

**NOVEMBER 8, 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, C. Millar, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, L. Tremble, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Trustees K. Meissner, K. Smith and C. Whetham were unable to attend.

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, 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 and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the November 8, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Trustees K. Meissner and K. Smith.

Chairperson J. Weston shared that a wreath will be placed at the Kitchener and Waterloo cenotaphs on behalf of the WRDSB and donations have been made at Cambridge and Elmira Legions. She acknowledged that today is National Indigenous Veterans Day. She visited the poppy displays in Cambridge which were organized by Trustee J. Herring. Trustee J. Herring shared that the social media accounts for the Cambridge Poppy Project includes a post by Trustee C. Millar who's mother was a WREN over seventy years ago and pieces of the project will be donated to schools, nursing homes and legions.

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Trustee M. Ramsay attended the Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR) seminar on School Travel Planning with Trustees J. Herring, K. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, L. Tremble, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

Trustee L. Tremble attended the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Central West meeting with Trustees S. Piatkowski, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4000 - PUPIL ACCOMMODATION REVIEW

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4000 - Pupil Accommodation Review as presented at the November 8, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 2009 - BOARD ADVOCACY

3. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2009 - Board Advocacy as presented at the November 8, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

Abstained: M. Ramsay

REPORTS

INCLEMENT WEATHER PROCESS

Superintendent P. Kaur shared the Severe Weather Plan for the upcoming winter season including the prioritization of health and safety and communications. She reviewed the information pertinent to both staff and families. She also provided data regarding the number of severe weather days over the past four years.

Trustees asked questions regarding parents missing the communications regarding a closure and how this year differs from previous years.

BOARD IMPROVEMENT AND EQUITY PLANNING TOOL UPDATE

Associate Director L. Read provided information on the new Board Improvement and Equity Plan (BIEP) which replaces the Board Improvement Plan (BIP) and Board Improvement Plan for

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Student Achievement (BIPSA). The BIEP sets out province-wide goals and outcome measures in 5 priority areas. Dr. D. Liebermann, Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, reviewed the tool's purpose regarding experiences and outcomes and the related timelines.

Trustees asked questions regarding the tiered approach to mental health for students, work towards a workforce representative of the student population, the provincial goals and Ministry of Education standards and disaggregated data.

BOARD REPORTS

DISCUSSION: TRANSITIONING FROM THE COVID 19 SCHOOL EXPERIENCE

Trustee L. Tremble introduced the item and noted that she would share comments with the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA). The OPSBA video related to this discussion paper was presented.

Trustee discussion included:

- Supporting student and staff well-being is a challenge and will take longer to address.
- Pre-pandemic system was under-resourced and under-funded and returning to "normal" is not good enough.
- Concerned school boards will be asked to do more with less as the province emerges from the pandemic.
- Better use of community resources is needed to support students as the school cannot do it all.
- Investing further in technology for rural school boards.
- Online learning is not for all students and not for all courses.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee J. Herring asked if WRDSB is continuing with a modified semester next semester as secondary staff and students are struggling with the current model and students continue to mingle outside their cohorts when in hallways and outside. Associate Director L. Read acknowledged the challenges facing secondary staff and students and the requests for regular semesters. Staff have engaged in conversations with public health to discuss a more traditional semester model but ultimately the decision is made provincially. Staff hope to receive a decision soon in order to implement timetables. She noted that cohorting is not a protective measure against COVID-19 but rather a measure put in place to effectively identify close contacts for case management. A traditional semester model will increase the number of close contacts.

Trustee K. Woodcock asked if staff are looking to reduce cohorting for intermediate students during nutrition breaks and reduce masking requirements for junior students during indoor sports and activities. She asked that this information be provided as part of the COVID-19 update at the Board Meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee C. Watson served the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustee M. Ramsay:

Therefore be it resolved:

That a written report be presented at a regular committee of the whole outlining the criteria, framework and the process for the 2-3 year library and classroom library review by the end of January 2022; and

That a consultation process be developed that would include students, staff , parents and community members participation in the library and classroom library review; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board develop a “Library Resource Review” policy that would include criteria, framework, process and a consultation process for students, parents, staff and community members.

This Notice of Motion will be scheduled at the next Agenda Development Committee meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 8, 2021, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.