONDARY BOUNDARY STUDY WORKING GROUP**

This report was provided to obtain Board of Trustee approval on the preferred option and recommendations resulting from the secondary school boundary study undertaken for Southwest Kitchener between November 2018 and November 2019. The report represents the conclusion of the Southwest Kitchener Secondary Boundary Study (SWKSBS). The Final Report provides a detailed background on the process that was undertaken, as well as the rationale behind the recommendations contained in this report.

Senior Planner S. Galliher presented the recommendations of the working group, sharing an interactive map showing the current boundaries and the recommended boundaries.

Trustees asked a number of questions about the report. It was confirmed that siblings of existing students would not be granted an exception (previously referred to as grandparenting) to the boundary changes. Trustees received clarification around Development Areas (DAs). Staff reviewed the extensive work done to review the safety of students walking to school.

8. Moved by M. Ramsay, seconded by K. Smith:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the preferred option of the Southwest Kitchener Secondary Boundary Study through the following five recommendations as a package (non-severable) effective September 1, 2020:

1. Assign the Glencairn Public School and Country Hills Public School 2019- 2020 elementary boundary areas (Affected Area #1) to Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute (from Huron Heights Secondary School);

2. Assign the Williamsburg Public School, W.T. Townshend Public School, and the Laurentian West portion of the Alpine Public School 2019-2020 elementary boundary areas (Affected Area #2) to Forest Heights Collegiate Institute (from Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute);

3. Phase in implementation of the new boundaries starting September 2020 with Grade 9 students, and students in Grades 10 to 12 within Affected Areas #1 and #2 who do not qualify for the exception listed under recommendation 4;

4. Allow an exception for Grade 9-11 students (i.e., Grade 10-12 students in the 2020-2021 school year) registered at Huron Heights Secondary School and Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute, whose address, as of the date of ratification of this recommendation (November 25, 2019), falls within Affected Areas #1 and #2, to stay at the secondary school where they started, or are currently attending until they graduate. (This exception does not apply to students whose address changes after the date of acceptance of this recommendation); and

5. Provide transportation until June 30, 2023, to Huron Heights Secondary School and Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute, in accordance with Board Policy 4009, to students who qualify for the exception listed under recommendation 4.

-Carried-

Abstained due to conflict of interest: N. Waddell

Trustee K. Smith left the meeting.

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

AD HOC BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE VERBAL UPDATE

Trustee N. Waddell shared the recent activities of the committee to develop a plan for consultation and that further information on a legal review process would be provided with trustees at a later date.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve a committee reporting extension until the end of June 2020.

-Carried-

OPSBA UPDATE

Trustee K. Woodcock shared a recent public announcement by OPSBA regarding negotiations. She also reviewed the upcoming OPSBA activities and events.

Trustee K. Smith re-joined the meeting at 9:00 p.m.

STUDENT SENATE UPDATE

Student Trustee M. Robinson provided an update from the November 6, 2019 Student Senate Meeting.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked about the WRDSB's processes for lead in drinking water including what steps are taken when problematic levels of lead are found and how we alert families and staff. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard explained the extensive testing done and when lead levels exceed the provincial standard, there are varied actions taken including shutting down the tap, water flushing or replacing the infrastructure. All remediation plans are posted on the WRDSB website and can be found in a site specific binder at each school. Letters are also sent home with families. Staff work closely with Public Health when any exceedance occurs.

ADJOURNMENT

10. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by C. Whethnam:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 18, 2019, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.