

JUNE 15, 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, N. Waddell, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustee K. Smith 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), D. Ahluwalia, M. Gerard, B. Lemon, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, A. Russell, 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 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson J. Herring shared regrets from Trustee K. Smith.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the June 15, 2020, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1002 - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1002 - Occupational Health and Safety as presented at the June 15, 2020, Special Board Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1004 - HARASSMENT

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1004 - Harassment as presented at the June 15, 2020, Special Board Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1009 - VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1009 - Violence in the Workplace as presented at the June 15, 2020, Special Board Meeting.

-Carried-

REPORTS

SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) UPDATE

Director J. Bryant shared staff's commitment to listen to learn and understand what students and families have experienced, to understand the concerns. WRDSB is committed to undertake a review of the relationship with Waterloo Regional Police Service (WRPS) using Human Rights, Equity and Safe & Healthy Schools as frameworks. Included in this review will be a consultation with a variety of stakeholders. The Ministry of Education requires that each board establish a school-police protocol and the SRO role is defined within this protocol. Staff will pause the SRO program while the review is underway.

Trustee S. Piatkowski joined the meeting at 7:09 p.m.

D. Ahluwalia, Human Rights and Equity Advisor, spoke with members of the African, Caribbean and Black (ACB) community regarding the SRO program. They shared the following community concerns:

1. Safety of racialized students
2. Role of WRPS in WRDSB schools
3. Criminalization of student behaviour
4. Diversion of funds from student well-being and mental health to police

Associate Director L. Read shared the list of stakeholders who would be included in the review. Superintendent B. Lemon provided a brief background of the SRO program and the roles and responsibilities of a SRO.

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Associate Director L. Read thanked the WRDSB community for bringing their concerns and call to action forward and to Trustees for providing staff with an opportunity to provide this update. She stated that staff look forward to engaging in a review of our SRO program, and through this process, arrive at an outcome that meets the needs of all of our students - each and every one.

Trustee asked a number of questions of clarification. The upcoming notice of motion is expected to be approved at the first meeting of the Board in September.

PHASE 2 CHILDCARE AND SUMMER CAMPS

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided trustees with an update regarding the Trustee Memo and Announcement posted today regarding reopening of child care centres. On June 9, the Minister of Education announced that Child Care Centres may reopen as part of the Framework for Re-Opening Our Province: Stage 2. The WRDSB is committed to a phased approach and to ensuring our facilities are safe and ready for reentry. Child care centres co-located in schools may open as early as July 6th, however, this date may be pushed back based on the readiness of buildings or childcare centre operators. Emergency child care will end on June 26, 2020.

ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS UPDATE

This report was provided for information.

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) has experienced a 21.0 percent reduction in our overall Energy Use Intensity when comparing 2018/2019 to 2008. The reduction in electricity intensity during this period was 14.3 percent, with a greater reduction in natural gas intensity of 23.9 percent. Total Greenhouse Gas Emission Intensity has reduced 38.8 percent since 2008. The WRDSB's natural gas and electricity budget for 2018/2019 was \$13.2M and expenditures were \$10.7M.

Trustees asked a few questions of clarification regarding the report. Superintendent M. Gerard agreed to provide trustees additional detail, via trustee memo, regarding recommendations from Public Health and others on how to operate mechanical equipment once schools reopen to minimize the spread of COVID19.

Student Trustee N. Chenthivelnathan left the meeting at 7:45 p.m.

MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS QUARTERLY UPDATE REPORT

This report was provided for information.

Current capital projects with budgets greater than \$2.5M are outlined in Appendix A. Project status, significant milestones, , along with basic project statistics, are also included. All projects are proceeding as planned through the design and construction stages with the exception of the two childcare additions at Saginaw Public School and Lackner Woods Public School. Business Services is still awaiting a response to "Approval to Proceed" requests that were submitted to the

Ministry of Education (Ministry) for each of these projects for additional funding prior to tendering these projects.

RECOMMENDED CHANGES TO THE WRDSB BYLAWS

Trustee N. Waddell provided trustees with a brief presentation regarding the recommended changes to the WRDSB Bylaws. This presentation included background, the activities of the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee, and follow up regarding comments made at the June 8, 2020, Special Board Meeting.

Trustees discussed the recommended changes to the WRDSB Bylaws. Discussions included policies, trustee vacancies and a small correction to the the Student Trustee section.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the recommended changes to the WRDSB Bylaws effective September 1, 2020, as presented at the June 15, 2020 Special Board meeting (Appendix A).

-Carried with a Two-Thirds Approval-

Opposed:
C. Watson
C. Whetham

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

That the WRDSB Bylaws be included in the policy review schedule to ensure regular review and alignment with all relevant legislation.

-Carried-

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

That the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee be disbanded effective immediately.

-Carried-

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee S. Piatkowski served the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustees J.Herring, K. Meissner, C. Millar, N. Waddell, J. Weston and K. Woodcock:

Whereas it is prudent for the Board of Trustees to regularly examine external partnerships to ensure that they serve the best interests of students, staff, the WRDSB, and the community at large;

Whereas concerns have recently been raised about the presence of police officers in our schools;

Be it resolved that:

1. Trustees strike an ad hoc committee to review the School Resource Officer (SRO) program and the Board's relationship with the Waterloo Regional Police that incorporates:

- *The origins and history of the program;*
- *The current scope of the program;*
- *Data on the role played by SROs (number and type of interactions, number of arrests of students, etc.);*
- *Possible rationales for discontinuing the program;*
- *Possible rationales for continuing the program, whether in its current form or in some other form;*
- *Information from other school boards on their relationship to their local police service and any changes that they may be contemplating to that relationship.*

2. That the committee consist of

- *Trustees (3)*
- *Student Trustee (1)*
- *Superintendent (1), to be designated by the Director of Education*
- *The System Administrator responsible for student discipline (1)*
- *The Human Rights and Equity Advisor (1)*
- *Secondary Principal or Vice-Principal (1)*
- *Elementary Principal or Vice-Principal (1)*
- *Teachers (3)*
- *Child and Youth Worker (1)*
- *Parents (3)*

3. That the committee consult as widely as possible with staff, students, parents, Board committees (including the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group), alumni, community groups, and members of the public in conducting their review and preparing their report.

The motion will be scheduled at the next meeting of the Agenda Development Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Special Board Meeting of June 15, 2020, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.