

**NOVEMBER 30, 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, M. Ramsay, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustee K. Smith 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), R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, B. Lemon, A. Mercier, S. Miller, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, A. Russell, G. Shantz, and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: B. Jaklic, S. Reidel.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson J. Herring called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the November 30, 2020, Board Meeting be approved with the addition of OPSBA Regional Meeting Update under Board Reports.**

-Carried-

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of November 30, 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 S. Piatkowski, seconded by L. Tremble:

**That the agenda of the November 30, 2020, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera with the addition of Centennial Public School (W) under Employee Relations and Staffing.**

-Carried-

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

**That the consent agenda of the November 30, 2020, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

C. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by K. Woodcock:

**That Chairperson J. Herring read the statement as discussed at the following Committee of the Whole Meeting and send the letter of apology to the Black Brilliance Advisory Committee.**

-Carried unanimously-

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Local Agreement, summarized in the report, dated November 30, 2020, with the Board's Educational Assistants Association, for the period September 1, 2019, to August 31, 2022.**

-Carried-

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

**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 at the previous in camera meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES**

Chairperson J. Herring shared the following statement as approved at the previous in camera meeting:

*On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Waterloo Region District School Board, I want to extend our most sincere apologies for comments that were made during our October 19, 2020, Committee Of the Whole meeting.*

*It is never our intention to offend, harm or disrespect, any individuals or groups and we are truly dismayed that this was the experience for some members of our community. Our goal around the Board table is for those who are tuning in to our meetings to feel informed, connected, and engaged. We regret that this was not the outcome for some of our community members.*

*At the Waterloo Region District School Board, human rights and equity are at the core of our work and we are committed to upholding the principles of inclusion and building an antiracist culture across our system. Trustees must be leaders in this work and be counted on to demonstrate this at all times - especially while debating important issues that impact our students, staff and broader community.*

*As Trustees, it is important for us to ensure that we are aware of how our words, actions, or inactions, can impact others. We must continue looking for ways to better understand others' lived experiences and identify ways that we can improve our equity consciousness and we promise to do better for our students and community.*

Chairperson J. Herring thanked staff for the virtual graduation ceremonies.

Chairperson J. Herring reminded trustees that they would have received an email regarding the York University Osgoode Certificate in Human Rights for Education Professionals and encouraged trustees to participate.

Chairperson J. Herring shared regrets from Trustee K. Smith.

**COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

Chief Communications Officer A. Russell provided trustees with the monthly update. The presentation included a reflection on a Time of Gratitude, WEFI, WCI Walk for Hope, Remembrance Day and Virtual Graduation. She shared social media statistics, traditional media mentions and media highlights. She reviewed the plan for 2020 Champions and shared a few nominations. She also highlighted December initiatives leading up to the winter break.

**REPORTS**

**SUSPENSION/ EXPULSION REPORT AS OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**

This report was provided for information.

The report compared the year-to-date suspension and expulsion data from September 2019 and September 2020.

Trustees asked questions regarding the trending data.

**SUSPENSION/ EXPULSION REPORT AS OF OCTOBER 31, 2020**

This report was provided for information.

The report compared the year-to-date suspension and expulsion data from October 2019 and October 2020.

**ANNUAL SUSPENSION REPORT**

This report was provided for information.

This annual report provided trustees with an accounting of suspension, expulsion and violent incident data for the 2019-20 school year. The WRDSB continues to support students in alternative programs that support their success.

Superintendent B. Lemon provided an update on some previous reporting discrepancies which continue to be corrected.

Trustees asked questions regarding vaccination-related suspensions, gathering race-based data and the changes to suspensions for kindergarten and primary students. Staff have received funding and training is underway to build staff capacity in restorative practices as a result of the halt to suspension for kindergarten and primary students.

**REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

Trustee J. Weston provided an update from the OPSBA Regional Meeting. Topics of discussion at the meeting included decreased enrolment, supply costs, well-being and anti-black racism training.

Trustee K. Woodcock reminded trustees of the upcoming Indigenous Trustee Council meeting, which all trustees and student trustees are invited to attend.

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board received the following communications:

- York Region District School Board to the Minister of Education

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked if there was a way to make the list of COVID-19 cases on the website searchable by school. Chief Communications Officers A. Russell advised that the data is entered manually by date but that families could go on the individual school site to see the announcements of cases for their school or check if the Ministry of Education's list of cases works better for their needs.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Board Meeting of November 30, 2020, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.