

**DECEMBER 2, 2019
INAUGURAL BOARD MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held an Inaugural Board Meeting on Monday, December 2, 2019, at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Board Room, with the following members in attendance: J. Herring, 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: E. Burns, S. Reidel, L. Slupeiks and K. Sonnenberg.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Pro Tem J. Bryant called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Director of Education and Secretary J. Bryant announced to trustees that he would be serving as Chairperson Pro Tem (temporary), in accordance with Board Bylaws and that he would be serving in that capacity until completion of the election of the Board Chairperson.

Chairperson Pro Tem J. Bryant invited trustees and guests to join him in the Artrium for seasonal music and the national anthem as performed by the Waterloo County Teachers' Choir.

Upon returning to the Board room, everyone stood for the territorial acknowledgement.

INVOCATION

The invocation was given by Students of Crossing Borders.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON/VICE-CHAIRPERSON

APPOINT SCRUTINEERS

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board appoint Coordinating Superintendents M. Gerard and M. Weinert to act as scrutineers for any elections that may be required for the office of Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson during the December 2, 2019, Inaugural Meeting.

-Carried-

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Pro-Tem J. Bryant provided trustees with a reminder of the procedure for nominations.

Trustee M. Ramsay nominated Trustee J. Herring for the role of Board Chairperson. Trustee J. Herring accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations at this time.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

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

That the nominations for the position of Board Chairperson now be closed.

-Carried-

Director J. Bryant announced that Trustee J. Herring had been acclaimed to the position of Board Chairperson for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson J. Herring assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Trustee K. Meissner nominated Trustee J. Weston for the role of Board Vice-Chairperson. Trustee J. Weston accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations at this time.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

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

That nominations for the position of Board Vice-Chairperson now be closed.

-Carried-

Chairperson J. Herring announced that Trustee J. Weston was acclaimed as Vice-Chairperson for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

BOARD VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S INAUGURAL REMARKS

At this time, Board Vice-Chairperson J. Weston presented the following remarks:

Thank you to Trustee Meissner for nominating me and for your kind words.

I am honoured to continue in the role of vice chair for the WRDSB for another year.

I want to thank Chairperson Herring for her mentorship over the past year. While I don't think I could possibly absorb all of her parliamentary expertise, I have learned and continue to learn from her. And thanks to all of you, my Trustee colleagues, for the support and encouragement you have given me this past year.

I would like to say that I am very proud to be a Trustee of the WRDSB and the Vice Chair of the Board. I am proud of the work Trustees have done over the past year - our Strategic Plan, policies, the budget and concerns from our constituents have been discussed at the Board table, and in committees, with a singular focus on how we can best support our staff and students now and into the future.

I look forward to assisting the Chair in her duties, along with the Board, over the next year as we continue these productive discussions and work with staff to support each and every one of our students.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S INAUGURAL REMARKS

At this time, Board Chairperson J. Herring presented her remarks.

Good Evening,

Thank you to Trustee Ramsay for your nomination and your very kind words of support. Thank you also to trustees for putting your faith in me to serve as your Chairperson for a second term.

I find it hard to believe that a year has passed since we all started this journey together. Speaking personally, this past year has been full of hard work, amazing experiences, and personal growth and I look forward to the challenges that lie ahead as your Chairperson.

This past year it's been a pleasure to watch as the newer trustees have settled into their roles and are thriving and we have all appreciated our experienced trustees who have generously shared their knowledge and have served as our advisors. I am very proud of the fact that this board has been functioning as a cohesive unit and continues to be very focused on student achievement and well-being.

Thank you to Director Bryant and senior staff for your work this past year. I look forward to supporting and enhancing the work of staff and trustees together in the year ahead, as we continue to ensure that our students are successful ...each and every one.

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But we still have challenges ahead of us. Building on our work to date we will also continue to focus on our Strategic Plan and to support staff in their Operational Goals with a focus on mathematics, graduation rates and well-being for all.

We hope to bring a quick and fair conclusion to the negotiations with our employee groups, we look forward with some trepidation to whatever might be in store for us at budget time and we will continue to support the work of OPSBA as they advocate on behalf of students in boards all across Ontario.

I firmly believe that the WRDSB is one of the best school boards in this province and we will continue to work as a team in our support of quality public education as we all believe that Public Education Matters!

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn't thank my Vice-Chair Trustee Weston for the past year. Joanne has been by my side this entire year and has provided a calm voice and has given me wise counsel on many occasions. Joanne, I couldn't ask for a better partner and I am very pleased that we will have another year of working closely together.

Thank you all.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Inaugural Board Meeting be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.