

**MAY 25, 2020
BOARD MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Board Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. via video conference, with the following members in attendance: K. Meissner, C. Millar, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, N. Waddell, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustee J. Herring was 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, E. Giannopoulos, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, A. Mercier, S. Miller, E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, G. Shantz, A. Sloan and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: B. Jaklic and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Vice-Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Chairperson J. Herring.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the May 25, 2020, Board Meeting be approved, with the addition of the OPSBA Board of Directors Update and Announcements and Celebrating Board Activities.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by K. Miessner, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of May 25, 2020, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

Note: The following motions were approved in the In Camera session held earlier this evening.

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

That the agenda of the May 25, 2020, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

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

That the consent agenda of the May 25, 2020, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

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

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

Trustee N. Waddell declared she would not participate in the Trustee Vacancy Discussion.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Trustee C. Millar shared her pride in the Student Trustees who spoke on CBC radio. She also highlighted the Outdoor Education staff programs being run including Backyard Bug Blitz and Backyard Bird Count.

Trustee J. Weston thanked the Kitchener-Waterloo Art Gallery for her virtual background.

REPORTS

LINDA FABI BURSARY

The report was provided for information.

Vice-chairperson J. Weston spoke to the Bursary on behalf of Chairperson J. Herring. The Linda Fabi Bursary will provide funding for students who are pursuing a trade, through college or apprenticeship, and who have not already been selected to receive an award at the graduation

ceremony. All nine applicants were confirmed to meet the criteria and were selected to receive the 2019-20 Linda Fabi Bursary.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE

The report was provided for information.

Interim Chief Communications Officer A. Sloan provided an update on communications items including Director and Chair updates, distance learning profiles, COVID-19 FAQs and plans to recognize Pride Month and our 2019-20 graduates.

CELEBRATING GRADUATING STUDENTS UPDATE

The report was provided for information.

Interim Chief Communications Officer A. Sloan provided an update on two ways graduates will be celebrated Board wide this year. Firstly, staff will create a special Twibbon to share with graduates and their families that can be used on social media. Secondly, staff will create a crowdsourced commencement speech video gathering school specific footage recorded by teachers and administrators. It will also include a Trustee message for the Class of 2020. Other ways of celebrating graduates continue to be considered. Many schools are also continuing with a school-based approach in addition to the central celebration.

Trustees took some time to ask questions related to celebrating graduating students. Staff continues to work through ideas for students graduating different stages of elementary school. Individuals are welcome to donate to a specific schools' graduation through the Waterloo Education Foundation Inc. (WEFI).

COVID-19 UPDATE

The report was provided for information.

Director J. Bryant provided trustees with an introduction and shared the COVID-19 Framework. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided a Business Services update. Associate Director L. Read shared a graphic representation, created by Karen Scian, of some of the most important messages related to WRDSB's distance learning strategy. Trustee also received an update on Equity of Access, Summer Learning Program and Summer School Programming.

Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions of clarification.

Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, D. Liebermann continued the presentation with information from the Exchanging Ideas campaign that allowed an opportunity for connection and to hear ideas and questions from families, students and staff during the system closure. The main themes from the May 6-13, 2020, campaign were shared. Trustees were once again provided an opportunity to ask questions of clarification.

DISCUSSION: TRUSTEE VACANCY

Vice-Chairperson J. Weston asked Trustees for their input regarding the process for filling the position being vacated by Trustee N. Waddell. The start date is yet to be determined. Each trustee was offered an opportunity to provide their opinion.

Given the associated costs and current pandemic, trustees were not in favour of holding a by-election at this time.

Trustee K. Woodcock called a Point of Order as trustees began to discuss the appointment process. Vice-Chairperson J. Weston ruled in favour of Trustee K. Woodcock and asked that trustees only discuss whether to move to appointment or by-election.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy within 90 days after the office becomes vacant; and

That the appointment process is still to be determined.

-Carried-

Abstained: N. Waddell

After hearing that Trustees were interested in appointing the first runner up from the 2018 Kitchener Municipal election for the position of WRDSB Trustee, Vice-Chairperson J. Weston recommended that Trustees determine if the person is still qualified and is interested in potentially being considered for the position.

Trustee K. Woodcock moved that the Chairperson and/or Vice-Chairperson research the appointment process used in the past and bring forward the information to the next Committee of the Whole Meeting in June for discussion. This motion was not seconded and therefore no vote occurred.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board ask the Chair to contact the first runner up in the 2018 Kitchener Municipal election for the position of WRDSB Trustee to ask if they are interested in potentially being considered for the position and that they are still qualified; and

That the Chair will report back this information to Trustees at a future meeting at which point we will determine the appointment process.

-Carried-

**MAY 25, 2020
BOARD MEETING**

Abstained
N. Waddell

Opposed
S. Piatkowski
K. Woodcock
*N. Chenthivelnathan
*M. Robinson

* Student Trustees votes are recorded for the purpose of public record and for accountability to the student body; however, it is recognized that “a student trustee is not a member of the Board” (Education Act, Section 55 (2))

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

AD HOC SELF-EVALUATION TOOL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Trustee C. Millar shared that due to the pandemic, the committee was paused and has not yet determined a new process for Board of Trustee self-evaluation. She recommended that the Board postpone evaluation until June 2021. The committee will receive assistance from the Research and Evidence-Based Practice Department in the development of a meaningful evaluation tool.

5. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board postpone until the spring of 2021.

-Carried-

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the committee deadline to be within the 2020-2021 school year.

-Carried-

OPSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

Trustee K. Woodcock shared that Minister of Education Stephen Lecce attended the OPSBA Board of Directors meeting and responded to questions. The OPSBA Board of Directors approved their budget without any increase to membership fees. The Annual General Meeting has been postponed.

7. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the Board Meeting of May 25, 2020 be extended past 9:30 p.m. by an additional thirty minutes.

-Carried-

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Upper Grand District School Board to Minister of Education - Pandemic Response

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Woodcock asked if any consideration was being made for Board meetings over the summer. Vice-Chair J. Weston said she would discuss with Chairperson J. Herring and trustees could expect a response to this question..

Trustee S. Piatkowski inquired about access to mail for trustees. Director J. Bryant shared that mail distribution is resuming this week and trustees will receive direction shortly.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of May 25, 2020, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.