

JUNE 8, 2020
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Special Board Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. via video conference, 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), R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, L. Read, A. Sloan and M. Weinert.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the June 8, 2020, Special Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

Chairperson J. Herring started the meeting by taking time to acknowledge recent events. Her comments were as follows:

As a result of tragic and devastating incidents of violence against members of the black community, the world has come together to demand change.

Just last week, in the Region of Waterloo there were several Black Lives Matter events with many thousands in attendance and these events clearly signify that it is time for change.

Over the weekend, I, along with other trustees, received a significant amount of correspondence requesting a review of the School Resource Officer position as well as a request for incorporating racial identity and teaching about diversity in modern history courses in our schools.

As a Board of Trustees, we want our students, parents and the broader community to know that we are committed to supporting staff in doing the work to ensure that racism, in any form against any person or group, has no place in our society. As a Board of Trustees, we had already begun this work by participating in training on Anti-Racism and Implicit Bias and we will continue to explore ways in which we can become more effective allies and we will provide more information in the coming weeks.

As a Board, we recognize our obligation to the African, Caribbean and Black community, as well as our Indigenous community, and the need to do more to combat racism and its impacts on all people. We have much work to do, and while there are also other emergent issues that require our immediate attention, such as our budget and plans for school reopening in September, this will not change our focus or commitment.

We thank you for your patience and understanding while we begin this important work.

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

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

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

That the agenda of the June 8, 2020, Special In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

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

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustee N. Waddell declared she would not participate in discussion or vote regarding the Trustee Vacancy.

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

REPORTS

RETRIEVAL OF PERSONAL PROPERTY UPDATE

Superintendent E. Giannopoulos shared that staff have been working for a number of weeks to create a set of guidelines to assist school administrators execute a plan for families to retrieve their personal property from schools. Families will have an opportunity to empty lockers and retrieve items the week of June 15, 2020. Schools will be reaching out to families to schedule dates and times. The guidelines were developed with assistance from Region of Waterloo Public

JUNE 8, 2020
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Health. Superintendent Giannopoulos reviewed the health and safety precautions in further detail.

Trustees asked a number of questions regarding the details of the retrieval of personal property plan.

TRUSTEE VACANCY

Chairperson J. Herring shared that as directed by trustees at the May 25, 2020 Board Meeting, she connected with the first runner up from the Kitchener WRDSB Trustee election in 2018. The individual is both interested and eligible.

Trustees discussed the information provided. Trustee N. Waddell shared that her last day of eligibility will be June 25, 2020.

2. Moved by M. Ramsay, seconded by K. Smith:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board appoint Laurie Tremble to the upcoming trustee vacancy effective June 26, 2020.

-Carried-

Abstained: N. Waddell

MEMBERSHIP IN THE ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION

Trustee K. Woodcock reviewed the report for trustees.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 3007 - Membership in the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, and continue with membership in the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) for 2020-2021.

-Carried-

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

AD HOC CODE OF CONDUCT REVIEW COMMITTEE

Trustee M. Ramsay reviewed the report with trustees.

4. Moved by M. Ramsay, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the use of the proposed Integrity Commissioner to conduct formal investigations as set out in Board Policy G201 - Trustee Code of Conduct until the agreement expires on June 30, 2021; and

That the Ad Hoc Committee provide revisions to Board Policy G201 - Trustee Code of Conduct to reflect the updated process.

-Carried-

NOTICE OF PROPOSED BYLAW AMENDMENT

Trustee N. Waddell shared the report providing written notice of proposed changes to the WRDSB Bylaws for consideration of the Board.

Trustees were provided an opportunity to discuss. Trustee discussed the timing, legal opinion and concerns regarding duplication between policy and bylaws.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve scheduling the consideration of the proposed amendments to the bylaws on June 15, 2020, and as proposed in Appendix A.

-Carried-

Opposed: C. Watson

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson asked if staff were accessing parent groups, Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC), during the pandemic. Trustee J. Weston shared that WRAPSC had a virtual meeting last week where superintendents were present and responding to questions and that PIC will be meeting tomorrow night. She reminded trustees that they could attend PIC if they would like. Director J. Bryant shared that PIC, WRAPSC and Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) are valuable groups and staff will continue to connect with them. Interim Chief Communications Officer A. Sloan agreed to include upcoming meetings as part of the weekly communication update trustees receive.

JUNE 8, 2020
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

Trustee K. Woodcock asked if any WRDSB staff have been redeployed as part of the pandemic redeployment of public sector employees. No redeployment has occurred at this time but staff hope union group agreements will be in place by the end of the week.

Trustee C. Watson asked about celebrating graduating students. Staff continues to work with school administrators and communities. A campaign will be rolling out next week including banners for secondary schools and the Education Centre, bus advertisements, billboards, electronic billboards, radio, digital and print advertising. Grade 8 and 12 graduates will be recognized.

ADJOURNMENT

6. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by C. Whetham:

That the Special Board Meeting of June 8, 2020, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.