

**DECEMBER 13, 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: S. Piatkowski (Chairperson), J. Herring, K. Meissner, M. Ramsay, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustees C. Millar and K. Smith were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

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, S. Miller, L. Read, P. Rubenschuh and G. Shantz.

Other staff in attendance: R. Lam and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. Piatkowski called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by K. Meissner, seconded by L. Tremble:

That the agenda of the December 13, 2021, Board Meeting be approved with the addition of a Student Senate Update to Board Reports.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by J. Herring:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of December 13, 2021, 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 J. Weston, seconded by J. Herring:

That the agenda of the December 13, 2021, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

B. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by J. Weston:

That the consent agenda of the December 13, 2021, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

C. Moved by C. Whetham, seconded by K. Meissner:

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

Chairperson S. Piatkowski shared regrets from Trustees C. Millar and K. Smith.

Vice-Chair K. Woodcock and Chairperson S. Piatkowski attended the Fisher-Hallman Huron Boundary Study Part II public meeting last week.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Interim Chief Communications Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie shared good news items including some creative classrooms, system-wide giving, recognizing students, student voice and engagement, recognizing WRDSB educators and highlights from the Director's school visits. She reviewed this month's web traffic, social media and traditional media mentions.

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting at 7:14 p.m.

REPORTS

COVID-19 AND PUBLIC HEALTH UPDATE

Associate Director L. Read introduced Dr. Julie Emili, Associate Medical Officer of Health and Sharlene Sedgwick Walsh, Director of Healthy Living at the Region of Waterloo. Their presentation covered the Omicron variant, local vaccination rates and the continued partnership between Public Health and the WRDSB.

Trustees asked Public Health questions regarding the winter break, distribution of rapid antigen tests, school sports and supports in congregated classrooms.

Superintendent R. DeBoer provided an update on planning for secondary schools' semester two. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided an update on ventilation including HEPA filters, CO2 sensors, circulation and major ventilation projects.

Trustees asked questions regarding EQAO testing this year, the Omicron variant's effect on school and feasibility of providing rapid antigen tests to staff prior to the holidays.

2022 BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

On December 8, 2021, the Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Past Chair, along with the Manager of Corporate Services, met to review the responses and provide the recommendations as attached (Appendix A). Each trustee has been selected for the committee they indicated as their first choice.

3. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approves the 2022 Board Committee Membership Structure as outlined in Appendix A of the report titled "2022 - Board Committee Membership" dated December 13, 2021.

-Carried-

2022 OPSBA DIRECTOR AND VOTING DELEGATE NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

Trustees confirmed or appointed trustees to positions within the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) for the 2022 year and in preparation for the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) being held from June 9 – 11, 2022 in Ottawa, Ontario.

1. OPSBA Director

Trustee K. Woodcock nominated Trustee L. Tremble for the position of OPSBA Director for 2022.

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

That nominations for the position of OPSBA Director be closed.

-Carried-

Trustee L. Tremble accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Trustee L. Tremble was acclaimed as OPSBA Director for 2022.

2. OPSBA Alternate Director

Chairperson S. Piatkowski passed the chair to Vice-Chairperson K. Woodcock for this portion of the meeting.

Trustee J. Weston nominated Chairperson S. Piatkowski for the position of OPSBA Alternate Director for 2022.

5. Moved by C. Whetham, seconded by J. Herring:

That nominations for the position of OPSBA Alternate Director be closed.

-Carried-

Chairperson S. Piatkowski accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Chairperson S. Piatkowski was acclaimed as OPSBA Alternate Director for 2022.

Chairperson S. Piatkowski noted that he would be stepping down from his membership on the OPSBA Policy Working Group to focus on WRDSB duties.

3. Voting Delegate

Trustee J. Weston nominated Chairperson S. Piatkowski for the position of Voting Delegate for the 2022 OPSBA Annual General Meeting.

6. Moved by K. Meissner, seconded by L. Tremble:

That nominations for the position of OPSBA Voting Delegate be closed.

-Carried-

Chairperson S. Piatkowski accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Chairperson S. Piatkowski was acclaimed as the Voting Delegate.

Chairperson S. Piatkowski resumed chairing the meeting.

Alternate Voting Delegate

Trustee K. Woodcock nominated Trustee L. Tremble for the position of Alternate Voting Delegate for the 2022 OPSBA Annual General Meeting.

7. Moved by C. Whetham, seconded by J. Weston:

That nominations for the position of OPSBA Alternate Voting Delegate be closed.

-Carried-

Trustee L. Tremble accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Trustee L. Tremble was acclaimed as the Alternate Voting Delegate.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

STUDENT SENATE UPDATE

Student Trustee K. Soror and N. Vishkin provided trustees with an update from the Student Senate including a review of the dress code policy, roles and responsibilities of student senators and a student recognition discussion.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Bluewater District School Board to the Waterloo Region District School Board
- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to Minister of Education
- Toronto District School Board to Minister of Education
- Thames Valley District School Board SEAC to Minister of Education

When moving a motion to write a letter regarding a topic unrelated to the communications received, Trustee K. Woodcock was asked to pose it as a Notice of Motion. Chairperson S. Piatkowski confirmed he would still ask a question about pausing EQAO at the next Chairs and Minister teleconference.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson asked if Central Public School Council members were told not to oppose or discuss opposition to the Consumption and Treatment Site (CTS) site at 150 Main St, Cambridge at parent council meetings. Superintendent E. Giannopoulos shared the role of school council and that staff would not prohibit families from expressing views. Staff are working to support families to learn more about the CTS. In conversations with the Central Public School Council last week, members had a willingness to learn more about existing CTS in Kitchener and Guelph. Trustee C. Watson asked if the School Council can voice opposition to CTS at the school council meeting. Director j. chancika shared that staff does not take a position but rather facilitates answering parent questions. This has been on school council agendas and discussed.

Trustee M. Ramsay asked if school councils are discouraged from sharing their thoughts on CTS. Associate Director L. Read shared that school councils have not been discouraged from voicing concerns or having a discussion. School council is a vehicle for sharing concerns and that Superintendent E. Giannopoulos is looking to bring in individuals to assist in answering those questions in consultation with the school council. Trustee M. Ramsay asked if school councils can share their thoughts through the school. Director j. chanicka reinforced that school councils is a place for issues and concerns to be raised and the role of staff in the matter is to try and provide comprehensive information when questions are asked.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

Whereas Central Public School Council parents have been told that they cannot oppose or speak in opposition to the Consumption Treatment Site of 150 Main at School Council Meetings,

Whereas parents have been told to organize their opposition apart from Central School Council Meetings and Central Public-School Property,

Whereas the Education Act, Reg. 612/00, section 20, Advisory Authority of School Councils and the WRDSB School Council Handbook links, state that a School council can make recommendations on any matter to the principal and the board.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Waterloo Region District School Board allow the parents of Central Public School to express their opinions, supportive or in opposition to the CTS site of 150 Main at the School Council Meetings, which are sanctioned by the Education Act, and allow the School Council to provide recommendations to the principal and the board of Trustees regarding the CTS site of 150 Main.

And that this motion be presented to the board no later than February 2022.

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Trustee K. Woodcock served the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustees K. Meissner, J. Herring and J. Weston:

That the Board direct the chair to send a letter to the Minister advocating for a pause of EQAO testing for this year. I would also propose that the Chair ask a question about pausing EQAO at the next Chairs/Minister teleconference.

Notices of Motion will be scheduled by the Agenda Development Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

8. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by C. Whetham:

That the Board Meeting of December 13, 2021, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:24 p.m.