

DECEMBER 9, 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, N. Waddell, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustees M. Ramsay and K. Smith were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

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, B. Lemon, S. Miller, E. Ranney, L. Read, G. Shantz, A. Sloan and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: L. Baines, D. Liebermann, K. Penticost and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 6:58 p.m.

King Edward Public School Choir performed a selection of songs and O Canada.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the agenda of the December 9, 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.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson J. Herring shared regrets from Trustees M. Ramsay and K. Smith.

Trustee S. Piatkowski toured Margaret Avenue Public School, Empire Public School, Laurelwood Public School and Abraham Erb Public School.

Trustee J. Weston attended the Huron Heights Secondary School MYART Show and the Eastwood Collegiate Institute GALA.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegation spoke at this evening's meeting:

- P. Behnke - Vaping in Schools

Trustees asked clarifying questions about the creation of the anonymous reporting tool, student petition, access to vaping products and timelines for initiatives.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1014 - PRIVACY PROTECTIONS AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION

Director J. Bryant took this opportunity to wish Laurie Baines, Freedom of Information, Privacy and Records Information Management Officer well in her upcoming retirement.

L. Baines shared that changes to the policy were the result of a recent privacy audit and that the existing Board Policy 1014 Freedom of Information and Records Management be split into two policies.

2. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1014 - Privacy Protections and Access To Information as presented at the December 9, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF NEW BOARD POLICY - RECORDS INFORMATION MANAGEMENT

This information in this new policy was previously covered as part of Board Policy 1014 Freedom of Information and Records Management.

3. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve New Board Policy - Records Information Management as presented at the December 9, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4010 - VIDEO SURVEILLANCE

L. Baines, Freedom of Information, Privacy and Records Information Management Officer, confirmed this policy was also revised as a result of the privacy audit. The policy now refers to video surveillance at all sites, not just schools. Trustees asked questions of clarification.

4. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4010 - Video Surveillance as presented at the December 9, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting with the addition of “without an audio track” to Section 2.3.

-Carried-

Chairperson J. Herring thanked L. Baines for her service and wished her a happy retirement.

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 2012 - ACCESS TO DIGITAL RESOURCES AND TECHNOLOGY

5. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2012 - Access to Digital Resources and Technology as presented at the December 9, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4007 - APPROVAL OF RESEARCH PROJECTS

The policy was revised to better reflect current processes and provide clarity to external researchers. A new procedure has also been created.

Trustee S. Piatkowski referred to a conversation he had prior to the meeting where he and D. Liebermann, Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, came up with a proposed wording change to add Section 1.5 to reference research done internally. He moved that the policy be amended to include this wording.

6. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 4007 - Approval of Research Projects to include wording about internal research as Section 1.5 as proposed at the December 9, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Amendment Carried-

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7. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4007 - Approval of Research Projects as amended at the December 9, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF NEW BOARD POLICY - USE OF SERVICE ANIMALS BY STUDENTS

8. Moved by C. Whetham, seconded by N. Waddell:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve New Board Policy - Use of Service Animals by Students as presented at the December 9, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 3006 - STUDENT TRUSTEES

Student Trustee M. Robinson spoke to the policy changes and the movement of procedural content to a Student Trustee Handbook.

Trustee J. Weston suggested that the policy keep the first sentence in Section 3.8. The proposal would have this information moved to the Student Trustee Handbook. It was noted that the exact words may change to ensure they are up to date with the latest changes to the Education Act.

It was noted that the Student Trustee Handbook is available on the WRDSB website and that changes would only be made in consultation with the Chairperson of the Board and the Student Trustee Mentor.

9. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 3006 - Student Trustees to include wording from section 3.8 regarding the number of student trustees.

-Amendment Carried-

10. Moved by K. Meissner, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 3006 - Student Trustees as amended at the December 9, 2019, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REPORTS

VAPING BEHAVIOUR IN YOUTH

This report was provided for information.

Superintendent B. Lemon reviewed the provided report which included information trustees requested on vaping in WRDSB schools. Staff plan to continue to work with Region of Waterloo Public Health to share and develop messages about this current health concern. He spoke about the Smoke Free Ontario Act, the sale of vaping products, prevalence of vaping behaviour in schools and Ministry partnerships.

Trustees asked questions about the discipline process, next steps and how to best educate all students. Concerns of student safety and well-being in bathrooms were raised. Trustees also discussed the possible benefits and challenges of vaping detectors. Superintendent B. Lemon confirmed he has been in contact with tonight's delegation about Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School's approach to the issue. Trustees noted that any campaigns include parent communications.

Trustees discussed the motion proposed by Trustee N. Waddell. Student trustees asked to be a part of the process.

11. Moved by N. Waddell, seconded by C. Watson:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board have the Director request staff consult directly with the students at Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School regarding the student reporting tool that they have developed in order to report vaping at the school; and

That this consultation determine the value and option of rolling it out at all secondary schools in the region, and

To provide a written report on the consultation by the end of March 2020.

-Carried-

MOTION - VAPING LETTER TO THE MINISTER OF HEALTH

The Notice of Motion was served by Trustee K. Meissner at the September 23, 2019, Committee of the Whole meeting and was supported by Trustees C. Millar and C. Whetham.

Trustee K. Meissner spoke to the motion. She indicated that the notice of motion was brought forward prior to action taken at the provincial level. She would welcome trustee input on the motion given the provincial announcements.

Trustee J. Weston suggested that the letter recommend steps taken to combat vaping include those recommended by the Canadian Cancer Society.

12. Moved by K. Meissner, seconded by C. Whetham:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of 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.

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

That these steps include additional regulations on e-cigarette (vaping) products as recommended by the Canadian Cancer Society.

-Carried-

2020 BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

On December 4, 2019, the Chairperson, Vice-Chairperson and Past Chairperson, along with the Manager of Corporate Services, met to review trustees preferences for committee membership and have provided recommendations in this report. Chairperson J. Herring asked for future selections, that trustees only select one first choice.

13. Moved by N. Waddell, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approves the 2020 Board Committee Membership Structure as outlined in Appendix A of the report titled “2020 Board Committee Memberships” dated December 9, 2019.

-Carried-

DISCUSSION: STUDENT RECOGNITION

Chairperson J. Herring recapped the previous Board discussion on this topic from May 2019. She suggested that the item be deferred until such time that further decisions or research would not be impacted by staff on leave or bargaining.

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14. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by C. Whetham:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer the Discussion on Student Recognition to Agenda Development Committee to schedule at the appropriate time.

-Carried-

DISCUSSION: STAFF FOLLOW UP ITEMS

Chairperson J. Herring suggested adding a standing item on the Committee of the Whole and Board meeting agendas for staff to provide their follow up to questions asked at the previous meetings when additional information is required. This would allow Question Period to be used for new questions and their answers. Trustees agreed a 10 minute maximum would be sufficient.

15. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board add a 10 minute standing item to COW and Board meeting agendas for Staff Follow Up Reports.

-Carried-

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

AD HOC COMMITTEE ON SUSPENSIONS VERBAL UPDATE

Trustee S. Piatkowski provided trustees with an update on committee progress. The committee met for the first time on November 20, 2019. The next meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2020.

AD HOC FRENCH IMMERSION REVIEW COMMITTEE VERBAL UPDATE

Trustee S. Piatkowski provided trustees with an update on committee progress. The next meeting is scheduled for January 14, 2020, at which time they are expecting a report on the survey results.

OPSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING SUMMARY NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Trustee K. Woodcock provided trustees with an update from the November OPSBA Board of Directors meeting.

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AD HOC BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE

Trustee K. Woodcock informed trustees that the committee has provided the proposed revisions to the WRDSB advisory committees and posted on the website for public feedback. Committees have until February 15, 2020 and the general public have until January 15, 2020 to provide their input.

ADJOURNMENT

16. Moved by C. Whetham, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 9, 2019, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.