

**JANUARY 11, 2021**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Committee of the Whole Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. via video conference, with the following members in attendance:

J. Weston(Chairperson), J. Herring, K. Meissner, C. Millar, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, L. Tremble, C. Watson, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Student Trustee R. McDonald was in attendance and Student Trustee T. John-Jandles was not present.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: J. Bryant (Director of Education and Secretary), D. Ahluwalia, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, B. Lemon, C. Newton, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh and M. Weinert.

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

Chairperson J. Weston began the meeting with the following statement:

I would like to speak to a public comment that was made recently that may have led some community members to doubt Trustees' commitment to confidentiality. I regret that this was the impression that was left by this comment.

We understand that members of the public expect that emails and other communications sent to Trustees will not be shared with others in the absence of the explicit permission of the sender or a statutory requirement that they be released. I want to assure the public that whenever they reach out to a Trustee of this board for assistance with a matter, or to share a concern, their private and confidential information will remain private and confidential.

Privacy regulations and communication best practices change regularly. To ensure we are working with the most up-to-date information, Trustees will be engaging in training on this topic. I look forward to learning and relearning about these important topics with my colleagues.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

**That the agenda of the January 11, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Trustee C. Watson declared a conflict of interest at the previous In Camera meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Student Trustee T. John-Jandles.

Trustee L. Tremble reminded trustees about the OPSBA Public Education Symposium (PES) and would like trustees to coordinate attendance in order to cover all breakout sessions and share notes.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY G500 - DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION EXECUTIVE LIMITATIONS/REQUIREMENTS**

Trustees discussed the proposed changes to the policy. Discussion included the wording of Section 9.3 and the inclusion of the Chair or designate and one additional trustee. Trustees also brought forward: some housekeeping changes; suggested the Title be changed as it reads negatively, and that the Director's Performance Appraisal Guidebook be added to Related References. In Section 7.2, it was suggested "Committee Policy" be changed to "Bylaws". Following discussion, it was decided to keep the Chair listed in section 8.3, and to change the title of Section 10 to Risk Mitigation or something similar.

2. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by C. Millar:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer Board Policy G500 - Director of Education Executive Limitations/Requirements back to staff to make the amendments to Sections 10, 9.3, 8.3 and 7.2 as discussed at the January 11, 2021, Committee of the Whole meeting.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 2005 - PARENT/CAREGIVER/GUARDIAN SUPPORT**

Associate Director L. Read reviewed the policy for trustees and indicated that the changes made were primarily at the request of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) for simplification. It was noted that Board Policy G200 was recently retired and that it should be removed from the Related References. It was suggested that related references be hyperlinked.

Trustees asked that section 1.1 provide further explanation regarding third party individuals attending meetings. This same change may be needed in the Safe Schools Board Policy as well.

3. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by C. Watson:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer Board Policy 2005 - Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Support back to staff for the noted changes to Related References and Section 1.1.**

-Carried-

### **REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 2011 - SUN SAFETY AND SHADING**

Trustees asked questions of clarification and made note of some needed housekeeping updates, including updating “Board” to “WRDSB” in section 1.1. Feedback from the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) included concern of equity for students without sun protection. Superintendent M. Gerard noted that Waterloo Education Foundation Inc. (WEFI) policies allow for funding to support students with financial needs.

4. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by C. Watson:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2011 - Sun Safety and Shading as presented at the January 11, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

### **REPORTS**

#### **DISCUSSION - IMPACT OF BILL 197 ON SUSPENSIONS & VERBAL UPDATE**

Superintendent B. Lemon shared the new requirements for suspensions for students in Junior Kindergarten (JK) to Grade 3. He reviewed the statistics on suspensions in JK to Grade 3 for WRDSB for the last three years and the mental health supports and restorative justice practices now being used for those students.

Trustees asked questions regarding mandatory suspensions, immunization suspensions, addressing parent concerns and the impact on front line workers. Superintendent B. Lemon shared that he is working with the Research and Evidence-Based Practice Department to update the reports provided to trustees.

#### **DISCUSSION - 2021-22 EDUCATION FUNDING CONSULTATION**

Trustees discussed the 2021-2022 Education Funding Consultation. The consultation requested specific areas of focus. Trustees discussed reducing red tape and streamlining processes, noting a reduction in Ministry of Education reporting would assist in reducing staff workload, allowing staff to efficiently use their time since school boards work with finite resources. Trustees also discussed the difficulty delayed funding announcements have on budgeting and the importance of continuing equity work while dealing with the pandemic and related funding challenges. It

was also noted that while the WRDSB has done well to provide access to devices for the distance learning program, it does not help families with unreliable internet.

The Board's OPSBA representatives will share the information from this discussion with OPSBA.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

### **AD HOC SCHOOL RESOURCES OFFICER (SRO) REVIEW COMMITTEE - TERMS OF REFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS**

Trustee S. Piatkowski shared that interest was received from community members who are not currently parents or students resulting in this recommendation that a community representative be added to the SRO Review Committee. The recommendation also includes the inclusion of clearly defined consultation. It was noted that other school boards have chosen to have a third party vendor oversee their consulting.

Trustees discussed the option of adding police consultation or representation to the Terms of Reference. It was noted that collecting data from the Waterloo Region Police Services (WRPS) is already part of the Terms of Reference. Concerns were expressed about ensuring the committee provides a safe space for members and consultation.

Trustee J. Herring called a Point of Order when Trustee K. Smith continued to state that groups were being excluded from the consultation. Trustee J. Herring noted that the Terms of Reference clearly state otherwise. Chairperson J. Weston agreed with the Point of Order, that this has been clarified previously, and the comments were to cease.

Trustee C. Millar called the question.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend the recommended changes to the Ad Hoc School Resource Officer (SRO) Review Committee Terms of Reference to include consultation with the WRPS in Section 2.1.**

-Amendment Defeated-

Opposed:  
J. Herring  
K. Meissner  
S. Piatkowski  
L. Tremble  
J. Weston  
C. Whetham  
K. Woodcock  
\*R. McDonald

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\*\* 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))

Trustee J. Herring called the question.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the recommended changes to the Ad Hoc School Resource Officer (SRO) Review Committee Terms of Reference as presented at the January 11, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

Opposed: K. Smith

**ADJOURNMENT**

7. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by K. Woodcock:

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of January 11, 2021, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:22 p.m.