

**JANUARY 25, 2021
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. Weston (Chairperson), J. Herring, K. Meissner, C. Millar, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, L. Tremble, C. Watson, 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), D. Ahluwalia, R. DeBoer, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, A. Mercier, S. Miller, C. Newton, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, G. Shantz, and M. Weinert.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by J. Herring:

That the agenda of the January 25, 2021, Board Meeting be approved with the addition of a Trustee Evaluation Committee Update and an OPSBA Board of Directors' Update to Board Reports.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of January 25, 2021, 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 K. Woodcock, seconded by L. Tremble:

That the agenda of the January 25, 2021, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

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

That the consent agenda of the January 25, 2021, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

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

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. Weston shared regrets from Trustee K. Smith.

Chairperson J. Weston shared Director J. Bryant's retirement announcement. Director J. Bryant also spoke to his retirement.

REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT

Director J. Bryant shared the [Director's Annual Report](#). He reviewed the different sections including the Director's Message, a letter from the Student Trustees, Strategic Priorities and Operational Goals. He reviewed how to navigate through the stories included in the Report. The presentation was concluded with a message for the 2020 graduates.

LEARNING & OPERATIONAL CONTINUITY DURING COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Director J. Bryant provided opening remarks. Associate Director L. Read started the presentation by reviewing the current context for the update. She noted that Human Rights and Equity continue to be at the forefront of decision making.

Dr. D. Liebermann, Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, reviewed the results of the Fall 2020 Let's Connect Survey including level of engagement, satisfaction of support received, distance learning likes and challenges, quadmester model likes and challenges, professional development for staff and student and staff well-being. Future surveys are planned for February, April and June.

Trustees were provided an opportunity for questions and received further details on the student and family surveys.

The presentation continued with an update on staff well-being from Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert. Superintendent S. Miller provided an update on student well-being and support for students with complex special education needs. Superintendent P. Rubenschuh spoke to the WRDSB's continued focus on in-risk learners and Superintendent G. Shantz provided an update on device distribution and support for educators.

Trustee K. Meissner left the meeting.

Trustees were provided another opportunity to ask questions. Further detail was provided on purposeful screen time, staff training and engaging at-risk students.

Superintendent E. Giannopoulos provided an Elementary Distance Learning Program update and Superintendent R. DeBoer provided a Secondary Distance Learning Program. Superintendent B. Lemon provided a Public Health update. Director J. Bryant concluded the presentation with reflections of gratitude for the work and dedication of staff.

Trustees asked questions regarding remote learning and rapid testing.

SUSPENSION/ EXPULSION REPORT AS OF NOVEMBER 30, 2020

This report was provided for information.

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

SUSPENSION/ EXPULSION REPORT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2020

This report was provided for information.

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

POLICY REVIEW TOOL PRESENTATION

Superintendent P. Rubenschuh provided background information on the Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy and the provincial commitment to the development of a Policy Review Tool. He reviewed the principles of equity and inclusion. He spoke to the draft policy review tool, created by staff, to clearly identify the actions and guiding questions to complete this task, recognizing the need to centre the voices of those who are disproportionately impacted, thereby strengthening our commitment to the principles of equity and inclusion, social justice and Human Rights. Staff shared the draft process to the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group (EIAG) for their feedback at a meeting in February 2020. Their feedback has been incorporated and staff continue to refine and update the tool.

Trustees asked questions regarding trustee approval, policy review best practices, using a Human Rights and Equity lens and the consultation process.

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

That the meeting be extended for an additional thirty minutes.

-Carried-

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

AD HOC TRUSTEE EVALUATION COMMITTEE UPDATE

Trustee C. Millar provided an update from the Ad Hoc Trustee Evaluation Committee. She provided background information on the Committee. She noted that trustees will receive a document on guiding principles and be asked to provide feedback.

OPSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Trustee L. Tremble reminded trustees that the Public Education Symposium (PES) is Thursday, provided information on the provincial pre-budget consultation and the OPSBA lunchtime speaker series.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Halton District School Board to Minister of Education - Rural High Speed Internet
- Halton District School Board to Minister of Education - Command Table

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It was the Will of the Board to send a letter in support of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) [Submission Regarding the 2021-2022 Grants for Student Needs](#).

After some discussion, it was the Will of the Board to send letters of support for both Halton District School Board Letters.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of January 25, 2021, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.