

**OCTOBER 18, 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 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, R. DeBoer, E. Dougan-McKenzie, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, C. Hill, P. Kaur, D. Lataille-Herdsman, B. Lemon, S. Miller, L. Read, G. Shantz and J. Veit.

Other staff in attendance: L. Agar, R. Lam and S. Reidel.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by J. Herring:

**That the agenda of the October 18, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved with the addition of Halloween Update to Reports.**

-Carried-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee K. Woodcock announced a couple of engagement opportunities for trustees including OPSBA's Project Compass engagement opportunities at Regional Council meetings, the Ministry of Education's survey on the Trustee Code of Conduct and the Ontario Human Rights Commission survey on Discriminatory Display of Names, Words and Images.

Trustee J. Herring and Chairperson J. Weston attended the Rogers Hometown Hockey event in Ayr on Friday.

**DELEGATIONS**

The following delegation spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Jennifer Davis - Community Perspective on Student Vaccinations

**STAFF FOLLOW UP**

**FOLLOW UP TO STUDENT TRUSTEE QUESTIONS**

Superintendent R. DeBoer apologized for a previous response to questions regarding the secondary lunch breaks and learning block breaks. He has now heard back from teachers and the breaks can vary from actual breaks in learning to other ways of breaking up the learning with quiet work time. He acknowledged that 150-minute learning blocks may be difficult and staff have been encouraged to use a trauma-informed approach to teaching. The secondary school day has been shortened to accommodate the cleaning of buses between runs resulting in a shortened lunch period. At this time, the Ministry of Education has not indicated that WRDSB can move back to a typical semester model as four classes a day would increase close contacts for COVID-19 cases. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard added that transportation services is under pressure to ensure routes are staffed and buses are adequately cleaned, limiting the ability to have a pre-pandemic lunch period.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1000 - DISPLAY OF FLAGS**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1000 - Display of Flags as presented at the October 18, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting with the removal of the duplicate “National Day of Remembrance for Victims of Terrorism” in section 6.2.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4010 - VIDEO SURVEILLANCE IN SCHOOLS**

It was noted that Administrative Procedure 1090 – Protection of Student Personal Information does not appear on the WRDSB website and Administrative Procedure 1100 - Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act (MFIPPA) is titled differently. Staff will follow up on these Related References and update accordingly. Trustees requested that the Ontario Human Rights Code be added to Legal References.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4010 - Video Surveillance in Schools as presented at the October 18, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting with the addition of the Ontario Human Rights Code to Legal References and updates to the list of Related References.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4006 - PARKING ON SCHOOL BOARD PROPERTY**

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard shared that requests for parking are not tracked centrally nor do they generate revenue. The purpose of the policy is to provide guidance for commercial vehicles such as school buses.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4006 - Parking on School Board Property as presented at the October 18, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**REPORTS**

**HALLOWEEN UPDATE**

Director j. chanicka offered that guidance communicated to staff regarding Halloween required more clarity. He acknowledged that fun and celebration can occur at schools in ways that are not at the expense of some of the children served by the WRDSB. Halloween is not cancelled, but rather it is not to be centred. This operational decision is not policy based and is consistent with messaging from the past three years. Health and Safety continue to be the priority and many schools choose to have Black and Orange Day, allowing more students to participate. Children arriving in costume will still be welcomed at school. He went on to speak to the misinformation being shared in the community creating division and harm through racist and hateful messages to staff.

Superintendent C. Hill shared some of the unintended consequences to celebrating Halloween in the manner it previously was celebrated at school and shared some of the harm it has caused some students. She shared the results from a poll of 263 students taken by Student Trustees where 14% of responses appeared to identify some harm in the celebration of Halloween and other inequitable celebrations.

It was once again noted that halloween is not canceled but that the emphasis on treats and costumes be reduced. Director j. chanicka noted that communication in future years will be better clarified. Trustees discussed the update and had varying opinions. Director j. chanicka noted that the initial messaging to staff will not be withdrawn as follow up information has been provided. Trustees continued to discuss and provide their opinions on the matter.

At the October 25, 2021, Board Meeting, Trustee M. Ramsay had follow up questions regarding if clarification would be issued to schools. Director j. chanicka noted that schools have already received their clarification and no further communications will be issued. He encouraged families to reach out to their school principal if they have any questions on the matter.

## **IDENTIFICATION PLACEMENT AND REVIEW COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Waterloo Region District School Board operates Identification, Placement and Review Committees. These committees are organized within schools, areas of schools, and the district in accordance with Regulation 181/98 of the Education Act.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the jurisdiction of each of these committees as outlined below and the attached Appendix A outlining WRDSB IPRC Committee:**

**A) School Committees:**

**A school IPRC is held when a program modification to accommodate an exceptional student with Special Education Needs can be accomplished within the home school environment.**

**B) Area Committees:**

**An area IPRC is held when program modifications to accommodate an exceptional student with Special Education Needs is necessary for them to access a designated program within their current school environment or if a change in schools is required for the student to access the designated program.**

**C) District Committees:**

**A district IPRC is held when program modifications to accommodate an exceptional student with Special Education Needs requires placement in cross-district Special Education Programs (i.e., Provincial School). This occurs when school and district resources have been exhausted or when specialized equipment that is not available in a school setting is being considered.**

-Carried-

## **MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS QUARTERLY UPDATE REPORT**

This report was provided for information.

Current capital projects with budgets greater than \$2.5M were outlined in Appendix A and significant milestones, along with basic project statistics, were also presented. All projects are proceeding as planned through the design and construction stages.

## **ANNEX A: COVID-19 RESILIENCE INFRASTRUCTURE STREAM (CVRIS) PROJECTS UPDATE**

This annex report was provided for information.

COVID-19 Resilience Infrastructure Stream (CVRIS) was introduced in the fall of 2020 under the Investing in Canada Infrastructure Program (ICIP) to provide up to \$700 million in combined federal-provincial funding for education-related infrastructure projects province wide. The Ontario Ministry of Infrastructure and Infrastructure Canada recently amended the Integrated Bilateral Agreement (IBA) for the Investing in Canada Program (ICIP) – which provides for up to two additional years for completion (to December 2023) for approved projects.

### **COMMUNITY PLANNING & FACILITY PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES**

This report was provided for information.

To satisfy the requirements of Board Policy 1011 – Community Planning and Facility Partnerships, this report presented the annual identification of school buildings and sites suitable and available for community partnership; and future capital projects with potential co-building partnership opportunities.

Student Trustee N. Vishkin joined the meeting at 8:43 p.m.

### **ACCOMMODATION PLANNING 2021-22**

This report was provided for information.

For the 2021-2022 school year, the main areas of focus for accommodation planning include:

- Huron South Elementary Schools Boundary Study (HSESBS)
- Cambridge Joint Use Campus
- Development Areas
- French Program Review
- Agreements
- Enrolment Projections and Monitoring

Trustees asked questions regarding communicating development area information and timing of boundary studies.

### **RESPONSE TO TRUSTEE MOTION - STAFF VACCINE REPORTING REQUIREMENTS**

This report was provided for information.

Coordinating Superintendent G. Shantz spoke to the motion passed by the Board for staff to consult with OPSBA, CODE, other Ontario school boards, bargaining units, non-unionized employee groups, Waterloo Region Public Health, and legal counsel to explore possible avenues for enhancing the COVID-19 vaccine reporting system for WRDSB employees beyond the vaccine reporting requirements established by the Province of Ontario. He shared that attestation rates continue to be posted on a monthly basis as required by the Ministry of Education

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(Ministry). Consulting with the required groups resulted in the discovery of themes and similarities. Most groups prefer to operate within the framework provided by the Ministry and allow employees the right to choose to vaccinate or not. There is little support for a mandate without a change to legislation. Nearly all 72 boards are sticking to the Ministry framework. The preference is to centre the use of education to increase vaccination rates.

Trustees thanked staff for their efforts and were satisfied that it is in the best interest of the Board to rely on provincial guidance for staff vaccination.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee C. Watson asked if parents at Central Public School will be consulted on the new Consumption and Treatment Site in Cambridge. Associate Director L. Read shared that staff have followed up with the school and will be reaching out to the City to build a relationship and communication plan.

Trustee K. Meissner asked about extracurricular activities and sport activities for those not in secondary school. She asked for information on timelines and procedures for other in-person activities to take place and for sports for intermediate students. She also asked why athletic activities do not require masks but other clubs and activities do. Superintendent B. Lemon shared that extracurricular activity guidance has been offered to all schools. He asked that trustees keep in mind that activities are run by staff volunteers beyond the school day. Intermediate sports rely on volunteer drivers due to the time play takes place. Existing buses are not able to accommodate these activities. Staff are working with public health to determine safety measures for volunteer drivers. In the meantime, schools are engaging in intramural activities within their own schools. As per public health and OPHEA, wearing a mask during intense competition can present safety challenges. A mask does not pose a safety risk for indoor clubs where there is no physical activity.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of October 18, 2021, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.