

JANUARY 17, 2022

**WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

**NOTICE AND AGENDA**

A Committee of the Whole meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board will be held via video conference, on **Monday, January 17, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.**

**AGENDA**

**Call to Order**

**O Canada**

**Approval of Agenda**

**Declarations of Pecuniary Interest**

**Celebrating Board Activities/Announcements**

**Delegations**

Savio Wong - Library Review

Carolyn Burjoski - Library Review

Peggy Thomas, Ontario Library Association - Library Review

Fraser Gibson - Outdoor Education

Meg Ruttan Walker - Return to In-Person Learning

**Staff Follow Up**

**Policy and Governance**

01 Board Policy 3003 - Trustee Professional Development

j. chanicka

**Reports**

Library Services Presentation

G. Shantz

05 Motion: Library Review

Trustee C. Watson

06 Motion: Pausing EQAO Testing

Trustee K. Woodcock

Return to In-Person Learning

j. chanicka / L. Read

**Board Reports**

**Question Period** (*10 minutes*)

**Future Agenda Items** (*Notices of Motion to be referred to Agenda Development Committee*)

**Adjournment**

Questions relating to this agenda should be directed to  
Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services  
519-570-0003, ext. 4336, or [Stephanie\\_Reidel@wrdsb.ca](mailto:Stephanie_Reidel@wrdsb.ca)



## TRUSTEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Legal References:	<i>Education Act, Section 171(1)17: Powers of Boards – Membership Fees and Travelling Expenses</i> <i>Ministry Memo 2006:B15 – School Board Expenditure Guidelines;</i> <i>Ministry Memo 2009:B8 – Trustee Expense Guideline</i>
Related References:	<a href="#"><u>Board Policy 3001 – Travel, Meals and Hospitality Expenditures – Trustees</u></a> <a href="#"><u>Administrative Procedure 4380 – Travel, Meals and Hospitality Expenditures</u></a> <i>FS-18-AS5 – Request for Expense Reimbursement</i> <b><i>Trustee Request For Reimbursement Of Expenses - Professional Development</i></b> <i>HR-99-300 - Request for Staff Development Funds</i>
Effective Date:	<i>January 25, 2010</i>
Revisions:	<i>June 13, 2016; November 20, 2017, <b>January 17, 2022</b></i>
Reviewed:	<i>November 12, 2018</i>

### 1. Trustee Professional Development

- 1.1 It is the policy of the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) to support and encourage the attendance of trustees at conferences, conventions, seminars and courses of an educational nature, in accordance with the regulations governing this policy, subject to budget limitations established by the WRDSB, in recognition of the benefits of providing opportunities for trustees to gain greater depth of knowledge and experience relative to their responsibilities.

### 2. Guidelines

- 2.1 A trustee professional development budget shall be established annually by the WRDSB.
- 2.2 Trustees may not attend more than one out-of-province professional development activity per year.
- 2.3 No more than three trustees may attend the same out-of-province professional development activity.
- 2.4 In the event that more than three trustees apply to attend the same out-of-province professional development activity, a special committee consisting of the Chairperson and two trustees to be appointed by the Board of Trustees would make the determination in accordance with the regulations. The Committee will give consideration to Board or Committee members having a special interest in the topic(s) being covered during the professional development activity and to the order in which applications were received.
- 2.5 The WRDSB will pay expenses in connection with the attendance by a trustee at an approved professional development activity in accordance with Administrative Procedure 4380 – Travel, Meals and Hospitality Expenditures.
- 2.6 A “Request for Staff Development Funds” form (HR-99-300) must be completed and submitted to the Chairperson for approval prior to attending the professional development activity.

- 2.7 Supporting vouchers and receipts for expenses incurred under these regulations must be submitted to the Chairperson's Office on a **Trustee Request For Reimbursement Of Expenses - Professional Development** ~~Request for Reimbursement of Expenses Form (FS-18-AS5)~~.
- 2.8 Trustees whose expenses are being paid by another sponsoring organization will not be reimbursed under the policy and regulations.
- 2.9 Trustees attending a professional development activity under this policy and its regulations must complete a written report attached to the **Trustee Request For Reimbursement Of Expenses - Professional Development** ~~Request for Reimbursement of Expenses Form~~. The conference report will be posted on the WRDSB website quarterly providing information about the experience and how it contributed to their position as Trustee, as well as to education in the WRDSB while supporting the strategic plan.

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# Report to Committee of the Whole

January 17, 2022

**Subject: Motion: Library Review**

## Recommendation

*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.*

## Status

This Notice of Motion was served by Trustee C. Watson at the November 8, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting with support from Trustee M. Ramsay.

## Financial implication

The financial implications are not known at this time.

## Communications

There are no communications planned at this time.

Prepared by: Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services  
for Trustee C. Watson in consultation with Coordinating Council



# Report to Committee of the Whole

January 17, 2022

## **Subject: Motion: Requesting a Pause to EQAO Testing**

### **Recommendation**

*That the Board direct the Chair to send a letter to the Minister advocating for a pause of EQAO testing for this year; and*

*That the Chair ask a question about pausing EQAO at the next Chairs/Minister teleconference.*

### **Status**

Many students are experiencing increased anxiety and depression due to the impact of the pandemic on the methods of delivery in education over the last two years. These mental health issues are felt deeply by our WRDSB families, all of whom are coping with the stresses of the pandemic as best they can.

The administration of the EQAO tests in 2022 is a responsibility for teachers and administrators at a time when education staff are burdened with adjusting to the impact of the pandemic on their mental and physical health as well as tailoring their professional teaching and administrative methods to address learning loss and being responsive to shifts in modes of learning.

It is known that the pandemic has disproportionately affected marginalized students and families. As noted by research, “since EQAO testing was introduced in Ontario schools, the achievement gap has not been drastically reduced and instead has intensified for certain identities particularly impacting Indigenous, racialized, English Language Learners, recent immigrants, and students from lower socio-economic backgrounds” (Eizadirad, 2020, p. 27). Additionally, EQAO testing pre-pandemic created misconceptions about the ‘quality’ of schools and had contributed to a cycle where “schools often located in higher socio-economic communities maintain a valued status being labelled as offering ‘high quality’ education” (Eizadirad, 2020, p. 27). Any data collected in 2022 through EQAO, will be skewed due to the disproportionate impacts of the pandemic.

Several teachers and principals in research note that, “Kids feel a lot of stress about [EQAO tests]. Even though they’re not going to be punished for it, they feel a lot of stress and anxiety about writing it” (Hargreaves, 2020, p. 413). Standardized testing has been found to “perpetuate *ill-being*”, and can “undermine innovation and curriculum personalization” (Hargreaves, 2020, p. 415).

At this time, teachers continue to evaluate students using a variety of methods and report this information through communications with families, ongoing assessment and

formal report cards. These represent sufficient forms of data to understand learners and their needs.

While EQAO is only done in specific grades, it can also impact staff across the school and board by, for example, occupying EA support, adding work to Administration and Administrative Assistants and adding to the workload of mental health support staff such as CYWs, Guidance Counsellors and Social Workers.

The Ministry of Education has supported boards in adopting a trauma informed approach with the understanding that this supports student achievement and well-being. Holding EQAO for Elementary students right now, is not trauma informed and adds a layer of stress on top of what many students, families and staff have to address with the multiple waves of Covid. A pause on EQAO testing will support student and staff well-being, provide a sense of relief and provide some burden reduction during these unstable times.

## **Background**

Prior to the pandemic, EQAO testing occurred in May for elementary schools and at various times during the school year in secondary schools. This year, some WRDSB schools have already completed the OSSLT online over the course of Semester 1. The Grade 9 EQAO test was delayed in semester 1 given the shift to remote learning and the disruption to in-person learning in general.

This Notice of Motion was served by Trustee K. Woodcock at the December 13, 2021 Board meeting with support from Trustees K. Meissner, J. Herring and J. Weston.

## **Financial implication**

There are no known financial implications.

## **Communications**

If approved, the letter will be sent to the Minister of Education and a copy posted on the WRDSB website.

Prepared by: Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services  
for Trustee K. Woodcock in consultation with Coordinating Council



## References

- Eizadirad, A. (2020). Settling the score: Redefining accountability and closing the opportunity gap. *Our Schools / Our Selves*, 26–29.
- Hargreaves, A. (2020). Large-scale assessments and their effects: The case of mid-stakes tests in Ontario. *Journal of Educational Change*, 21(3), 393–420.  
<https://doi-org.libproxy.wlu.ca/10.1007/s10833-020>

cc:

Ontario Public School Boards' Association  
Chairs, Ontario Public School Boards  
MPP Amy Fee  
MPP Catherine Fife  
MPP Mike Harris  
MPP Belinda Kalaharios  
MPP Laura Mae Lindo