

**OCTOBER 25, 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, K. Smith, L. Tremble, C. Watson, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

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

The following senior administration members were in attendance: j. chanicka (Director of Education and Secretary), D. Ahluwalia, J. Albrecht, 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: L. Eulette, R. Lam, S. Reidel and B. Ward.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the October 25, 2021, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of October 25, 2021, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folio 26 - Halloween Update.

-Carried-

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.

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

That Folio 26, from the consent agenda of the October 25, 2021, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

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

- A. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by L. Tremble:

That the agenda of the October 25, 2021, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

- B. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the consent agenda of the October 25, 2021, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

- C. Moved by C. Whetham, seconded by K. Smith:

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Trustee L. Tremble provided trustees with reminders of upcoming Ontario Public School Boards' Association meetings and consultations.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

E. Dougan-McKenzie, Interim Chief Communications Officer, shared stories of student leadership, connecting with students and World Teacher Day. She shared information on WRDSB web traffic, social media engagement, and the WRDSB in traditional media.

REPORTS

STRATEGIC PLAN - OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR 2020-2021 OUTCOMES

This report was provided for information.

Director j. chanicka introduced the presentation. Associate Director L. Read reviewed the Strategic Priorities and Operational Plan. Dr. D. Liebermann, Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, shared the framework used and highlights of the outcome measures.

Trustees asked questions regarding closing the gaps in learning due to the pandemic, reviewing library collections, building on the work done, and data provided by standardized assessments.

STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS

Director j. chanicka introduced the presentation and recapped the input on the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP) planning process previously provided by trustees. He reviewed the scope of the MYSP and process outcomes; timelines and plans for consultation were also reviewed. It was noted that a third party support will be engaged to assist in the work.

Trustees ask questions of clarification regarding their role in the process.

COVID-19 VERBAL UPDATE

Student Trustee K. Soror left the meeting at 8:16 p.m.

This report was provided for information.

Superintendent S. Millar introduced the presentation focusing on well-being supports offered during the pandemic. The presentation spoke to tiered supports, family and student engagements, social-emotional resources and the trauma-informed strategy.

Trustees asked questions regarding data on the number of parents who have accessed support, the success of the summer hotline, the trauma-informed approach and supporting staff.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

AD HOC SCHOOL NAMING REVIEW COMMITTEE VERBAL UPDATE

Trustee K. Woodcock informed trustees that the Committee continues to meet. Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights staff have reviewed the updated administrative procedure. A researcher has been engaged to provide a literature review and environmental scan. A recommendation will be provided to trustees in November.

POLICY WORKING GROUP VERBAL UPDATE

Trustee L. Tremble informed trustees that the Committee has been meeting monthly to develop a policy review and creation process. The process has accountability measures, equity lens and consultation embedded in it. The process will likely result in fewer policies being reviewed each year, but it will be a more thorough process. The hope is to have a trial run in the new year with full implementation next year.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Greater Essex County District School Board to Minister of Education
- Upper Grand District School Board to Minister of Education
- Avon Maitland District School Board to Minister of Education and Minister of Health
- Thames Valley District School Board to Minister of Education - Testing For Student Athletes
- Thames Valley District School Board to Minister of Education - Provision of Staff Respirators
- Rainbow District School Board to Minister of Education and Minister of Health
- Rainbow District School Board to Minister of Education
- Halton District School Board to Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario
- Halton District School Board to Minister of Education
- Keewatin-Patricia District School Board to Minister of Education and Minister of Health
- Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to Minister of Education and Minister of Health
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Regional Chair, Region of Waterloo
- Rainy River District School Board to Minister of Education - Bill 172
- Rainy River District School Board to Minister of Education - Online Learning Supports

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee L. Tremble asked for an update regarding the traffic concerns near Chicopee Hills Public School acknowledging that staff are working with various partners on the issues. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard noted that recent unfortunate events have highlighted the importance of the work being done to create more safe, walkable routes. Some work being done by the School Travel Planner includes a Road Model Pledge, Trailblazer Program and Sidewalk Smart

Program. Staff continue to support city and region partners as they examine speed limits in school zones. Other supports are being reviewed by the City of Kitchener.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of October 25, 2021, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.