

**NOVEMBER 15, 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, J. Albrecht, E. Dougan-McKenzie, M. Gerard, C. Hill, P. Kaur, N. Landry, D. Lataille-Herdsman, S. Miller, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh 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 S. Piatkowski:

That the agenda of the November 15, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 3005 - EXPRESSIONS OF SYMPATHY

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 3005 - Expressions of Sympathy as presented at the November 15, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 3009 - PARENTAL LEAVE - TRUSTEES

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 3009 - Parental Leave - Trustees as presented at the November 15, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4016 - BUSINESS COMPLAINT

4. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by K. Smith:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4016 - Business Complaint as presented at the November 15, 2021, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REPORTS

2020-21 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The draft 2020-2021 Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Consolidated Financial Statements were presented during the meeting with Jacqueline Peterson, Partner - Assurance Leader at PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP present to elaborate on the audited statements.

Trustees asked questions regarding enrolment, enrolment stabilization funding and available surplus funds.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2021, as recommended by the Board Audit Committee.

-Carried-

2020-21 FINANCIAL REPORT

This report was provided for information.

The development of the Waterloo Region District School Board's operating budget includes many underlying assumptions which, over the course of a school year, can change significantly.

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On a quarterly basis throughout the year, staff have been providing updates to the Board regarding our key assumptions, key risks and planned mitigation strategies. The 2020-21 year-end financial position is an in-year (unappropriated) surplus of \$7.71M; this represents approximately 1.05% of the WRDSB's operating budget for the year and increases our Accumulated Unappropriated Surplus to \$57.95M as of August 31, 2021. COVID-19 continued to have a material impact on the finances and operations of the WRDSB in 2020-21; these events and the associated responses by the Ministry and board account for the material variances noted in this report and our 2020-21 financial statements

Trustees expressed concern that the second half of the COVID-19 related funding has yet to be released and discussed motions to advocate for said funding.

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

That the Chair advocate for release of the second half of the COVID-19 related funding during the Question Period of the next weekly teleconference held by the Minister of Education and Board Chairs.

-Carried-

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

If the Ministry of Education has not announced release of the second half of the COVID-19 related funding by the end of November 2021;

That the Waterloo Region District School Board Chair send a letter to the Minister of Education advocating for the release of said funding; and

That copies of the letter be sent to local Members of Provincial Parliament, Ontario Provincial School Boards' Association, and Council of Ontario Directors of Education.

-Carried-

TRUSTEE EXPENSES

This report was provided for information.

Board Policy 3001 Travel, Meals, Hospitality – Trustees directs staff to present, annually, a public report regarding Trustee expenses that were reimbursed during the previous fiscal year.

Trustees asked questions of clarification regarding other trustee related expenses which are not within the scope of this report.

FRENCH IMMERSION REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE

This report was provided for information.

The French Immersion Review Committee (the Committee) is currently in Phase 3 of the review. The first task of Phase 3 was to establish a vision, goals and guiding principles for French Language programming in the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB). A document articulating the vision, goals and principles was finalized at the October 19th Committee meeting. The vision, goals, and principles will form part of the public consultation process. The Committee is currently working through the second task of Phase 3 which is to explore options for a new French Immersion model. The French Immersion Review Committee will continue to meet to finalize the options for a new model and the community consultation process. The French Immersion Review Committee will also continue addressing the main areas needing improvement as identified in the Malatest Report. Final recommendations from the Committee will be presented to the Board in the spring of 2022.

Trustees asked questions regarding community consultation and transportation. It was noted that sustainable and financially viable models will be shared with the community for consultation.

MAPLE SYRUP EDUCATION PROGRAM UPDATE

This report was provided for information.

The Waterloo Region School Board does not have the appropriate equipment or facilities to produce maple syrup as part of a broader maple syrup education program. Based on the financial implications of building and maintaining a safe and functioning maple syrup manufacturing facility, and providing optimal outdoor and environmental educational learning experiences for students, staff have determined that continuing with this iteration of the Maple Syrup Education Program is not viable. As an alternative, staff are pursuing a partnership with a third party organization to host the maple syrup program. Furthermore, partnerships with Indigenous organizations to offer the maple syrup education program will allow for a more holistic learning experience that simultaneously provides students with an opportunity to learn about Indigenous worldviews and stewardship of the land.

Trustees acknowledge the work of Outdoor Education staff. Trustees asked questions regarding the Outdoor Education staff compliment and safety of students.

BOARD REPORTS

AD HOC SCHOOL NAMING REVIEW COMMITTEE FINAL REPORT

The Ad Hoc School Naming Review Committee (“Committee”) suggests that a renaming process be initiated at Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School as soon as possible per Policy 4020 Naming and Renaming of Board Facilities and Administrative Procedure 4865. This

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process will honour the sense of urgency from the school community to rename Sir John A. Macdonald as well as provide an opportunity to test the updated procedure.

The Committee engaged a researcher in October 2021 to perform a literature review of the names of schools, facilities, mascots and rooms and an environmental scan of other school boards' naming policy and procedures. Using the data collected during the literature review, a summary report of all current school/facility names was provided to the Committee for discussion and decision. The list of schools and facilities provided below reflects the Committee's identification of school names with a high (immediate) potential for concern. The list of mascots and other named spaces that reflect consideration for renaming will be referred to the respective school communities for implementation. Through its work, the committee has identified the following facility names as high priority concerns that warrant a renaming process:

- Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School
- AR Kaufman Public School
- Ryerson Public School

A Trustee who participated on the Ad Hoc School Naming Review Committee spoke to the committee processes and outcomes.

Trustees asked questions of clarification regarding the facility names identified for a renaming process, mascot changes and school community involvement. Trustees discussed the motion and how it relates to the values of the WRDSB.

At the November 29, 2021, Board Meeting the related motion was re-voted on. A motion to amend the motion was brought forward and defeated. A recorded vote on the main motion was requested by Trustee M. Ramsay.

8. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by K. Smith:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the list of schools for renaming identified as high priority as contained in this report presented at the November 15, 2021, Committee of the Whole meeting; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board endorse a renaming process already begun for Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School; and

That the Ad Hoc School Naming Review Committee be disbanded as the work of the committee per the terms of reference has been completed.

-Carried-

In Favour:

J. Herring
K. Meissner
C. Millar

Opposed:

M. Ramsay

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Abstained:
K. Smith

S. Piatkowski
L. Tremble
J. Weston
C. Whetham
C. Watson
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))

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson asked if the Ministry of Education has indicated when schools will return to normal and no longer require masks, cohorts and other precautions. Associate Director L. Read shared that there has been no discussion for a complete return to normal and staff are still waiting to hear back regarding the return to a semester model in secondary. At this time, nothing points to returning to pre-pandemic conditions without measures and precautions in place.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 15, 2021, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 p.m.