

MAY 10, 2021
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Committee of the Whole Meeting this evening at 8:30 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 T. John-Jandles was in attendance and Student Trustee R. McDonald was not 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, S. Miller, C. Newton, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, G. Shantz, and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: L. Agar, M. Delisle, C. Kent and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 8:47 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the May 10, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair shared regrets from Student Trustee R. McDonald.

Trustee C. Millar announced that the new Trustee Self-Evaluation Tool will be distributed to trustees tomorrow for their completion.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- K. Vanderlugt - Face Masks in Schools

Trustees asked questions of clarification of the delegation regarding her contact with the Ministry and the current mask mandate for students in grade one and above.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board defer the review of all WRDSB policies except those of a time-sensitive nature until all trustees are able to attend training on the use of the Policy Review Tool as developed by the Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights Department.

-Carried-

The review of the following policies were deferred as per the previous motion:

- Board Policy 1000 - Display of Flags
- Board Policy 4010 - Video Surveillance in Schools

REPORTS

COVID-19 PANDEMIC - VERBAL UPDATE

The report was provided for information.

Associate Director L. Read shared that on May 4, 2021, a memo was released by the Ministry of Education which indicated a renewed focus on learning recovery and renewal, equity and student mental health and well-being. She further reviewed the content of the memo which requires boards to offer remote learning options with a return to in-person learning. Guidance on health and safety measures are anticipated over the summer. Parents are not expected to decide on their mode of learning until after June 1, 2021.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard suggested trustees review 2021:B7 and B8 Memos regarding funding for next year. He advised a budget will be provided to trustees in June. Funding is based on Ministry projections and may change based on actual enrolment. Funding will be provided in two parts next year based on enrolment and the status of the pandemic. He reviewed the anticipated COVID-19 funding and access to reserves. Priorities and Partnerships Funding has been announced and further details will be received in the fall.

Superintendent E. Giannopoulos shared the plans for the grade six and eight year end celebrations. Decision making was centered around equitable access and equitable outcomes. Each school will host a virtual celebration in June. Distance Learning Program students will participate with their home school.

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

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 10, 2021, be extended an additional thirty minutes.

-Carried-

Trustees will receive information to assist in responding to families. Trustees asked questions regarding the two-part funding process.

Trustee K. Smith left the meeting.

Trustees discussed and asked questions regarding the year-end celebrations and transitions for grade six and eight students, hybrid learning and secondary semestering.

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

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 10, 2021, be extended an additional thirty minutes.

-Carried-

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDAR FOR 2021-2022

To prepare the 2021-2022 School Year Calendars, a consultation process was established with representatives from stakeholder groups within the Waterloo Region District School Board, which included employee federations, associations and administrators. As in past years, it was the committee's goal to ensure that the calendar is aligned as closely as possible with the calendar proposed by the WCDSB. The 2021-22 school year will begin on Tuesday, September 7, 2021, and end on Wednesday, June 28, 2022.

Trustees asked about the cost of unaligned days and parent representation on the committee.

Trustee K. Smith rejoined the meeting.

Trustee J. Herring, as a member of the committee thanked staff for their hard work.

4. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the 2021-20212 School Year Calendars containing 194 school days, as outlined in Appendices A and B of the Report titled "School Year Calendars – 2021-2022".

-Carried-

2021 CAPITAL PRIORITIES PROGRAM SUBMISSION

The Draft 2020 Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) identifies the Waterloo Region District School Board's (WRDSB) accommodation needs up to 2030. As identified in the LTAP, the WRDSB's most urgent needs include four projects:

- New elementary school, North Cambridge (Equestrian Way);
- New elementary school, Breslau-Hopewell Crossing (Loxleigh Lane);
- Parkway Public School addition; and
- Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School addition.

5. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the submission of the four business cases identified in Appendix A of the report entitled "2021 Capital Priorities Program Submission," dated May 10, 2021, to the Ministry of Education for funding consideration through the 2021-22 Capital Priorities Program.

-Carried-

DRAFT 2020-2030 LONG TERM ACCOMMODATION PLAN

The report was provided for information.

The Draft 2020-2030 Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) is an update to the 2017 LTAP. It identifies short-term (one-to-five year) and medium-term (six-to-ten year) recommendations where needs have been identified. Recommendations include classroom additions, boundary studies, partnership opportunities and pupil accommodation reviews. Stakeholders had the opportunity to provide input into the LTAP update through an online survey. The final version of the 2020-2030 LTAP will be presented to Trustees for approval at an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting in June 2021.

6. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by L. Tremble:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 10, 2021, be extended an additional thirty minutes.

-Carried Unanimously-

Trustees asked questions regarding Waterloo schools being included in Kitchener boundary studies, the consultation process and the complex nature of the report.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson asked about the recommended locations for Cambridge Safe Consumption Sites and if the schools affected by these sites have been informed. She asked if the schools will be made aware and will be part of consultation by the City of Cambridge. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard agreed to follow up and report back to Trustees.

ADJOURNMENT

7. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 10, 2021, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.