

**SEPTEMBER 21, 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, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustees M. Ramsay and K. Smith were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

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, 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: L. Agar, B. Jaklic and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the September 21, 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 L. Tremble:

That the agenda of the September 21, 2020, Special In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

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

That the Board of Trustees continue to conduct Committee of the Whole, Board Meetings, and other Board sanctioned meetings such as Parent Involvement Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, and Audit Committee, virtually, and that the Board of Trustees will have access to the Boardroom by October 19, 2020, should they wish to attend these meetings virtually from the Boardroom.

-Carried-

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve a decision of the Chairperson or designate and the Director or designate, and in consultation with Public Health as needed, to close schools for health and safety reasons with respect to significant COVID-19 or related challenges as permitted under the Education Act.

This would also include decisions regarding all before and after school programs and extended day programs.

-Carried-

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board direct the voting delegate to support Trustee K. Woodcock for First and Second Vice-President.

-Carried-

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

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustees C. Watson and K. Woodcock both declared a conflict of interest in the previous in camera meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Chairperson J. Herring shared regrets from both Trustees M. Ramsay and K. Smith.

REPORTS

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES (EDC) INITIAL PRESENTATION

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard shared that the board's EDC Bylaws will expire in 2021 and introduced Jack Ammendolia from Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

J. Ammendolia provided trustees with an introductory presentation on EDCs. The presentation included information on the existing EDC Bylaws, the process to be undertaken and EDC policies. He also reviewed recent legislative changes and next steps.

There were no trustee questions at this time.

BANK BORROWING RESOLUTION

In the normal course of business, the WRDSB borrows money to meet its operating expenditures. This is necessary because of timing differences between collection of revenues from municipalities and the province and payment schedules for the expenditures of the WRDSB. The Education Act allows borrowing up to the uncollected amount of revenues of the Board. The borrowing limit for 2020 was set at \$50M.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board adopt the Resolution, as outlined in Appendix A of the Bank Borrowing Resolution report to Trustees, authorizing the borrowing of money to meet current expenditures of the Waterloo Region District School Board for the fiscal year 2021.

-Carried-

BACK TO SCHOOL AND LEARNING UPDATE

3. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board suspend Bylaw 6.1.7, allowing trustees to speak without limit on the Back to School and Learning Update.

-Carried-

Director J. Bryant began the presentation by sharing images of some of the new school processes including sanitizing stations, wayfinding markers, masks and social distancing. He also reviewed the agenda for the presentation. Associate Director L. Read shared how staff continue to endeavour to keep human rights and equity at the forefront of decision-making. She also reviewed school council information, distance learning enrolment and provided an update about transitioning between modes of learning. Superintendent A. Mercier reviewed

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

the expectations for the Elementary Distance Learning Program and Superintendent E. Ranney reviewed the expectations for the Secondary Distance Learning Program. Superintendent P. Rubenshuh reviewed exemptions for synchronous learning. Superintendent S. Miller reviewed how the WRDSB is supporting vulnerable learners and students with special needs. Superintendent E. Ranney provided an update on supporting English Language Learners. Superintendent B. Lemon provided an update on school yards and playgrounds, COVID-19 case management and the student mask accommodation protocol. Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert provided information on the staff mask protocol, employee health and safety and school reorganization.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided an update on custodial staffing and the HVAC update requested at the last Special Board Meeting. The HVAC update included information on the portable HVAC units purchased for classrooms with inoperable windows and mechanically-limited ventilation. He also reviewed a summary of additional funding from the Ministry of Education, financial risks and implications and the revised deficit spending amount. Director J. Bryant ended the presentation with some reflections of gratitude.

Trustees asked a number of questions regarding the Back to School and Learning Update. The questions concentrated on Public Health high-risk and incidental contacts, personal protective equipment (PPE), transitioning between modes of learning, the mask exception protocol, staff well-being and mental health, health and safety protocols, costs related to COVID-19, communication process for families with concerns and split classes. It was the Will of the Board to receive reports on both class sizes and the use of space in school. These reports will be scheduled at Agenda Development Committee. Questions continued regarding students who are self-isolating, staff feedback, school councils and PPE.

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

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 regarding PPE, Public Health nurses and transitions between modes of learning.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

OPSBA MEMBER BOARDS' POLICY RESOLUTIONS

Trustee K. Woodcock explained that this was an opportunity for trustees to provide input and to share any questions they may want the voting delegate to ask at the upcoming OPSBA Annual General Meeting (AGM). Trustees discussed each Policy Resolution.

Policy Resolutions:

**SEPTEMBER 21, 2020
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

(a) School Trip Guidelines, research and recommendations from Near North DSB

Trustees agreed with the OPSBA Executive Council.

(b) Anti-Racism advocacy and action plan – York Region DSB

Trustees were in support of the OPSBA Executive Council

(c) School Board member code of conduct policies – Ottawa-Carleton DSB

Trustees encouraged the voting delegate to listen to the discussion during the AGM and to make a decision based on the discussion.

(d) Ontario Student Trustees Association annual fees – Ottawa-Carleton DSB

Trustees and Student Trustees were in agreement that a strong student voice was important, but were not satisfied that OSTA-AECO was prepared to facilitate that voice. Voting delegate will wait and see.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of September 21, 2020, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.