

**SEPTEMBER 27, 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. Herring, K. Meissner, C. Millar, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, L. Tremble, C. Watson, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustee J. Weston was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees K. Soror and N. Vishkin were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: j. chanicka (Director of Education and Secretary), D. Ahluwalia, J. Albrecht, J. Brown, R. DeBoer, E. Dougan-McKenzie, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, C. Hill, P. Kaur, D. Lataille-Herdsman, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, S. Miller, L. Read and G. Shantz.

Other staff in attendance: R. Lam, S. Reidel, N. Robinson and J. Shortreed

Guests: C. Restoule, Conestoga College

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson S. Piatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the September 27, 2021, Board Meeting be approved. with the addition of a verbal OPSBA Board of Directors Report under Board Reports and the removal of the Student Senate Update standing item.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of September 27, 2021, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Motion 5 on Folio 26.

-Carried-

Trustees discussed Motion 5 on Folio 26 as there was a procedural error regarding the timeline for information to be brought back to the Board. Vice-Chairperson S. Piatkowski clarified that no resulting actions were anticipated tonight.

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Trustees discussed a motion to refer Motion 5 to Agenda Development Committee.

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

That Folio 26 motion 5 be referred back to Agenda Development Committee to decide on whether the motion returns to the Board at a future meeting.

-Defeated-

Opposed:
J. Herring
K. Meissner
C. Millar
L. Tremble
C. Whetham
K. Woodcock
*K. Soror
*N. Vishkin

* 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))

Trustees discussed the motion to approve Motion 5 of folio 26 from the Consent Agenda. Vice-Chairperson S. Piatkowski reminded Trustees not to speak about In Camera discussions. As discussion continued, trustees were cautioned against assuming the motives of other trustees. Discussion ensued regarding the motion to gather information.

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

That Folio 26 motion 5, from the consent agenda of the September 27, 2021, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Opposed:
M. Ramsay
K. Smith
C. Watson

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

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

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

That the agenda of the September 27, 2021, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera with the addition of OPSBA Board of Directors Updates.

-Carried-

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

That the consent agenda of the September 27, 2021, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

C. Moved by K. Smith, 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

Vice-Chairperson S. Piatkowski acknowledged the passing of former WRDSB Board Chairperson Andrea Mitchell.

Vice-Chairperson S. Piatkowski expressed condolences to Trustee L. Tremble for the loss of her father.

Superintendent C. Hill, Indigenous Equity Officer N. Robinson and C. Restoule of Conestoga College provided a brief presentation in recognition of the first National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Interim Chief Communications Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie shared social media posts regarding student leadership and creative classrooms. She reviewed the communication engagements through social media and traditional media.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Devon Girt - Testing of Asymptomatic Staff

REPORTS

REPORTED STUDENT AGGRESSION QUARTERLY DATA - QUARTER 4 2020-2021

This report was provided for information.

This report provided information regarding reported incidents of student aggression for the quarter of April 16, 2021 through June 30, 2021, and ways staff continued to be proactive in utilizing the BMS team to support staff and administration.

STUDENT SUSPENSION / EXPULSION REPORT, MAY 2021 & JUNE 2021

This report was provided for information.

This report provided information regarding monthly and year-to-date suspension and expulsion data from May 2021 and June 2021.

When asked about including student census data on the reports, Superintendent B. Lemon shared that staff are looking into ways to add census information but that trustees should expect the report layout to remain the same for much of the year.

DESTREAMING PRESENTATION

This presentation was provided for information and introduced by Superintendent B. Lemon.

Principal J. Shortreed provided information on why courses are being de-streamed and the benefits to students. She reviewed the Ministry of Education and WRDSB goals for de-streaming and how the WRDSB is supporting students and teachers through this process.

Trustees asked questions regarding teaching the skills for student success in the de-streamed courses and supporting students during the phased-in approach.

STRATEGIC PLAN: GENERATIVE DISCUSSION

This discussion was provided for information.

Director j. chanicka shared that the WRDSB is ready to embark on the strategic planning process and staff are looking for some broad guidance from the Board of Trustees. He asked trustees for any key consideration as staff build the process.

Trustees indicated an interest in building off the current plan and ensuring meaningful conversations occur with existing advisory groups, students and front-line staff. Trustees suggested use of data from previously completed surveys and finding creative ways to gather feedback in addition to any surveys. It was also noted as important to engage stakeholders throughout the process and ensure the strategic plan is adaptable.

COVID-19 VERBAL UPDATE

This presentation was provided for information.

Associate Director L. Read introduced the presentation which covered information on return to extra-curricular activities and rapid antigen testing

Superintendent B. Lemon shared that WCSSAA released a guidance document to schools including sport-specific safety guidelines and staff are working to develop a set of guiding principles to support the restart of extra-curricular groups and clubs.

Coordinating Superintendent G. Shantz noted that work is underway in the follow up to the trustee motion to explore possible avenues for enhancing the COVID-19 vaccine reporting system for WRDSB employees beyond the vaccine reporting requirements established.

Senior Manager of Human Resource & Equity Services J. Brown provided trustees with information regarding the rapid antigen testing such as the testing requirement, access to testing, testing frequency and instructions and testing support. He showed a video of the procedure and provided information on the reporting experience.

Trustees asked questions regarding rapid antigen testing accountability and compliance with the Ministry of Education requirements. Trustees also asked questions regarding extra-curricular activities including volunteers and vaccinations.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

AD HOC SCHOOL NAMING REVIEW COMMITTEE VERBAL UPDATE

Trustee K. Woodcock shared that regular meetings have resumed and that the committee is in the process of reviewing the draft administrative procedure. Additional staff support has been obtained to research existing school names.

VERBAL OPSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS REPORT

Trustee K. Woodcock advised that this past Saturday was the OPSBA Board of Directors meeting and a written report will be provided in the future. She reminded trustees that the 2021 Code of Conduct Consultation is available for input. She also reminded trustees that the Transitioning From The COVID 19 School Experience Discussion Paper and related video will

be part of an upcoming Committee of the Whole meeting. OPSBA is coordinating a province wide student survey related to the above-mentioned Discussion Paper.

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

That the Board Meeting of September 27, 2021, be extended an additional thirty minutes.

-Carried-

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Halton District School Board to Minister of Education and Minister of Health
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - Enhanced Masking
- Toronto District School Board to Minister of Education
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - Vaccination of Students
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - Indigenous Curriculum
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - Benchmark Funding Formula

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Woodcock asked why the WRDSB is the only school board to not allow community volunteer coaches. Superintendent B. Lemon shared that staff hope to have volunteers participate as soon as the protocols are in place and that he is unable to comment on the decisions of other school boards.

Trustee M. Ramsay asked if the trustee motion to explore possible avenues for enhancing the COVID-19 vaccine reporting system for WRDSB employees is a prudent use of resources. Director j. chanicka noted that staff will follow the direction of the Board and do the best with the available resources. Trustee M. Ramsay asked if the director had any comments regarding the feelings of employees resulting from the trustee motion to explore possible avenues for enhancing the COVID-19 vaccine reporting system for WRDSB employees. Director j. chanicka mentioned that there was some misinformation on social media and that staff continue to follow the provincial guidance and discuss staff concerns.

Trustee C. Watson asked when information will be received regarding the trustee motion to explore possible avenues for enhancing the COVID-19 vaccine reporting system for WRDSB employees. Director j. chanicka noted that the wording of the motion allowed for staff to take additional time and thanked staff for their work. Coordinating Superintendent G. Shantz shared that consultation will be occurring with union groups and others indicated in the motion.

ADJOURNMENT

6. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by L. Tremble:

That the Board Meeting of September 27, 2021, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:38 p.m.