

FEBRUARY 8, 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 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), M. Gerard, N. Landry, B. Lemon, C. Newton, L. Read, and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: B. Jaklic, S. Reidel and A. Thiessen-Regehr.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the February 8, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved as presented.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustee C. Watson had a declaration of pecuniary interest in the previous in camera meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee L. Tremble shared that she, along with Trustees J. Weston, S. Piatkowski, K. Meissner, C. Millar, J. Herring, K. Smith and K. Woodcock, attended OPSBA's Public Education Symposium (PES) on January 28, 2021.

Student Trustees T. John-Jandles and R. McDonald announced the commencement of the Student Senate ThoughtExchange Survey.

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

On February 3, 2021, Trustee S. Piatkowski virtually read to a Grades 3 and 4 class at Jean Steckle Public School.

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Chairperson J. Weston virtually joined a Distance Learning Program class as part of a Minister of Education visit.

Chairperson J. Weston is scheduled to present to the Minister of Finance on Friday as part of the provincial consultation process.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

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

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2005 - Parent/Caregiver/Guardian Support as presented at the February 8, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 3001 - TRAVEL, MEALS, HOSPITALITY – TRUSTEES

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 3001 - Travel, Meals, Hospitality – Trustees as presented at the February 8, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4008 - SEGREGATION OF DUTIES AND CHEQUE SIGNING AUTHORITY

It was noted that increases in signing authority allow staff to concentrate on more value-added activities.

4. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by K. Smith:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4008 - Segregation of Duties and Cheque Signing Authority as presented at the February 8, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting with the addition of “or equal to” to Payments with No Purchase Order for Manager of Accounting Services, on Folio 10.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 3008 - USE OF BOARD RESOURCES DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 3008 - Use of Board Resources During the Election Campaign as presented at the February 8, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REPORTS

**STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OF WATERLOO REGION (STSWR)
ANNUAL REPORT**

This report was provided for information.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard introduced the report.

Benoit Bourgault, General Manager of STSWR, provided trustees with the highlights of 2019-2020 including safety initiatives, contract compliance and performance management, productivity initiatives and customer survey feedback. He reviewed performance measurements related to safety, quality, service and costs. He provided a summary of appeals followed by an overview of 2019-2020. An outlook of 2020-2021 regarding safety, customer service, special needs transportation, school travel planning and technology was also provided. The presentation ended with the financial overview for 2019-2020.

Trustees asked questions regarding the former GPS service provider, student ride times, the seatbelt pilot program, the Drive to 5 program, stop arm cameras and accessible transportation. Staff agreed to provide trustees with further information on School Travel Planning initiatives at a future meeting.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT READINESS PLAN

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard introduced the report.

Andi Thiessen-Regehr, Business Services Manager, provided trustees with the International Student Readiness Plan which was developed in accordance with Ministry requirements and reflects best practices obtained through interactions with the Ontario Association of School Districts International (OASDI), the Canadian Association of Public Schools International (CAPSI) and the Ontario Association of School Business Officials (OASBO). She provided trustees with background information and then reviewed the Readiness Plan as it relates to pre-arrival, quarantine and post-quarantine. She reviewed the next steps which include obtaining

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approval from the Board, submission to the Ministry of Education and WRDSB's addition to the Immigration Canada's list of Designated Learning Institutions

Trustees asked questions regarding the expectation of international students if another lockdown occurs.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board adopt the International Student Readiness Plan as outlined in the report presented to the Committee of the Whole on February 8, 2021, and that staff submit the plan to the Ministry of Education for review and approval.

-Carried-

STUDENT DEVELOPED REPORTING APPLICATION

Superintendent B. Lemon reviewed the original trustee motion, the actions taken and methodology used to assess the student developed tool. He reviewed the reasoning for not recommending the use of this tool including concerns regarding security, privacy and data storage standards.

Trustees commended the students for developing the reporting tool.

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

In light of the report entitled Anonymous Reporting Tool (ART) Update presented to the Committee of the Whole on February 8, 2021, and information collected by staff, it is the recommendation of staff that the Waterloo Region District School Board not proceed with this locally developed application and that staff continue to explore solutions compatible with Ministry and Board policies in the areas of Security (both Data and Network) and Privacy.

-Carried-

Opposed: K. Smith

ANONYMOUS REPORTING TOOL (ART) UPDATE

Superintendent B. Lemon advised trustees of the work that staff have undertaken since the last update on the Anonymous Reporting Tool. He also provided the rationale for the recommendation provided in the report.

Trustees asked questions regarding the budget, the details of the pilot project, the procurement process, the timeline for implementation, and if consultation would occur with Student Senate. It was noted that trustees would receive regular updates throughout the pilot process.

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

As a result of further investigation, staff are recommending the competitive procurement of an Anonymous Reporting Tool (ART) for a 3-year pilot period. The annual cost will be included in the 2021 - 2022 budget.

-Carried-

Director J. Bryant commented that during the pilot period it will be important to review the tool regularly, consult on the use and adjust as needed.

STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS

OPSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS' UPDATE

Trustee L. Tremble provided trustees with an update from OPSBA. She noted that the six OPSBA awards are open for nominations and that there will be a virtual Central West Region meeting on February 20, 2021.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Woodcock asked if Distance Learning teachers are required to work from school sites. Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert confirmed that staff continue to work from school sites unless there is no available room in the school or if an accommodation is needed.

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked when we might expect to hear about a Ministry of Education decision on March Break and if we have a contingency plan in place. Director J. Bryant confirmed we are waiting on the decision and that we are prepared to pivot if March Break is changed or cancelled.

Trustee J. Herring asked when the Ministry provided 3-layer masks will be available to students. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard shared that the order has been placed and that delivery is anticipated this week.

Trustee C. Watson asked about the enhanced screening process. Superintendent B. Lemon shared that students and staff continue to be required to complete the daily Ontario COVID-19 School Screener. In addition, staff and secondary students are now required to include a verification step to confirm screening has occurred.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following Notice of Motion was served by Trustee C. Whetham with support from Trustee K. Woodcock:

Where as:

The campaign of Remember Adam has always been front and center on my mind when thinking of bus safety.

Having property close to Mattawa, Ontario I have driven past the road side sign and heard his story on the radio multiple times.

I believe having one more tool to help any investigation in regards to this type of situation is a positive for both our public and Catholic school boards and our student transportation services we share.

Therefore I would like the board to move:

The Director and Chair to write a letter to the mayors' offices of our 3 cities, our multiple townships and regional council, asking them to advocate to the province to speed up the process for installation of stop arm cameras to improve the safety our students while using the transportation provided by us.

This motion will be scheduled at the next Agenda Development Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of February 8, 2021, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.