

**JULY 20, 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: J. Herring (Chairperson), K. Meissner, C. Millar, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, L. Tremble, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustee C. Watson 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, R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, A. Mercier, S. Miller, E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, A. Russell, G. Shantz 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 K. Smith, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the agenda of the July 20, 2020, Special Board Meeting 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 J. Weston, seconded by C. Millar:

That the agenda of the July 20, 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 Board of Trustees approve the payout of vacation credits in accordance with the following formula to managers, OSSTF-ESS save and except staff, executive managers, Controllers, Superintendents, Coordinating Superintendents, the Associate Director and the Director of Education, and that the payout shall occur no later than the August 28, 2020, pay.

Management and non-unionized staff will be eligible to be paid out a number of vacation days up to the lesser of:

- (A) 42.857% of the staff member's annual vacation allocation as of September 1, 2019 rounded down to the nearest half day; and**
- (B) The staff member's outstanding vacation as at July 31, 2020 less the planned vacation days for August 2020 less 10 days. The number of days calculated in part "B" cannot be less than zero.**

-Carried-

C. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board release any vested right, title and interest in and to the following properties:

- i. PIN 03855-0035, having the following legal description:
PT LT 18 CON 8 NORTH DUMFRIES AS IN ND748 EXCEPT HWY PL356;
NORTH DUMFRIES (the "Larger Parcel"); and,**
- ii. PIN 03855-0081, having the following legal description:
PT LT 17 CON 8 NORTH DUMFRIES AS IN ND14468 EXCEPT HWY
PL356; NORTH DUMFRIES (the "Smaller Parcel").**

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

WELCOMING TRUSTEE L. TREMBLE

Chairperson J. Herring welcomed Trustee L. Tremble and affirmed that her oath was completed.

Chairperson J. Herring thanked Karin Sonnenberg for her 28 years of service to the Board, four of which were as Administrative Assistant to the Chairperson and Board of Trustees. She wished Karin well in her retirement.

Chairperson J. Herring shared regrets from Trustee C. Watson

REPORTS

SECONDARY AVERAGE CLASS SIZE

The report provided information on the secondary average class size for the year 2019-2020 and seeks approval from the board to set the secondary average class size for 2020-2021, as required under the Education Act, 170.1 (3) (4). For the school year 2020-2021, the average class size for our secondary schools is to be 23.00. The change for the coming school year is because of the recent central agreement reached between the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, the Ontario Public School Boards Association and the Crown.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve a secondary school average class size of 23.00, effective September 1, 2020.

-Carried-

2019-2020 INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT AND FORECAST

This report was provided for information.

The information provided is based on financial results up to May 31, 2020 (Q3); a comparison between the budget and the forecasted year-end position was attached as Appendix A. As indicated in the 2nd Quarter (Q2) report, the emergence of COVID-19 and subsequent system closure on March 13, 2020, has had a material impact on WRDSB finances, and this trend is expected to continue into the 2020-21 school year. The underlying changes to Board revenues and expenses led staff to forecast that the Board will finish the year with an operating surplus of approximately \$7.4M, or 1.1% of budgeted operating revenues. However, given ongoing efforts to plan for a safe re-entry of students and staff in September 2020, and the costs associated with this, the forecast remains quite variable at this point in the year.

2020-2021 BUDGET OVERVIEW

This report was provided for information.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard presented to trustees the budget process and related Ministry of Education documents. He shared the guiding principles and priorities for the 2020-2021 school year. He reviewed the budget pressures and risks including decreased enrolment risk, short-term supply costs, personal protective equipment (PPE) and cleaning, extended day revenue, transportation and technology. He reviewed anticipated pandemic-related costs. The presentation also provided information regarding the Grants for Student Needs (GSN), including the breakdown by component, key changes, the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, the Pupil Foundation Grant, Transportation, Capital and Priorities and Partnership Funding. The presentation ended with the next steps for the budget process.

Trustees asked a number of questions and expressed concerns regarding the lack of funding for COVID-19 related expenditures and the impact on school re-opening.

NEW GRADES 1-8 MATH CURRICULUM UPDATE

Superintendent A. Mercier reviewed the new changes to the grades 1-8 math curriculum. It includes six strands: Social Emotional Learning and Mathematical Processes, Number, Algebra, Data, Spatial Sense and Financial Literacy. She reviewed the upcoming training and supports that will be provided for staff related to the new curriculum.

Trustees asked questions and expressed concerns about the timing of this implementation.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board direct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education sharing our concerns regarding the timing of the implementation of the new math curriculum and de-streaming of grade nine students; and

That the letter ask for a delay until such time as school operations are not being impacted by COVID-19.

-Carried-

Student Trustee N. Chenthivelnathan left the meeting.

COVID-19 UPDATE

Director J. Bryant commenced the update with an overview of the topics including preliminary plans for return to school and work. He reviewed the 5R framework which is steering the plans for September. Staff continue to plan for 3 scenarios: Full Return with Enhanced Health & Safety, Adaptive/Hybrid Model and Full Distance Learning.

Associate Director L. Read highlighted the focus on Human Rights & Equity throughout the decision making process. She also reviewed the guiding principles for return to school and work and the parameters in developing the return to school models. She provided the highlights of each scenario and reviewed the timelines for the decision-making process.

Dr. D. Liebermann, Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, reviewed the results of the reopening surveys completed by staff, students and families.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert reviewed staff health, safety and well-being as it relates to the return to school and work plan. Superintendents B. Lemon and E. Ranney reviewed student health, safety and well-being as it relates to the return to school and work plan.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard reviewed the transportation, facilities and cleaning and financial sustainability of the back to school and work plan.

Superintendent S. Miller reviewed the plans for students with special needs and the most vulnerable students.

Superintendent E. Giannopoulos provided further detail on the elementary scenarios and Superintendent R. DeBoer provided further detail on the secondary scenarios.

Chief Communications Officer A. Russell reviewed the communications plan for return to school and work.

Director J. Brant concluded the presentation with a review of next steps.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the end time of the Special Board Meeting of July 20, 2020, to 10:30 p.m.

-Carried-

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board suspend Bylaw 6.1.7, allowing trustees to speak without limit on the topic at hand.

-Carried-

Trustees asked a number of clarifying questions regarding return to school and work, the health and safety of both staff and students, transportation and the impacts on families.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board direct the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education sharing our concerns regarding the lack of adequate funding for Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), transportation, and other COVID-19 related costs.

-Carried-

Opposed:
M. Ramsay
C. Whetham

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

That the Waterloo District School Board extend the end time of the Special Board Meeting of July 20, 2020, to 11:00 p.m.

-Carried Unanimously-

Trustees continued to ask questions regarding return to school and work, the health and safety of both staff and students, extracurricular activities and the utilization of staff.

DISCUSSION: BOARD RETIREMENT DINNER

Chairperson J. Herring requested trustee feedback on the upcoming Board Retirement Dinner. The dinner was supposed to occur in June, but was postponed to October 8, 2020, due to the pandemic. She proposed postponing again, to the fall of 2021. This would mean we would need to honour two cohorts of retirees: 2019-20 and 2020-21. Both dinners could occur on either one evening or be split into two evenings. Trustees agreed that the fall of 2021 seemed appropriate and that holding two events, one for each year, over two evenings, would be best.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Woodcock asked if a time could be scheduled for trustees to discuss the impact of *Bill 197, COVID-19 Economic Recovery Act, 2020* on WRDSB. Chairperson J. Herring agreed to facilitate a discussion at an upcoming meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee K. Woodcock served the following notice of motion with support from Trustees K. Meissner and C. Millar. Additional support was also provided by Trustees J. Herring, S. Piatkowski, L. Tremble and J. Weston.

Whereas the WRDSB acknowledges that racism and racial harassment exist within the education sector and within the WRDSB; and

Whereas engaging in meaningful and sustained dialogue about racism and systemic discrimination is a commitment of the WRDSB,

Be it resolved:

That the WRDSB strike an ad hoc committee to lead a review of the names of all schools and board facilities using an anti-racist lens; and

That the review include specific attention and recommended changes to Policy 4020 - Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities, and related administrative procedures; and

That the ad hoc committee meaningfully engage Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities in the district, staff, students, parents, Board committees, alumni, community groups and members of the public in conducting the review; and

That the committee membership include, but not be limited to:

- *Members of the EIAG (3)*
- *The Human Rights & Equity Advisor (1)*
- *The Equity & Inclusion Officer - Indigenous Focus (1)*
- *The Equity & Inclusion Officer (1)*
- *The Director of Education (1) or designate*
- *External representatives from Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities or organizations (3)*
- *Trustees, one of which is the EIAG trustee representative (3)*
- *Student Trustees (2)*
- *Representatives from Indigenous, Black and racialized student population (2)*
- *Staff representatives as designated by the Director of Education (2)*

That the committee develop a scope for the review and timelines for completion and bring a report to the Board of Trustees by November 2020 outlining the review plan; and

That the committee bring recommendations including implementation plans to the Board of Trustees by February 2021.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Special Board Meeting of July 20, 2020, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 10:50 p.m.