

**SEPTEMBER 28, 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, K. Smith, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustee M. Ramsay was 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, R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, B. Lemon, 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 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the September 28, 2020, Board Meeting be approved with the additions of a KCI Update under Other Business and an OPSBA Board of Directors Update under Board Reports.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of September 28, 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 K. Meisser:

That the agenda of the September 28, 2020, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

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

That the consent agenda of the September 28, 2020, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

C. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by K. Meissner:

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustee C. Watson declared a conflict of interest in the previous in camera meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Chairperson J. Herring shared regrets from Trustee M. Ramsay.

Chairperson J. Herring congratulated both Trustees K. Woodcock and S. Piatkowski on their new positions with the Ontario Public School Board Association (OPSBA).

Chairperson J. Herring shared that MPP Catherine Fife read an excerpt from a WRDSB letter during the Legislative Assembly of Ontario's Question Period.

Chairperson J. Herring announced she received an invitation to participate in a virtual discussion held by the Minister of Finance. She will share further information as it becomes available.

REPORTS

HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY ADVISOR POSITION

The report was provided for information.

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Superintendent P. Rubenschuh started the presentation outlining the support provided by the Human Rights and Equity Department. He reviewed the obligation under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms and the Ontario Human Rights Code. He also reviewed the Ontario Human Rights Commission Strategic Plan as it relates to education. He shared the WRDSB's commitment to maintaining a learning and working environment which actively promotes and supports human rights, where equity of opportunity, access and outcomes are realized. He then reviewed the departmental purpose statement and structure.

D. Ahluwalia, Human Rights Equity Advisor, shared further information on the Human Rights Division. She reviewed the areas of responsibility and Human Rights complaint investigation process. She reviewed related professional development, the use of the Student and Workforce Census data, employment equity, Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (A.O.D.A.) compliance and the Equity and Indigenous Action Plan.

Trustees asked a number of questions regarding the presentation.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

OPSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS VERBAL UPDATE

Trustee K. Woodcock provided an update from the Annual General Meeting (AGM) this past weekend. She will provide a written summary when it becomes available.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Lakehead Public School to Minister of Education
- Simcoe County District School Board to Minister of Education
- Upper Grand District School Board to Minister of Education
- Halton District School Board to the Premier and Minister of Education

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter of support for each of the four letters provided at the September 28, 2020, Board meeting.

-Carried-

OTHER BUSINESS

**KITCHENER-WATERLOO COLLEGIATE AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOL (KCI)
UPDATE**

Director J. Bryant provided trustees with an update on the COVID-19 Outbreak declared by Public Health at KCI. Superintendent S. Miller reviewed the communication process and shared

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that Public Health has now toured the school. Public Health applauded the efforts of staff and steps taken following the outbreak. Superintendent B. Lemon shared that staff look forward to reading the formal report provided by Public Health. Director J. Bryant assured the trustees and the public that the schools are safe and WRDSB takes the health and safety of staff and students very seriously.

Trustees asked a number of clarifying questions. Chairperson J. Herring agreed to ask if there is a specific number of cases after which school boards would move to fully distance learning if the opportunity arose at her weekly Chairs' meeting with the Ministry of Education.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee J. Weston asked about the status of WRDSB co-op programs. Superintendent R. DeBoer confirmed that WRDSB is only offering virtual co-op placements at this time as we cannot ensure workplaces meet the health and safety requirements of a school setting. Staff are exploring options for possible in-person placements for second semester.

Trustee C. Watson asked if we could invite Public Health to present and respond to outbreak protocol questions at a future board meeting. Director J. Bryant agreed to ask Public Health and provide the response at the next Agenda Development Committee meeting.

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked if students in secondary specialist programs such as Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) and International Baccalaureate (IB) will be able to meet their graduation requirements. Superintendent R. DeBoer confirmed that IB requirements will be met and that staff are working to assist students requiring co-ops to best fulfill their requirements.

Trustee C. Millar asked if we were aware of any meetings the MOE has with post-secondary institutions. Director J. Bryant shared that while he cannot speak for the MOE, he knows they are well connected within the education sector including post-secondary. Trustee C. Millar asked if credits earned through distance learning or a hybrid model will be indicated as such on a transcript. Superintendent R. DeBoer shared that at this time, there has been no direction to do so.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of September 28, 2020, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.