

**MARCH 9, 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, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

Trustee C. Whetham was unable to attend this evening's meeting. Trustee C. Watson attended via teleconference.

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, I. Gaudet, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, B. Lemon, S. Miller, E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, G. Shantz, A. Sloan and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: L. Agar, B. Kingsley, R. Howey and S. Reidel.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the March 9, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

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

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson J. Herring shared that many trustees and senior staff teamed up for the 3rd Annual KW Trivia Challenge for Hospice Waterloo Region.

Trustee C. Millar attended the Sir John A Macdonald Secondary School Change Cafe and volunteered at the Different Abilities event at Kitchener City Hall.

Trustee K. Meissner attended the Inside Ride fundraiser at Southwood Secondary School. She also attended the CFUW Cambridge International Women's Day Breakfast with Trustees S. Piatkowski, J. Herring, and K. Smith.

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Trustees S. Piatkowski, K. Meissner and J. Weston attended the Teach Them And They Will Walk webinar hosted by Ontario Active School Travel.

Trustees S. Piatkowski and Trustee K. Smith attended the LGBT Youth Line on February 27, 2020.

Trustees K. Woodcock and S. Piatkowski both attended Vaping Information Sessions held jointly by WRDSB and the Region of Waterloo Public Health and Emergency Services. One session was also live streamed for further public access.

Chairperson J. Herring shared regrets from Trustee C. Whetham.

**DELEGATIONS**

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- K. Rana - Quebec's Bill 21
- A. Nawaz - Quebec's Bill 21

**STAFF FOLLOW UP**

**OSSLT SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS**

Superintendent S. Miller addressed trustee questions from last week in regards to the letter received from the EQAO office. Staff are waiting for clarification as to whether the accommodations mentioned in the letter were mistakenly for the Grade 9 EQAO test not the OSSLT.

**MAPLE SYRUP EDUCATION PROGRAM VERBAL UPDATE**

Superintendent R. DeBoer spoke about the maple syrup education program and the letters of support received for the program. He noted that staff believe in the importance of outdoor education and the keen interest in the maple syrup program. He reviewed the recent history of the program resulting in the pause for the current year. Approximately 80-85 classes accessed the program at the two sites. For the current year, staff partnered with a local third party provider. Staff will continue to explore the feasibility of the Camp Heidelberg site and third party providers. The use of a third party may provide more opportunities for students within the same budget while allowing more students to access the other outdoor education programs as staff would be available. The May report will also explore the viability of the Camp Heidelberg site.

Trustees asked a number of questions and encouraged staff to get input from outdoor education staff and school boards with maple syrup education programs. A number of trustees were hopeful that the May report will include a viable way to use the Camp Heidelberg site for maple syrup education in the future.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1003 - SCHOOL COUNCILS**

Associate Director L. Read confirmed that the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC) were consulted on this policy. A friendly amendment was added to section 1.3 to add “and” after “inclusion”.

Trustee K. Woodcock stepped out of the meeting after moving the motion at 8:01 p.m.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1003 - School Councils as amended at the March 9, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting to include “and” after “inclusion” in section 1.3.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1005 - SAFE ARRIVAL**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1005 - Safe Arrival as presented at the March 9, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4008 - SEGREGATION OF DUTIES AND CHEQUE SIGNING AUTHORITY**

Trustee K. Woodcock rejoined the meeting at 8:07 p.m.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4008 - Segregation of Duties and Cheque Signing Authority as presented at the March 9, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 6010 - STUDENT DRESS CODE**

Superintendent B. Lemon consulted with Human Rights and Equity to amend the policy and to assist in the creation of a guide for schools. Student input will be included at the school level. Trustees were provided examples of specific situations in regards to economic factors.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 6010 - Student Dress Code as presented at the March 9, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

Abstained: C. Watson

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY G200 - GOVERNANCE POLICY – ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Trustees asked that staff update the policy to reflect the current Director’s Performance Appraisal Process in section 4.1.5 and to include any Municipal Act updates in section 7.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer to staff to update Board Policy G200 - Governance Policy – Roles and Responsibilities.**

-Carried-

**REPORTS**

**SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS FOR 2020-2021**

Superintendent E. Giannopoulos shared the proposed 2020-2021 School Year Calendars. A consultation process was established with representatives from stakeholder groups within the Waterloo Region District School Board, which included employee federations, associations and administrators. Superintendent E. Giannopoulos reviewed the highlights of the calendars including Professional Development (PD) Days and misalignments with Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB), which will result in additional transportation costs.

It was suggested that future reports include a chart showing past years costs of misalignment with WCDSB. Trustee K. Smith moved a motion to defer. This motion was not seconded and therefore, not voted on.

7. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Millar:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the 2020-2021 School Year Calendars containing 194 school days, as outlined in Appendices A and B of the Report titled “School Year Calendars – 2020-2021”.**

-Carried-

Opposed: K. Smith

### **2020-21 EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM FEE**

The Extended Day Program (EDP) fee is established annually in accordance with Ministry of Education (Ministry) guidelines outlined in O.Reg 221/11. A costing template, issued by the Ministry, is used to calculate the fee. The underlying objective in establishing the fee is to ensure it bears a reasonable relationship to incremental operating costs incurred by the WRDSB, and that the program operates on a cost-recovery basis.

Trustee K. Smith stepped out of the meeting at 8:35 p.m.

Trustees asked a few clarifying questions.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Extended Day Program fee of \$27.00 per day, per child, for the 2020-2021 school year.**

-Carried-

### **ANNUAL FRENCH IMMERSION ENROLMENT STATUS UPDATE**

This report was provided for information.

For the 2019-2020 school year, there are 42 elementary schools offering a French Immersion program. All schools currently offering French Immersion will continue and no additional sites will be added for the 2020-2021 school year. A total of 1457 students have registered their interest in the French Immersion program for the 2020-2021 school year during the first phase of registration. This is an increase of 6.9 per cent (100 students) over last year. There are 127 French Immersion home-school and out-of-area students on waiting lists. At this time, staff are waiting for the Ad Hoc French Immersion Review Committee report prior to making any process changes.

Trustee K. Smith returned to the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

### **NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19) VERBAL UPDATE**

Interim Chief Communications Officer A. Sloan provided trustees with an update on COVID-19 as it relates to education at WRDSB. Staff have been monitoring closely. They are working with OPSBA and taking direction from Public Health. Staff have developed an internal Response Team to focus on this issue. Information is being added to the website and a protocol has been developed for responding to inquiries. Schools will be receiving posters and staff are well prepared for cleaning and hand washing. Staff are also aware this may create anxieties for children and will be focusing on facts.

Staff are working with schools and families regarding cancelled trips abroad.

**MOTION: NEW BOARD POLICY - OUTDOOR EDUCATION**

The report contained a Notice of Motion served by Trustees C. Millar and J. Weston at the January 27, 2020, Board Meeting and was supported by Trustee K. Woodcock.

Trustee J. Weston commented that the current policy is focused on field trips and accessibility, and that an outdoor policy would be beneficial. Trustee C. Millar noted that this new policy would be similar to policies on adult and alternative education.

Trustee C. Watson moved to remove “within existing financial resources”.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend the motion to remove “within existing financial resources” so that it now reads:**

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the development of a new policy that encourages and supports outdoor and environmental education programs operated by the WRDSB; and**

**That is responsive to the needs of our students to receive equitable experiential learning opportunities in subject areas including, but not limited to, science, environmental education, geography and Indigenous learning.**

-Amendment Carried-

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the development of a new policy that encourages and supports outdoor and environmental education programs operated by the WRDSB; and**

**That is responsive to the needs of our students to receive equitable experiential learning opportunities in subject areas including, but not limited to, science, environmental education, geography and Indigenous learning.**

-Amended Motion Carried-

**MOTION: QUEBEC’S BILL 21**

The report contained a Notice of Motion served by Trustee K. Meissner at the February 24, 2020, Board Meeting and was supported by Trustees C. Millar and S. Piatkowski. Trustee K. Meissner spoke to her motion.

Trustees discussed the motion. Trustee J. Weston requested the motion be split. Discussion continued. Friendly amendments included sending copies of the letter to OPSBA, CSBA, local Members of Parliament and the Premier of Quebec. It was also suggested that OPSBA could lobby on behalf of WRDSB. The motion was determined to no longer be split.

11. Moved by K. Meissner, seconded by C. Millar:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board denounces Bill 21's intent and substance and reaffirms its commitment to its Strategic Plan and related priorities of human rights and equity, and safe and healthy workplace environments, which includes the freedom to practice one's creed or religion with dignity and respect; and**

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board is urging the province and provincial advocacy bodies to affirm their commitment to policies, legislation, and practices that promote religious freedom, anti-racism, as well as promote human rights, equity, inclusion, and belonging in neighbourhoods, communities, and workplaces; and**

**That this resolution be forwarded to the Honourable Premier of Ontario, local Members of Provincial Parliament, the Minister of Education, OPSBA, CSBA, local Members of Parliament and the Premier of Quebec.**

-Carried-

## **STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS**

### **AD HOC BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE**

With the completion of the public consultation, the committee is recommending a legal review of the Working Draft Bylaws. The cost to undertake a review will be \$4,500 plus HST. As part of the review, the Committee will ensure it makes note of any sections which are not suitable for the bylaws.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the expenditure of \$4,500 plus HST to undertake a legal review of the Working Draft Bylaws as presented at the March 9, 2020, Committee of the Whole meeting.**

-Carried-

### **OPSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

Trustee K. Woodcock shared the documentation from the OPSBA Board of Directors' meeting and the following reports:

- OPSBA Advocacy Day Survey

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- Strengthening School Bus Safety in Canada
- Regional Internal Audit: Model Review

Trustee K. Woodcock agreed to bring back more information on folio 130, if available. She also agreed to pass on a suggestion to include smog and CO2 emissions in the Strengthening School Bus Safety in Canada report in the future.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the March 9, 2020, Committee of the Whole meeting by an additional thirty minutes.**

-Carried-

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked what the WRDSB is doing to respond to restrictions on fine paper recycling pickup at our schools. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard responded that staff are still working through the recent changes including paying for pick up recycling services. Ideally, WRDSB would like to limit the use of paper overall. Trustee K. Woodcock stated she has heard of a school asking students to take their scrap papers home for recycling. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard confirmed staff are working through this.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

Trustee K. Meissner and Student Trustee M. Robinson served the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustees C. Millar and J. Weston:

Whereas printed meeting packages for public use are available at every Committee of the Whole and Board Meeting;

Whereas printed meeting packages are intended for single-use and are discarded after each meeting;

Whereas meeting packages are currently available on the WRDSB website and are accessible to the public;

Whereas a significant amount of recyclable material is generated and thrown in the garbage at WRDSB facilities;

Whereas the most effective way of reducing the WRDSB's carbon footprint with respect to paper waste is to reduce the amount of paper used;

It is recommended:



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**That the Waterloo Region District School Board no longer provide printed meeting packages for public use at Committee of the Whole or Board Meetings.**

**That all WRDSB Committee of the Whole and board meeting agendas be provided in electronic format.**

**That Chromebooks or other suitable technologies are provided for public use during meetings so that printed meeting packages can be completely eliminated; and**

**That the above recommendations be phased in with a final and full implementation no later than the first public meeting of September 2020.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of March 9, 2020, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:33 p.m.