

JULY 27, 2020
BOARD MEETING

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Special Board Meeting this evening via video conference, with the following members in attendance: J. Herring (Chairperson), K. Meissner, C. Millar, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock

Student Trustee M. Robinson was in attendance and Student Trustee N. Chenthivelnathan was not 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 8:36 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the July 27, 2020, Special Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the end time of the Special Board Meeting of July 27, 2020, to 10:00 p.m.

-Carried-

REPORTS

COVID-19 UPDATE - RETURN TO SCHOOL AND WORK

Director J. Bryant started the presentation with a review of the work staff have done over the last two months and the key partners involved in the process. He provided a brief update on the presentation made today to the Ministry of Education regarding the WRDSB's Return to School

and Work plan. He reiterated that Human Rights and Equity continue to be at the forefront of the decision making.

Associate Director L. Read reviewed the Guiding Principles and parameters in developing the return to school models. Dr. D. Liebermann, Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, provided information on the Intention to Return to School and Work In Person Form for Students & Staff.

Associate Director L. Read reviewed the three scenarios and the breakdown of four cohorts of students, providing additional information regarding Cohorts C and D. Superintendent S. Miller reviewed the plans for students with special needs and the most vulnerable students. Superintendent E. Ranney reviewed the plans to address student well-being plans.

Superintendents E. Giannopoulos and R. DeBoer provided further detail on the Full Return Model with enhanced Health and Safety Protocols and the Adaptive / Hybrid Model for both elementary and secondary students. Superintendent E. Ranney reviewed the full Distance Learning Model.

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

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

Trustees asked questions related to masks and the health and safety of students.

3. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the end time of the Special Board Meeting of July 27, 2020, to 10:30 p.m.

-Carried-

Trustees continued to ask questions related to distance learning, staffing, health and safety and today's meeting with the Ministry of Education.

4. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by L. Tremble:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the end time of the Special Board Meeting of July 27, 2020, to 11:00 p.m.

-Carried Unanimously-

Trustees continued with questions regarding health and safety, staff training and hands-on courses.

DISCUSSION: BILL 197

Chairperson J. Herring provided an update on the Bill which received royal assent on July 21, 2020. She referred to a number of schedules in the bill that may affect the WRDSB. Details of the changes will not be clear until the Education Act is updated. Chairperson J. Herring suggested that the Discussion be rescheduled by the Agenda Development Committee.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson asked if there were any plans to provide further graduation celebrations and awards for Grade 8 students. Director J. Bryant shared that staff understand the disappointment resulting from the pandemic and the inability to carry on with traditional celebrations this year; students were, however, celebrated in many ways this year. Associate Director L. Read shared that schools hope to have ceremonies in the future, but that it would be dependent on public health guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Special Board Meeting of July 27, 2020, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.