

**AUGUST 31, 2020  
BOARD MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Special 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, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Student Trustees T. John-Jandles and R. McDonald were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), D. Ahluwalia, J. Brown, R. DeBoer, I. Gaudet, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, N. Landry, 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, S. Reidel and J. Scott.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by K. Meissner:

**That the agenda of the August 31, 2020, Special Board Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by J. Weston:

**That the consent agenda of the Special Board Meeting of August 31, 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 J. Weston, seconded by C. Millar:

**That the agenda of the August 31, 2020, Special In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.**

-Carried-

B. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by K. Meissner:

**That the consent agenda of the August 31, 2020, Special In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved,**

-Carried-

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

**That we rise and report in public session.**

-Carried-

*Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.*

### **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

### **REPORTS**

#### **SCHOOL REOPENING PLAN**

Director J. Bryant began the presentation by sharing that staff continue to update the FAQs and Guide for Families as new information becomes available. Dr. D. Liebermann, Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, provided trustees with an update on the Confirmation of Attendance In Person Forms for Students and Staff. Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert reviewed the process for new registrations and transitioning between modes of learning. He also reviewed staffing and school reorganization.

Director J. Bryant announced that there would be a delayed start to the school year. Associate Director L. Read shared the revised Staggered Starts for both in person and distance learning in elementary and secondary. Superintendent R. DeBoer provided trustees with an update on the Secondary Program. Superintendents A. Mercier and E. Ranney reviewed information regarding the Elementary Distance Learning Program. Superintendent B. Lemon provided an update of the Public Health Outbreak Protocol and information on student health and safety. J. Brown, Senior Manager of Human Resources, reviewed information pertaining to employee health and safety. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard reviewed the Financial Implications of School Reopening.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board suspend Bylaw 6.1.7, allowing trustees to speak without limit on the School Reopening Plan.**

-Carried-

Trustees asked a number of questions about reopening schools. Questions were related to outbreak protocol, the Confirmation of Attendance In Person Forms for Students and Staff, secondary cohorts and schedule, staffing and use of school and outdoor space.

Trustee C. Watson moved the below motion. The motion was discussed by trustees. While the intent was appreciated, many trustees indicated that the work was already being done by staff. The motion was then withdrawn.

4. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by K. Smith:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board develop a plan to reduce or cap class sizes for JK-8 students in communities that may be at higher risk and that a plan be presented to trustees at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.**

-Motion Withdrawn-

Trustees continued to ask questions about reopening schools. Questions were related to family engagement, technical assistance, mask protocols and socially-distanced play-based learning.

5. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by K. Woodcock:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the end time of the Special Board Meeting of August 31, 2020, to 10:00 p.m.**

-Carried-

Trustees continued to ask questions about reopening schools. Questions were related to JK orientation, student privacy while synchronous learning, outbreak protocols, sanitation and cleaning and distance learning staff work locations.

6. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by J. Weston:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the end time of the Special Board Meeting of August 31, 2020, to 10:30 p.m.**

-Carried-

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided an update on the HVAC funding and eligible expenses. He agreed to bring more information on the portable systems to trustees in the future.

### **FEASIBILITY OF MONITORING TEMPERATURES**

The presentation was provided for information.

Director J. Bryant reviewed the motion approved on August 17, 2020. Associate Director L. Read shared the operational considerations from discussions with Public Health. Research Officer Dr. J. Scott reviewed the research of other jurisdictions that had implemented temperature checks. She also reviewed the effectiveness of temperature checks and non-contact temperature screening methods. Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert reviewed the staff considerations and Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard reviewed the cost and liability considerations. Director J. Bryant concluded the presentation.

Trustee M. Ramsay left the meeting at 10:05 p.m.

Trustees thanked staff for the report; most felt that this was not a feasible option for schools at this time.

### **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board received the following communications:

- Halton District School Board to Ministry of Education - Climate Emergency Declaration
- Rainbow District School Board to Ontario Public School Boards' Association
- Toronto District School Board to the Premier and Ministry of Education
- Halton District School Board to Ministry of Education - Task Force
- Halton District School Board to Ministry of Education - Hybrid/Adaptive Model
- Ontario Human Rights Commission to Ministry of Education and School Board Chairs
- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to the Premier and Ministry of Education
- MPP L. Mae Lindo and MPP C. Fife to Ministry of Education
- Halton District School Board to Ministry of Education - Return to School
- Rainbow District School Board to Ministry of Education
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Ministry of Education
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board to Ministry of Education
- Rainy River District School Board to Ministry of Education

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Special Board Meeting of August 31, 2020, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 10:24 p.m.