

SEPTEMBER 21, 2020

**WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING**

A **Special Board Meeting** of the Waterloo Region District School Board will be held via video conference, on **Monday, September 21, 2020, at 7:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**Call to Order**

**O Canada**

**Approval of Agenda**

**Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

**Announcements/Celebrating Board Activities**

**Delegations**

**Reports**

	Education Development Charges Initial Presentation	M. Gerard
01	Bank Borrowing Resolution	M. Gerard
	Back to School and Learning Update	J. Bryant / L. Read

**Board Reports**

04	OPSBA Member Boards' Policy Resolutions	Trustee K. Woodcock
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**Question Period** (10 minutes)

**Future Agenda Items** (Notices of motion to be referred to Agenda Development Committee)

**Adjournment**

\*\*All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered not to require debate by the Board of Trustees and should be approved in one motion in accordance with the recommendation contained in each report.



# Report to Committee of the Whole

September 21, 2020

## Subject: Bank Borrowing Resolution

### Recommendation

***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.***

### Status

In the normal course of business, the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) borrows money to meet its operating expenditures. This is necessary because of timing differences between our collection of revenues from municipalities and the province, and our 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.

### Background

With the growth in the WRDSB's overall budget over the last number of years, due to increases in enrolment and the extensive capital and maintenance program being undertaken by the WRDSB, the borrowing limit was increased to \$50M effective September 2012. Since then, the \$50M borrowing limit has been sufficient to meet the Board's cash flow needs. There is no evidence to support a further increase to the borrowing limit.

### Financial implications

The annual budget includes an amount to provide for the anticipated interest costs; for the 2020-21 school year, that amount has been budgeted at \$36,269.

### Communications

A certified copy of the Board Resolution will be forwarded to CIBC.

Prepared by: Matthew Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services & Treasurer of the Board  
 Nick Landry, Controller, Financial Services  
 Sharon Uttley, Manager of Accounting Services  
 in consultation with Coordinating Council

## Resolution

### **A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE BORROWING OF MONEY TO MEET CURRENT EXPENDITURES OF THE WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD (the “Board”)**

- A.** In accordance with subsection 243(1) of the Education Quality Improvement Act (the “Act”), the Board considers it necessary to borrow the amount of up to \$50,000,000.00 to meet, until current revenue has been received, the current expenditures of the Board for their fiscal year 2019.
- B.** Pursuant to subsection 243(3) of the Act, the total amount borrowed pursuant to this resolution together with the total of any similar borrowings and any accrued interest on those borrowings is not to exceed the unreceived balance of the estimated revenues of the Board for the fiscal year.
- C.** The total amount previously borrowed by the Board pursuant to Section 243 that has not been repaid is \$0.
- D.** The amount borrowed for current expenditures is within the Board’s Debt to Financial Obligation Limit as established by the Ministry of Education.

#### **BE IT RESOLVED THAT:**

1. The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson and the Treasurer are authorized on behalf of the Board to borrow from time to time from Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce (“CIBC”) a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate of \$50,000,000.00 to meet, until current revenue is collected, the current expenditures of the Board for the year (including the amounts required for the purposes mentioned in subsection 243 (1) and 243 (2) of the Act) plus interest at a rate to be agreed upon from time to time with CIBC.
2. The Treasurer is authorized and directed to apply in payment of all sums borrowed plus interest, all of the monies collected or received in respect of the current revenues of the Board.

3. The Treasurer is authorized and directed to deliver to CIBC from time to time upon request a statement showing (a) the total amount of unpaid previous borrowings of the Board for current expenditures together with debt charges, if any, and (b) the uncollected balance of the estimated revenues for the current year or, where the estimates have not been adopted, the estimated revenues of the previous year, less any current revenue already collected.

We hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and complete copy of a Resolution of the Board in the Province of Ontario, duly passed at a meeting of the Board and that this Resolution is in full force and effect.

**Dated** this 21st day of September, 2020.

**Waterloo Region District School Board**

Per: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Treasurer

**Date: September 1, 2020**  
**ISSUE: Member Boards' AGM Policy Resolutions**

**Background:**

The OPSBA Constitution states that "Policy Resolutions may be submitted by Member Boards for the consideration by way of Notice of Motion to the Board of Directors of the Association at any time throughout the year." Policy resolutions may also be submitted by Member Boards for consideration during the Annual General Meeting.

On August 24, 2020 Executive Council, acting as OPSBA's Policy Resolution Review Committee, reviewed the policy resolutions received from Member Boards for consideration at the Annual General Meeting in September.

The information on the following pages includes the rationale and motions that were submitted by the Boards, and Executive Council's comments following their review.

- (a) School Trip Guidelines, research and recommendations – Near North DSB**
- (b) Anti-Racism advocacy and action plan – York Region DSB**
- (c) School Board member code of conduct policies – Ottawa-Carleton DSB**
- (d) Ontario Student Trustees Association annual fees – Ottawa-Carleton DSB**

**Action:**

These Member Board policy resolutions are presented for the consideration of the AGM.

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**Origin:** Executive Office  
**Date:** May 3, 2019  
**Issue:** Near North DSB – AGM Policy Resolution

### **School Trip Guidelines, Research and Recommendations**

#### **Rational/Background**

At the January 28, 2020 board meeting, the Near North District School Board (NND SN) passed the following motion re: School Trips.

*Motion: That the NNDSB ask OPSBA to research and make recommendations to all school boards for consistent administrative guidelines with respect to all school trips both within Canada and internationally and to include suggested modular/online training for teachers, administration, volunteers and third-party service providers to reflect foundations” training and that OPSBA integrate their recommendations across all Ontario school boards.*

**Be it resolved, that OPSBA,** research and make recommendations to all school boards for consistent administrative guidelines with respect to all school trips both within Canada and internationally and to include suggested modular/online training for teachers, administration, volunteers and third-party service providers to reflect “foundations” training and that OPSBA integrate their recommendations across all Ontario school boards.

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#### **Executive Council comments:**

Executive Council members identified this resolution as being operational in nature. School boards use the OPHEA Safety Standards, and as such there already exists a significant degree of alignment on safety guidelines among school boards. As a result, Executive Council does not support the policy resolution. To assist the Near North DSB, OPSBA staff approached OPHEA and asked what they had available to assist school boards in this regard. Attached please find a letter from the Executive Director of OPHEA.

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February 11, 2020

Rusty Hick, Executive Director  
OPSBA  
Re: Outdoor Education Safety Standards

Dear Rusty,

I understand some questions have been raised about outdoor education and Ophea's Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education. For reference please refer to our website <https://safety.ophea.net/> for specific policies and activities.

The Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education (OPASSE), represent the minimum standard for risk management practice for school boards in Ontario. The Ministry of Education's [Revised PPM 158](#) recognizes and recommends that all school boards utilize the Ophea's Safety Standards in awareness building, training, prevention strategies, codes of conduct, concussion protocols, return to school and return to physical activity planning.

Ontario school boards would use OPASSE as part of their daily practices for any type of physical activity including student field trips and outdoor education excursions. That would include visiting specific activity pages and utilizing specific forms and templates as appropriate. It should be noted that school boards have the option to increase the minimum standards that are outlined within OPASSE but are strongly discouraged from lowering them.

Ophea has entered into a funding agreement with the Ministry of Education to develop and promote (in English and French) a Toolkit to support secondary school educators in incorporating safety standards into the planning, adaptation, and implementation of outdoor education experiences for students. The outcome of this work will be a high-quality relevant Outdoor Education Toolkit that increases capacity and awareness of school boards and secondary school educators to support student injury prevention during outdoor education experiences. Part of our goal through this work would be to enable more quality outdoor education opportunities for students. The anticipated release date of this Toolkit is March 2020.

To further support an understanding of how the Ontario Physical Activity Safety Standards in Education are developed and updated, I have included a 2019 infographic on our process. Ophea also has some capacity to work individually with school boards to support them through professional learning and workshops, and to consult with them around their local context.

As we prepare for the release of the outdoor education Toolkit I will ensure to keep OPSBA apprised of our work and the release date so that you can make school trustees aware.

Thank you for your interest. I am pleased to answer any specific questions or to come and present to OPSBA on any elements highlighted in this note.

Sincerely,

Chris Markham  
Executive Director & CEO

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**Origin:** Executive Office  
**Date:** May 6, 2020  
**Issue:** York Region DSB – AGM Policy Resolution

### **Anti-racism Advocacy and Action Plan**

WHEREAS, There exists substantive qualitative and quantitative research in public education chronicling the adverse impact of underachievement experienced by both Indigenous students and Black students during their educational journeys and which remains an ongoing challenge for school districts across the province with the graduation rate for Ontario’s Indigenous students presently sitting at 60 per cent (provincial data) and 69 per cent for Black students (Toronto District School Board Data) compared to 87 per cent for all Ontario students (2018); and

WHEREAS, Further research and inquiry reports, such as, but not limited to [Indigenous Education Strategy](#), [Truth and Reconciliation Commission](#), [Stephen Lewis Report on Race Relations in Ontario](#), [Roots of Youth Violence](#), [Ontario Human Rights Commission](#), [Elementary Teachers’ Federation of Ontario](#), [One Vision, One Voice: Changing the Ontario Child Welfare System to Better Serve African Canadians](#), have shown that the experiences of anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism are contributing factors to the underservice of these two growing demographics of students; and

WHEREAS, Both the Ministry of Education and school districts across Ontario have developed an Indigenous education strategy and have developed or are working on an anti-Black racism strategy; and

WHEREAS, The Government of Ontario has developed [Data Standards for the Identification and Monitoring of Systemic Racism](#) to support public sector organizations fulfil their obligations under the [Anti-Racism Act, 2017](#) to identify and monitor racial disparities in order to eliminate systemic racism and advance racial equity; and

WHEREAS, all parties involved in educating Ontario’s children are entrusted with a legal, moral and ethical obligation in understanding the urgency of fostering a learning climate predicated on eliminating anti-Indigenous racism and anti-Black racism and the ways they operate in schools to marginalize Indigenous and Black students.

### **THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED:**

**That the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association advocate to the Ministry of Education and the Education Equity Secretariat, that supporting the work of district school boards with regard to anti-Indigenous and anti-Black racism be a priority. This support must include funding, and should involve the sharing of research, including the collection of identity-based data on educational outcomes, as well as effective practices, strategies, and approaches.**

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### **Executive Council comments:**

Executive Council supports this motion



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**Origin:** Executive Office  
**Date:** July 16, 2019  
**Issue:** Ottawa-Carleton DSB – AGM Policy Resolution

### **School Board Member Code of Conduct Policies**

#### **Rational/Background**

Whereas, through their board member code of conduct policies, a number of school boards across the province have now gained experience in applying the provisions of Section 218 of the Education Act regarding conduct of members of school boards, which was introduced with Bill 177 in 2009;

Whereas, addressing matters of inappropriate conduct by board members in the most effective ways has sometimes been problematic in light of legal and other constraints associated with the process as outlined in Section 218 of the Education Act;

Whereas, the provincial government has provided minimal additional guidance to school boards in O. Reg. 246/18; and

Whereas, a review of the effectiveness of school boards' board member code of conduct policies, based on input from school districts regarding their experience, could provide useful suggestions for changes to Section 218 of the Education Act and O. Reg. 246/18;

**Be it resolved, THAT OPSBA advocate for improvements to Section 218 of the Education Act and O. Reg. 246/18 to enhance school boards' ability and authority to address unacceptable or inappropriate behaviour by board members.**

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#### **Executive Council comments:**

Executive Council does not endorse this motion as they believe that the current legislation provides for significant penalties for a breach of a board code of conduct.

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**Origin:** Executive Office  
**Date:** July 16, 2019  
**Issue:** Ottawa-Carleton DSB – AGM Policy Resolution

### **Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO) Annual Fees**

#### **Rational/Background**

Whereas, the provincial education funding formula was revised to recognize school districts' need to belong to their provincial trustee/school board associations at a time before the Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO) had been established;

Whereas, Section 55(7) of the Education Act stipulates that a student trustee shall have "the same status as a board member with respect to access to board resources and opportunities for training";

Whereas, the Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO) provides high-quality professional development opportunities to Ontario student trustees to help them work effectively in their roles to improve Ontario's education system for its students; and

Whereas, school boards' lack of funding for membership in Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO) may be a barrier to the participation of many student trustees who would benefit from having access to the resources of their provincial association

**Be it resolved, THAT OPSBA support and advocate for the recognition of annual fees for membership in the Ontario Student Trustees Association (OSTA-AECO) in the determination of funding for school district governance in the provincial Grants for Student Needs**

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#### **Executive Council comments:**

Executive Council recommends referring this motion to the Student Council Liaison Committee for further study and recommendations.