

**NOVEMBER 29, 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 K. Soror and N. Vishkin were in attendance.

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

Other staff in attendance: B. Jaklic and S. Reidel.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the November 29, 2021, Board Meeting be approved with the addition of an OPSBA Board of Directors Update to Board Reports.**

-Carried-

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of November 29, 2021, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folios 2, 30 and 31.**

-Carried-

Trustee C. Watson asked for clarification regarding the Parent Involvement Committee minutes on folio 2 in regards to comments made for the need for innovation and “using infrastructure that is 200 years old”. Director chanicka noted it refers to the education system which has remained largely the same and does not necessarily reflect current values such as outdoor education.

Trustee C. Watson expressed concern with the Ad Hoc School Naming Review Committee report and that schools being renamed were not directly consulted. Trustees continued to discuss the motion and how the committee came to the decision.

Trustee J. Herring called a Point of Order on Trustee M. Ramsay for comments of a “cloak of secrecy”. Chairperson J. Weston noted her concern over his comment.

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Trustees continued to discuss the decision to change the name of AR Kaufman Public School, committee community members, the Committee's interim reports and transparency and the renaming process, in general.

Trustee J. Herring called a Point of Order on Trustee M. Ramsay for incorrectly paraphrasing her statement from a previous meeting. Chairperson J. Weston noted that trustees should refrain from paraphrasing each other's comments.

Trustees continued discussion on community feedback, the harm caused and values reflected in Board policies. It was clarified that the school communities will be involved in the process for finding a new school name.

Trustee M. Ramsay called a Point of Order on Trustee S. Piatkowski for his interpretation of the minute approval process. Chairperson J. Weston allowed discussion to continue.

Trustees discussed the amendment to allow voting on each school identified for renaming separately.

3. Moved by C. Whetham, seconded by C. Watson:

**That Motion 8 on Folio 31 be amended to allow for each school on the list for renaming identified as high priority as contained in this report presented at the November 15, 2021, Committee of the Whole meeting to be voted on separately.**

-Amendment Defeated-

Opposed:  
J. Herring  
K. Meissiner  
C. Millar  
S. Piatkowski  
L. Tremble  
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))

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

**That the Board Call the Question.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
M. Ramsay  
K. Smith  
C. Watson  
C. Whetham

Trustee M. Ramsay requested a recorded vote.

Folio 31 - Motion 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  
S. Piatkowski  
L. Tremble  
J. Weston  
C. Whetham  
C. Watson  
K. Woodcock  
K. Soror  
N. Vishkin

Opposed:

M. Ramsay

Abstained:

K. Smith

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

**That Folios 2, 30 and 31 from the consent agenda of the November 29, 2021, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
M. Ramsay  
K. Smith

**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 November 29, 2021, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.**

-Carried-

B. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

**That the consent agenda of the November 29, 2021, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

C. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by L. Tremble:

**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 K. Meissner shared that on November 16, 2021, Director Chanicka participated in a panel discussion for the Waterloo Public Library called The Future of Public Education: Lessons from the Pandemic.

**COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

Interim Chief Communications Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie provided the monthly Good News Update which included stories of creative classrooms, Remembrance Day celebrations, student achievement and recognition of staff and community contributions. She also reviewed the web traffic, social media and traditional media interest.

**DELEGATIONS**

The following delegations spoke at the meeting:

- Karen Taylor-Harrison - Proposed Name Change to A.R. Kaufman School
- Peter Woolstencroft - Ad Hoc School Naming Review Committee Research Report

Trustees asked questions of clarification regarding P. Woolstencroft's presentation.

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

**That the Ad Hoc School Naming Review Committee Research Report be added to the agenda under Other Business.**

-Defeated-

Opposed:  
J. Herring  
K. Messiner  
C. Millar  
S. Piatkowski  
L. Tremble  
K. Woodcock  
K. Soror\*  
N. Vishkin\*

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**REPORTS**

**ANNUAL SUSPENSION REPORT**

This report was provided for information.

The report provides the Waterloo Region District School Board with an annual report concerning suspension, expulsion and violent incident data for the 2020-21 school year. Suspension and expulsion data is helpful in supporting schools as inclusive and caring communities. This data

was collected with schools operating adapted learning programs including: distance learning, in-person learning and the secondary adapted hybrid model.

Trustees asked a question regarding the data compared to the previous year.

### **COVID-19 VERBAL UPDATE**

Associate Director L. Read reviewed recent Ministry announcements. Superintendent B. Lemon provided an operational update on volunteers, field trips and fundraising. He concluded the presentation with positive feedback staff have received from local public health as they attend and monitor our outbreak sites.

Trustees asked questions regarding secondary assessments and evaluations, secondary bell times, transportation, behavior challenges related to masking and the transition to the regular semester model in Term 2.

### **REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

#### **OPSBA BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE**

Trustee L. Tremble attended the OPSBA Board of Directors' meeting and provided updates related to the Public Education Symposium (PES) on January 28, 2022, Labour Relations Symposium on April 28, 2022 and Lunch Time Speaker Series which will begin in the new year. She also provided additional information regarding feedback OPSBA provided the Ministry of Education, best practices for Student Trustees, electoral population report and Project Compass.

### **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board received the following communications:

- Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to Ministers of Education and Labour
- Halton District School Board to Minister of Education - Semester Model
- Avon Maitland District School Board SEAC to Minister of Education
- Upper Grand District School Board to Minister of Education
- Halton District School Board to Minister of Education - Capital Project Funding

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

#### **RETURN TO THE BOARDROOM UPDATE**

Chairperson J. Weston provided an update on the Boardroom and upgrades required to provide a hybrid space for both in person and virtual attendance. She noted that due to global supply chain issues we expect a three-month delay on equipment. Trustees are permitted to meet virtually until the end of 2022.

Trustees asked questions regarding the benefit of live-streaming the meeting and ensuring the upgrade is sufficient for future meetings.

Trustees expressed an interest in future discussions regarding the recordings and virtual attendance.

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

**That staff proceed with the installation of equipment to facilitate a hybrid model and allow for Committee of the Whole and Board Meetings to be live-streamed and recorded; and**

**That meetings continue virtually until said equipment is installed; and**

**That virtual meetings are to be revisited in April 2022 if the equipment installation is not yet complete.**

-Carried-

### **QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked what steps the WRDSB is taking to ensure that children of refugee claimants, who do not yet have a permanent address, are able to be registered as students rather than being made to wait until they find housing. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard shared that we continue to work closely with community partners to create a smooth transition to a learning environment for these children but that there are a number of challenges to the process, beyond education. The new Immigration Partnership Council Refugee Task Force is meeting bi-weekly going forward to address these issues. Trustee J. Herring also shared that she has received questions regarding this process.

Trustee S. Piatkowski also asked how we ensure that the children whose families are experiencing homelessness are registered and able to attend school. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard shared that there is a different process for students experiencing temporary homelessness and that they are accommodated where possible and transportation is provided for temporary displacements.

Trustee K. Meissner asked if there were plans to resume pizza and hot lunch days at schools. Superintendent B. Lemon informed trustees that the priority was to get nutrition programs back into schools first and that there is no timeline for pizza days at this time. He asked for patience as staff work to develop safe protocols for pizza days.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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

Whereas transparency and accountability are important building blocks to help build understanding in a democratic society,

**Therefore, be it resolved that the “research report” that was presented to the Ad Hoc School Naming Committee be released to the Waterloo Region District School Board Trustees and the general public immediately.**

**And that this motion comes to the board no later than the end of February 2022.**

Trustee J. Herring served the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustee C. Millar:

Whereas COVID is airborne and the science and knowledge around this virus has evolved since March 2020;

Whereas there is ongoing concern by education staff and families about the risk of COVID-19 and outbreaks in our schools;

Whereas variants of concern continue to be identified, case counts are on the rise, and a significant number of staff and students are unvaccinated including children between the ages of 5-11 who may not be fully vaccinated until February at the earliest;

Whereas the well-being and safety of our staff and students is paramount;

Whereas superior masks can provide an additional layer of health and safety protection for staff, students, and members of our school communities;

Whereas Respirators (e.g. N95, KN95, CAN99) provide an even higher level of protection for the wearer and those around them from airborne and droplet transmission;

Whereas a growing number of school boards already permit their staff to wear their own enhanced masks;

**Be it resolved that The Waterloo Region Board educators and education staff be allowed to provide their own Health Canada approved respirator, if desired, from the approved list on the Health Canada website. They must put on and take off all respirators as described by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health & Safety (CCOHS) (see figure 2) ; and**



**That any educator or education staff who prefers to wear the Ministry-provided medical masks will continue to have masks provided; and**

**That WRDSB trustees send another letter to the Minister of Education with copies to the Premier, local Politicians, school boards and OPSBA, requesting that effective as soon as possible, an enhanced level of PPE be provided for ALL staff and students.**

These Notices of Motion will be referred to the Agenda Development Committee for scheduling.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Board Meeting of November 29, 2021, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.