

**JUNE 28, 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, E. Dougan-McKenzie, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, A. Mercier, S. Miller, C. Newton, E. Ranney, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh, G. Shantz, and M. Weinert.

Other staff in attendance: M. Delisle and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:22 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the June 28, 2021, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

Trustee C. Whetham joined the meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of June 28, 2021, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folios 24 through 30.

-Carried-

Trustee M. Ramsay spoke to folios 24 through 30 of the agenda package. He moved motion 9 for a re-vote. Trustees discussed the motion to postpone in order to do further consultation.

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

Call the question.

-Carried-

Opposed:
M. Ramsay
C. Watson
T. John-Jandles*
R. McDonald*

* 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))

June 21, 2021 Committee of the Whole motion 9:

9. Moved by M. Ramsay, seconded by C. Watson:

To postpone the motion from the Ad Hoc School Resource Officer Review Committee to April 11, 2022.

-Defeated-

Opposed:
J. Herring
K. Meissner
C. Millar
S. Piatkowski
L. Tremble
C. Whetham
K. Woodcock

Trustees spoke to folio 30 from the agenda package.

Trustee M. Ramsay spoke to new information he received from members of the community.

Trustee S. Piatkowski called a Point of Personal Privilege on Trustee M. Ramsay for misrepresenting Trustee S. Piatkowski.

Trustees continued to discuss the minutes of the School Resource Officer Review Committee agenda item.

Trustee J. Herring moved to call the question. Trustee M. Ramsay called a Point of Order on the motion to call the question.

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Trustee J. Herring called a Point of Personal Privilege as Trustee M. Ramsay referred to her attitude as condescending. Chairperson J. Weston called Trustee M. Ramsay to order.

It was noted that there was no motion in front of the Board at this time.

Trustee M. Ramsay requested a recorded vote.

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

That Folio 24-30, the minutes of the June 21, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting, from the consent agenda of the June 28, 2021, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

In Favour:

J. Herring
K. Meissner
C. Millar
S. Piatkowski
L. Tremble
C. Whetham
K. Woodcock
*T. John-Jandles
*R. McDonald

Opposed:

M. Ramsay
C. Watson

Absent:

K. Smith

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MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

Note: The following motions were approved in the In Camera session held earlier this evening.

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

That the agenda of the June 28, 2021, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera with the addition of Additional Duties Impacting Workload of Administrative Officials.

-Carried-

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

That the consent agenda of the June 28, 2021, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Opposed:
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board call the question.

-Carried-

Opposed:
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the board entering into a one month consulting contract for Acting Director of Education and Secretary of the Board for John Bryant until July 31, 2021.

-Carried-

Opposed:
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

E. Moved by K. Meissner, seconded by L. Tremble:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the appointment of Graham Shantz to the position of Coordinating Superintendent, Human Resource & Equity Services, effective July 1, 2021.

-Carried-

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the appointment of Jodi Albrecht, from System Administrator, Learning Support Services, to the position of Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, effective July 1, 2021.

-Carried-

G. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the motion be amended to include “arising from the pandemic”.

-Amendment Carried-

H. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the payment of a temporary stipend for all Administrative Officials including the Director in the amount of \$7,500.00 for the 2020-2021 school year relating to the increased workload arising from the pandemic.

-Amended Motion Carried-

Opposed: C. Watson

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the amendments to the Terms and Conditions between the WRDSB and its Managers’ Group for the period September 1, 2018 to August 31, 2022.

-Carried-

Abstained: M. Ramsay

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

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 announced that jeewan chanicka will be new Director of Education for the Waterloo Region District School Board. She shared his background in the education sector.

Chairperson J. Weston provided words of gratitude to the retiring Director of Education, J. Bryant. Trustees also took the opportunity to speak about their time with Director J. Bryant and express their gratitude for his work and dedication to the WRDSB.

Chairperson J. Weston thanked the retiring members of the senior team including Coordinating Superintendent M. Weinert, Superintendent A. Mercier, Superintendent E. Ranney and Superintendent P. Rubenschuh.

Trustee K. Woodcock attended the virtual State of the City Address for Waterloo with Chairperson J. Weston, Trustee S. Piatkowski, Trustee C. Millar and Student Trustee R. McDonald.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Interim Chief Communications Officer C. Newton provided trustees with an update on the activities of WRDSB students including Scholarships, My Canada Project, National Indigenous People Day, Thinking Out Loud Survey and Graduation. She reviewed the media highlights, top social media posts, emails received and COVID-19 case notifications.

Interim Chief Communications Officer C. Newton was thanked for her time at WRDSB and the new Interim Chief Communications Officer Euis Dougan-McKenzie was introduced.

REPORTS

LINDA FABI BURSARY

The report is provided for information.

The Linda Fabi Bursary will provide funding for students who are pursuing a trade, through college or apprenticeship, and who have not already been selected to receive an award at the graduation ceremony. All eight applicants were confirmed to meet the criteria and were selected to receive the 2020-21 Linda Fabi Bursary.

FRENCH IMMERSION REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE

The report is provided for information.

The French Immersion Review Committee has begun Phase 3 of the review. A document articulating the vision, goals and principles for French Language Programming in the WRDSB is in the final stages of revision. The final version will be shared with the French Immersion Review Committee when they meet in the fall. The Committee will continue addressing the main areas needing improvement as identified in the Malatest Report. Recommendations from the Committee will be presented to the Board early in 2022. Staff confirmed that trustees can anticipate implementation for September 2023.

COVID-19 PANDEMIC VERBAL UPDATE

The report is provided for information.

Director J. Bryant introduced the presentation and the Guiding Principles developed to direct efforts toward the return to school and work. Associate Director L. Read reviewed the planning for in-person learning for the 2021-2022 school year. Superintendent R. DeBoer shared information regarding the Secondary Remote Learning Program. Superintendent E. Giannopoulos shared information regarding the Elementary Remote Learning Program. Superintendent B. Lemon provided information regarding vaccination clinics in schools. Director J. Bryant closed the presentation with expressions of gratitude.

Trustees asked questions regarding staff vaccinations and secondary assessments and cohorts.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

TRUSTEE SELF-EVALUATION

This report was provided for information.

Trustees were invited to complete a self-evaluation survey as an opportunity to share their experiences and communicate their needs to each other. This survey was voluntary and respondents could skip any question they did not want to answer. All eleven WRDSB Trustees participated in the Self-evaluation.

Trustee C. Millar provided some background on the committee and asked that Chairperson J. Weston lead trustees in a discussion about the survey results.

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

That the Waterloo District School Board suspend Bylaw 9.12 allowing trustees to speak without limit on the topic at hand.

-Carried-

Opposed: M. Ramsay

Trustees discussed the survey results which included enhancing communication with the community, dealing with opposing views at the Board table and timely information.

Discussion continued and suggestions for improvement include additional consultations, timing of the survey, applying the Human Rights and Equity lens to policies, advocating for student trustees to be members of the Board, adding an Indigenous student trustee and receiving timely information.

Trustees discussed the decision to not have student trustees complete this survey as they have different experiences. Student trustees were given a different opportunity to provide feedback.

Trustee C. Millar shared the next steps for the committee including recommendations for professional development or opportunities. Additional suggestions for improvement included the

importance of attendance of all trustees at professional development opportunities to improve understanding of complex issues.

6. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo District School Board extend the meeting by an additional thirty minutes.

-Carried-

Discussion continued and additional suggestions included mechanisms to recognize and celebrate students, staff and volunteers.

It was the Will of the Board for the Trustee Self-Evaluation Committee to develop some recommendations for professional development and provide them to the Agenda Development Committee.

STUDENT SENATE UPDATE

Student Trustees T. John-Jandles and R. McDonald provided an update on the most recent Student Senate meeting. They also thanked student Senators, trustees, staff and families for their efforts and support.

Chairperson J. Weston thanked the students for their work this term. As Student Trustee Mentors, Trustee K. Meissner and C. Millar also extended their thanks to the student trustees.

DISCUSSION: TRANSITIONING FROM THE COVID 19 SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

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

That the Discussion on Transitioning From The COVID 19 School Experience be tabled until the fall of 2021 to be scheduled by Agenda Development Committee.

-Carried-

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Ontario Public School Boards' Association to Premier of Ontario
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - Quadmester Concerns
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - Menstrual Equity
- Thames Valley District School Board to Minister of Education
- Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to Minister of Education
- Bluewater District School Board to Minister of Education

- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to Minister of Education

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee M. Ramsay asked if there were any plans to apologize to the Waterloo Regional Police Services for comments made during the Ad Hoc School Resource Officer Review Committee report on June 21, 2021. Chairperson J. Weston commented that she takes direction from the Board of Trustees and has not received such direction.

Trustees S. Paitkowski asked what strategies are in place to address lead exceedances in water at some schools. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard shared that testing information and solutions for schools are easily available in both a school's main office and on the Board website.

Trustee L. Tremble asked if staff were satisfied with the number of responses for the student census. Dr. D. Liebermann shared that the census has been extended and only just closed today. An update regarding participation will be provided to trustees in the fall.

ADJOURNMENT

Chairperson J. Weston thanked staff for their work in such a difficult year and congratulated students.

8. Moved by K. Meissner, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Board Meeting of June 28, 2021, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:51 p.m.