

**OCTOBER 19, 2020**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Committee of the Whole Meeting 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. Alhuwalia, 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 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson J. Herring shared that some, but not all trustees will be attending the meeting from the Boardroom. She is considered to be high risk for COVID-19 and will be participating from home.

She also thanked trustees for their representation in recognition of Local Government Week.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the October 19, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved with the addition of two more delegations.**

-Carried-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**DELEGATIONS**

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Barry Cull - School Resource Officer Program
- Andrea Vásquez Jiménez - School Resource Officer Program

A third delegation was registered, but was not in attendance.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4005 - PROCUREMENT**

2. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by M. Ramsay:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4005 - Procurement as presented at the October 19, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4015 - PROCUREMENT CARDS**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4015 - Procurement Cards as presented at the October 19, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 5008 - STAFF DRESS CODE**

4. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by K. Woodcock:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 5008 - Staff Dress Code as presented at the October 19, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 6012 - PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO STUDENT CONCUSSIONS**

Superintendent B. Lemon shared that following a legal review, this policy was found to be compliant with Ministry of Education requirements. Some small wording revisions were made to strengthen the document.

Trustee J. Weston suggested that the section 4.2 reflect the requirement for annual training. It was confirmed that expectations and timelines can be located in the procedure but that the sentence could be updated to say "...complete WRDSB training annually...". This housekeeping update was accepted by the Trustees.

Trustees asked additional questions of clarification regarding family access to documents and concussions that occur outside of school.

5. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by C. Whetham:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 6012 - Prevention and Response to Student Concussions as presented at the October 19, 2020, Committee of the Whole Meeting, with the housekeeping revision to section 4.2.**

-Carried-

## **REPORTS**

### **2020-2021 IDENTIFICATION, PLACEMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEES (IPRC) MEMBERSHIP**

The Waterloo Region District School Board operates Identification, Placement and Review Committees. These committees are organized within schools, areas of schools and the district. According to Regulation 181/98 of the Education Act, "Each board shall establish one or more committees for the identification and placement of exceptional pupils, determine the jurisdiction of each committee and establish the manner of selecting the chair of each committee."

6. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by M. Ramsay:

**That the jurisdiction of each of these committees as outlined below and the attached Appendix A outlining WRDSB IPRC Committees, is approved:**

**A) School Committees: A school IPRC is held when a program modification to accommodate an exceptional student with Special Education Needs can be accomplished within the home school environment.**

**B) Area Committees: An area IPRC is held when program modifications to accommodate an exceptional student with Special Education Needs is necessary for them to access a designated program within their current school environment or if a change in schools is required for the student to access the designated program.**

**C) District Committees: A district IPRC is held when program modifications to accommodate an exceptional student with Special Education Needs requires placement in cross-district Special Education Programs (i.e., Provincial School). This occurs when school and district resources have been exhausted or when specialized equipment that is not available in a school setting is being considered.**

-Carried-

### **MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS QUARTERLY UPDATE**

This report was provided for information.

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Current capital projects with budgets greater than \$2.5M were presented with dashboard symbols to indicate the status of each project relative to the schedule, budget and scope. Significant milestones, along with basic project statistics, were also presented. All projects are proceeding as planned through the design and construction stages with the exception of the childcare additions at Saginaw Public School and Lackner Woods Public School. Business Services is still awaiting for a response to “Approval to Proceed” requests that were submitted to the Ministry for each of these projects for additional funding prior to tendering these projects.

**HVAC UPDATE - COVID-19**

This report was provided for information.

Memo 2020:B12, Optimizing Air Quality in Schools, detailed the \$50M investment the Ministry made into Heating, Ventilation, and Air Conditioning (HVAC) in schools. It detailed the \$1,467,400 the Waterloo Region District School Board would receive and the constraints regarding spending that included HVAC effectiveness improvements, commissioning and building audits and assessments, and air purifier purchases with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) and filters. Facility Services was pleased to report that it has completed adjustments to all ventilation air dampers within our system to increase fresh air intake into our buildings. As of September 18, 2020, in response to the Ministry of Education, WRDSB has ordered and expects receipt of 276 portable air purifiers by the end of October. Many of these units have been deployed to schools. The WRDSB will continue to purchase more units as needs are identified.

Trustees asked questions of clarification regarding the shortage of trades staff and the fresh air intake during the winter months.

**COVID-19 QUESTION PERIOD**

Chairperson J. Herring facilitated an opportunity for trustees to ask questions regarding the COVID-19 Pandemic as it relates to school and board operations. Questions were raised regarding secondary exams, timelines for elementary reorganization, co-op placements, parent communication, graduation ceremonies and the new math curriculum.

Staff agreed to bring a further report on staff morale in schools at the October 26, 2020, Board Meeting. It was the will of the Board to include staffing information to the report on class sizes in November.

**MOTION: BOARD PACKAGES**

Trustee K. Meissner introduced the motion which was developed by Student Trustee M. Robinson in March. The purpose is to reduce our environmental impact.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board no longer provide printed meeting packages for public use at Committee of the Whole or Board Meetings; and**

**That all WRDSB Committee of the Whole and Board meeting agendas be provided in electronic format; and**

**That Chromebooks or other suitable technologies are provided for public use during meetings so that printed meeting packages can be completely eliminated; and**

**That the above recommendations be phased in with a final and full implementation no later than the first meeting, post COVID-19, where the public is invited to attend in person.**

After the motion was moved and seconded, Student Trustee T. John-Jandles asked that it be amended to include no longer printing agendas for trustees. When discussing the amendment, trustees expressed concerns for individuals who struggle with technology. It was noted that meetings have been virtual and without paper agenda packages since the school closure began in March.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend the motion to read:**

**“That the Waterloo Region District School Board no longer provide printed meeting packages for Trustee or public use at Committee of the Whole or Board Meetings; and**

**That all WRDSB Committee of the Whole and Board meeting agendas be provided in electronic format; and**

**That Chromebooks or other suitable technologies are provided for public use during meetings so that printed meeting packages can be completely eliminated; and**

**That the above recommendations be phased in with a final and full implementation no later than the first meeting, post COVID-19, where the public is invited to attend in person.”**

-Amended Carried-

Opposed:  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

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Trustees debated the main motion as amended. Trustees also discussed the logistics of having Chromebooks or other devices in the Boardroom. They requested that legislation be checked for any requirements to provide the agenda package. Trustees were also curious as to what other school boards provide for the public. Trustees decided that more information would be needed and that the motion was deferred.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board defer the following amended motion to the October 26, 2020, Board Meeting:**

**“That the Waterloo Region District School Board no longer provide printed meeting packages for Trustee or public use at Committee of the Whole or Board Meetings; and**

**That all WRDSB Committee of the Whole and Board meeting agendas be provided in electronic format; and**

**That Chromebooks or other suitable technologies are provided for public use during meetings so that printed meeting packages can be completely eliminated; and**

**That the above recommendations be phased in with a final and full implementation no later than the first meeting, post COVID-19, where the public is invited to attend in person.”**

-Motion to Defer Carried-

**MOTION: SCHOOL RESOURCE OFFICER (SRO) REVIEW**

Trustee S. Piatkowski introduced the motion and suggested that a review is a reasonable compromise as some stakeholders would like the program to end without debate, while others feel it is valuable and should be maintained. He referred to a small error in the Terms of Reference where Educational Assistant is mentioned but it should be a Child and Youth Worker. The SRO program is currently suspended until a decision can be made.

Trustees were provided an opportunity to debate the motion and ask questions of clarification.

10. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by C. Millar:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board strike an ad hoc committee to review the School Resource Officer (SRO) program and the Board's relationship with the Waterloo Regional Police that incorporates:**

- **The origins and history of the program;**
- **The current scope of the program;**

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- **Data on the role played by SROs (number and type of interactions, number of arrests of students, etc.);**
- **Possible rationales for discontinuing the program;**
- **Possible rationales for continuing the program, whether in its current form or in some other form;**
- **Information from other school boards on their relationship to their local police service and any changes that they may be contemplating to that relationship; and**

**That the committee consist of**

- **Trustees (3)**
- **Student Trustee (1)**
- **Superintendent (1), to be designated by the Director of Education**
- **The System Administrator responsible for student discipline (1)**
- **The Human Rights and Equity Advisor (1)**
- **Secondary Principal or Vice-Principal (1)**
- **Elementary Principal or Vice-Principal (1)**
- **Teachers (3)**
- **Child and Youth Worker (1)**
- **Parents (3)**
- **Students (3); and**

**That the committee consult as widely as possible with staff, students, parents, Board committees (including the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group), alumni, community groups and members of the public in conducting their review and preparing their report.**

-Carried-

**MOTION: REVIEW OF SCHOOL NAMES**

Trustee K. Woodcock introduced the motion as a continuation of work being done to acknowledge racism occurring in the WRDSB and to have a meaningful dialogue.

Trustees debated the motion. A motion was made by Trustee C. Millar to change the committee co-chairs, but it did not have a second, and was, therefore not considered. Debate continued. All trustees agreed that given the challenges of this school year, that the Agenda Development Committee can review and change the timelines accordingly. A friendly amendment was also made to include parent representation on the committee.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board strike an ad hoc committee to lead a review of the names of all schools and board facilities using an anti-racist lens; and**

**That the review include specific attention and recommended changes to Policy 4020**

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**- Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities, and related administrative procedures; and**

**That the ad hoc committee meaningfully engage Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities in the district, staff, students, parents, Board committees, alumni, community groups and members of the public in conducting the review; and**

**That the committee membership include, but not be limited to:**

- **Members of the EIAG (3)**
- **The Human Rights & Equity Advisor (1)**
- **The Equity & Inclusion Officer - Indigenous Focus (1)**
- **The Equity & Inclusion Officer (1)**
- **The Director of Education (1) or designate**
- **External representatives from Indigenous, Black, and racialized communities or organizations (3)**
- **Trustees, one of which is the EIAG trustee representative (3)**
- **Student Trustees (2)**
- **Representatives from Indigenous, Black and racialized student population (2)**
- **Staff representatives as designated by the Director of Education (2); and**
- **Parent Representative**

**That the committee develop a scope for the review and timelines for completion and bring a report to the Board of Trustees by November 2020 outlining the review plan; and**

**That the committee bring recommendations including implementation plans to the Board of Trustees by February 2021; and**

**That the timelines be reviewed and may be changed by the Agenda Development Committee if necessary.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
M. Ramsay  
K. Smith  
C. Whetham  
\*T. John-Jandles  
\*R. McDonald

\*Student Trustees votes are recorded for the purpose of public record and for accountability to the student body; however, it is recognized that “a student trustee is not a member of the Board” (Education Act, Section 55 (2))

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

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 19, 2020, be extended by thirty minutes.**

-Carried-

**BOARD REPORTS**

**OPSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS SUMMARY**

Trustee K. Woodcock reviewed the OPSBA Board of Directors meeting report from September 25-26, 2020.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee C. Millar asked if any of the mental health funding was being used to increase the number of CYWs in schools. Superintendent S. Miller shared the number continues to increase year over year and that consideration is given to both additional CYWs and Social Workers.

Trustee M. Ramsay suggested staff allow individual schools to plan their ceremonies in order to make them more meaningful and substantive. Chairperson J. Herring reminded him that this was allowed in the spring and that many parents called with concerns regarding the inequities and trustees advocated for more equality among school practices. Chief Communications Officer A. Russell shared that schools had opportunities in the spring and that the WRDSB did a major advertising campaign celebrating graduates. She shared that all types of celebrations must be done differently this year and that the Board would not want to be responsible for a COVID-19 super-spreader event. WRDSB continues to try and make the ceremonies as special as possible.

Trustee C. Watson expressed concerns that students were not consulted directly in regards to graduation ceremony decisions.

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked what is being done to address parent concerns regarding a new exit at William G. Davis Public School. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard shared a virtual meeting being held on Wednesday including representation from Langs and the City of Cambridge.

**ADJOURNMENT**

13. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Whetham:

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 19, 2020, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:47 p.m.