

JANUARY 13, 2020
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), M. Gerard, L. Read, A. Sloan and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: S. Reidel and L. Slupeiks.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

A moment of silence was held for the victims of the downed Ukraine International Airlines Flight PS752 on Wednesday, January 8, 2020.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the January 13, 2020, 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.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1001 - HEALTH SUPPORT SERVICES

Trustee N. Waddell requested that the policy's Related References be updated to include Policy 1006 - Supporting Students with Prevalent Medical Conditions and Administrative Procedure 1463 - Epilepsy and Seizure Disorder Management. She also asked that staff ensure all Ministries listed are up to date.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1001 - Health Support Services as presented at the January 13, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting with the additional Related References.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4002 - Community Use of Schools

3. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by K. Smith:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4002 - Community Use of Schools as presented at the January 13, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4020 - Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities

Trustees discussed the policy. Trustee C. Watson suggested the addition of section 2.1.6 which would include a statement about reflecting the diversity of the school community. It was also suggested that the committee include a student voice.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4020 - Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities as presented at the January 13, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting with the addition of 2.1.6 reflecting school community diversity and 2.3.4 stating student trustee representation.

-Carried-

REPORTS

NEW BOARD POLICY - POLITICAL CANDIDATE VISITS

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve New Board Policy - Political Candidate Visits as presented at the January 13, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

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Trustee S. Piatkowski moved to amend the policy by removing Section 2.4. Trustees discussed this amendment. A number of trustees agreed the current wording was not preferred. Trustees discussed different situations in which political candidates may want to visit or be invited.

Trustee C. Watson moved a motion to defer the amendment, but with no seconder, the motion was put before the Board.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend New Board Policy - Political Candidate Visits as presented at the January 13, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting to strike 2.4 from the policy.

-Policy Amendment Carried-

Opposed:
K. Smith
N. Waddell
J. Weston
K. Woodcock

Trustee N. Waddell moved to amend the policy to add Board Policy 3008 Use of Board Resources During the Election Campaign to the Related References and to modify Section 2.3 to address this policy.

7. Moved by N. Waddell, seconded by C. Millar:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend New Board Policy - Political Candidate Visits as presented at the January 13, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting to amend section 2.3 to read “Current trustees standing for re-election may continue to be involved in school events and activities and in accordance with Board Policy 3008 - Use of Board Resources During the Election Campaign.”

-Policy Amendment Carried-

Trustee J. Weston proposed a friendly amendment to change Section 2.2 to include “to visit schools” as in Section 2.1.

Trustees continued their discussion of the proposed policy. Concerns were raised about instances where candidates would be invited to schools by a class. The current wording would not allow this during an election period. The current wording does align with other school boards in the province. Trustees asked that staff investigate whether or not our policy would contradict and provincial or federal legislation allowing the government access to our schools regardless of campaign period.

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8. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer New Board Policy - Political Candidate Visits back to staff to make the approved amendments and bring back the policy at the February 10, 2020, Committee of the Whole meeting with further considerations regarding legislative requirements.

-Motion to Refer Back to Staff Carried-

BOARD REPORTS

EQUITY AND INCLUSION ADVISORY GROUP (EIAG) VERBAL UPDATE

Trustee K. Meissner provided an update on the recent EIAG meeting and work being done on the workplace census, student census and commonly celebrated faith-based days in the region.

Trustee C. Millar provided trustees an update on the EIAG Fundraising Subcommittee and the recommendations from this committee. The recommendations have been presented to staff and staff are currently reviewing. Some are complex and systemic and would not be easily resolved. She provided a few examples. Staff will update EIAG on their review of the recommendations; many are operational in nature and would not require trustee approval. Trustee C. Millar will provide trustees with updates as they become available.

Director J. Bryant agreed that a verbal update on some of the recommendations can be brought to trustees at the January 20, 2020, Committee of the Whole meeting.

OPSBA UPDATE

Trustee K. Woodcock announced the Public Education Symposium (PES) was next weekend.

STUDENT SENATE UPDATE

Student Trustee N. Chenthivelnathan shared an update on the last Student Senate meeting which had an Indigenous learning focus.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Woodcock asked for a follow up on PPM162: Exemption from Instruction related to the Human Development and Sexual Health Expectations in The Ontario Curriculum: Health and Physical Education, Grades 1–8, 2019. Associate Director L. Read confirmed that many school boards are still in the review process and require clarification. Trustees will receive an update mid-February.

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Trustee C. Watson asked where to direct parents with questions about the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group (EIAG)'s recommendations. Director J. Bryant suggested they contact members of the EIAG directly such as Superintendent P. Rubenschuh.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 13, 2020, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.