

**JANUARY 31, 2022
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, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustee K. Smith was 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, D. Liebermann, S. Miller, L. Read and G. Shantz.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. Piatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chairperson S. Piatkowski commenced the meeting with the following statement:

I wanted to recognize that January 27 was International Holocaust Remembrance Day, while January 29 was National Day of Remembrance of the Québec City Mosque Attack and Action against Islamophobia. We join our community in mourning the losses that these days of remembrance represent.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the January 31, 2022, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of January 31, 2022, and the actions contained therein, be approved (with the exception of motions #3, #4 and #5 on folio 34-36).

-Carried-

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Trustee C. Watson asked that the motions be reconsidered based on feedback she received encouraging broader consultation. A recorded vote was requested for each motion. Trustees discussed the motions.

Consent Agenda Motion #3

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

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

-Defeated-

In Favour:

M. Ramsay

C. Watson

Opposed:

J. Herring

K. Meissner

C. Millar

S. Piatkowski

L. Tremble

J. Weston

C. Whetham

K. Woodcock

*K. Soror

* 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))

Consent Agenda motion #4

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

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

-Defeated-

In Favour:

M. Ramsay

C. Watson

Opposed:

J. Herring

K. Meissner

C. Millar

S. Piatkowski

L. Tremble

J. Weston

C. Whetham

K. Woodcock

*K. Soror

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Consent Agenda Motion #5

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

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.

-Defeated-

In Favour:

M. Ramsay
C. Watson

Opposed:

J. Herring
K. Meissner
C. Millar
S. Piatkowski
L. Tremble
J. Weston
C. Whetham
K. Woodcock
*K. Soror

* 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))

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

That folios 34 to 36, from the consent agenda of the January 31, 2022, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Opposed:
C. Watson

Abstained:
M. Ramsay

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 K. Woodcock:

That the agenda of the January 31, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

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

That the consent agenda of the January 31, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folios 7-10.

-Carried-

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

That the previous question be called.

-Carried-

Opposed:
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

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

That Folio 7-10, from the consent agenda of the January 31, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Opposed:
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

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

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 Trustee K. Smith and noted that Student trustee N. Vishkin will be joining the meeting late.

Trustee L. Tremble attended the virtual OPSBA Public Education Symposium (PES) with Chair S. Piatkowski and Trustees J. Herring, K. Meissner, C. Millar, K. Smith, J. Weston, K. Woodcock and Student Trustee K. Soror. Trustees shared some highlights from the symposium.

Vice-Chair K. Woodcock and Chairperson S. Piatkowski attended the Laurier EdTalk Reimagining a Faculty of Education panel which included Director j. chanicka and other local education leaders.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Interim Chief Communications Officer E. Dougan McKenzie presented the Communications Good News Update to trustees. She shared some creative classroom stories, system-wide giving, stories of staff recognition and the Director of Education's speaking engagements in educational events and social media outreach. She also reviewed web traffic, social media engagement and traditional media mentions.

REPORTS

DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION - ANNUAL REPORT

This report was provided for information.

Director j. chanicka presented the Director of Education Annual Report to trustees. He showed trustees how to navigate through the web-based report. The report includes a message from the Director, the Chairperson and a letter from Student Trustees. It also includes a number of stories of success from within the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB). The report reviewed both the Strategic Plan and Operational Goals.

Trustees asked questions regarding the numerous ways in which staff are consulting students, families and stakeholders and the upcoming consultation in the strategic planning process.

Student Trustee N. Vishkin joined the meeting at 7:58 p.m.

Trustees thanked Director j. chanicka and staff for their work.

Director j. chanicka concluded this report with gratitude for everyone in the organization during these challenging times.

OPERATIONAL PLAN FOR 2021-2022

This report was provided for information.

Trustees were provided an update on staff's work as it relates to the Strategic Plan. WRDSB's Strategic Priorities, as reflected in our Strategic Plan, remain the pillars of the work being done, and continue to drive the operational plan and priorities that have become critically important as staff respond to the realities and impact of COVID-19 along with the global call to action to respond to the ongoing impact and harm of systemic racism and oppression. The Operational Plan for 2021-2022 is organized by department and reflect the following priorities:

- Ensuring the continuity of quality learning for all students while ensuring that identity and social location are not predictors of outcomes
- Ensuring the safety and well-being of staff and students
- Continuing our commitment to an organizational culture rooted in Indigenous sovereignty, equity and human rights
- Ensuring continuity of effective operations of the school district

Trustees asked questions regarding the purpose of the Operational Plan and the plans for designing Culturally Relevant and Responsive Pedagogy (CRRP). At the next Operation Plan report, staff will also show connections back to last year's work.

COVID-19 UPDATE

This report was provided for information.

Director j. chanicka introduced the presentation. Associate Director L. Read provided an update on local vaccination efforts. Coordinating Superintendent G. Shantz reviewed staff coverage. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided an update on transportation. Superintendent B. Lemon updated trustees on cohorting and extra-curricular activities. Director j. chanicka concluded the presentation with gratitude and appreciation.

Trustees thanked staff for their work. Trustees asked questions regarding the current enrolment in short term virtual learning, a province-wide form-letter email campaign, increased number of days retired teachers can teach and the supply of N95 respirators. Staff continue to encourage families to reach out to their school if they have any specific concerns. It was the Will of the Board to receive information by email on staff and student COVID-19 cases since returning to school.

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

That the Board Meeting of January 31, 2022, be extended an additional thirty minutes.

-Carried-

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Halton District School Board SEAC to Minister of Education - FASD
- Halton District School Board SEAC to Minister of Education - Designated Disease
- WRDSB to Region of Waterloo - Temporary Isolation Centre
- WRDSB to Minister of Education & Chief Medical Officer of Health - Priority Status
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - N95 Respirators
- Region of Waterloo - Response to WRDSB
- Region of Waterloo Medical Officer of Health - Response to WRDSB
- MPP Catherine Fife to Minister of Education
- York Region District School Board to Minister of Education & Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Thames Valley District School Board to Minister of Education
- York Region District School Board to Minister of Education
- Greater Essex County District School Board to Minister of Education
- Lakehead District School Board SEAC to Minister of Education
- Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to Minister of Education
- Greater Essex County DSB to Minister of Education - 2021-22 Revised Budget Estimates
- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to Minister of Education

In a follow-up conversation related to the letter from the Region of Waterloo, Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard shared that the Cambridge Shelter Corporation and the school administrator have been in constant contact and that he will provide trustees with further information regarding the safety plan.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Meissner asked about support in place for students that identify as 2SLGBTQIA+, including existing supports and any new supports which are being created in response to the events of the past couple of weeks. Superintendent C. Hill noted that most supports are only helpful to students who are in a position of openly identifying at school. Given these constraints, the supports include:

- GSAs in schools
- will now offer New Gr. 9 Phys. Ed. – all gender HPE starting in 2022-2023
- staff have begun to engage in the work of destigmatising all gender washrooms - moving towards changing all signage to read ‘washrooms for everyone’
- offering training around gender identity and expression
- Monthly GSA drop-in with staff members from the AIDS Committee of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo and Area’s education team to support and educate GSA staff sponsors
- Support for students and staff in attending the OK2BME conference occurring virtually this year

- Students have the ability to access CYWs, Guidance Counsellors and Social Workers as they are able.
- AP 1235 (Accommodation of Persons who Identify as Transgender) Training for Administrators is being offered.

Human Rights and Equity Advisor D. Ahluwalia also added that staff now have a 2SLGBTQIA+ Affinity Group.

Trustee K. Woodcock noted that trustees are aware of the pressures staff are under and asked that staff think of ways that trustees can advocate in order to assist with burden reduction strategies during the pandemic.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee C. Watson served the following motion with support from Trustee M. Ramsay:

Whereas trustees have received many concerns from the public about age appropriateness concerning sexual health library resources for K-6 children in school libraries,

Whereas there is an age discrepancy between the Ministry of Education Curriculum guidelines, Human Development and Sexual Health education guidelines and K-6 guidelines and sexual health library resources,

Therefore be it resolved that the Waterloo Region District School Board direct staff to present a detailed written report to the board of trustees by the end of March 2022, concerning the age discrepancy between the Ministry of Education Curriculum guidelines, Human Development and Sexual Health and the sexual health library resources for K-6 in WRDSB school libraries and strategies that would ensure that we are in compliance with Ministry curriculum guideline expectations.

This notice of motion will be scheduled by the Agenda Development Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of January 31, 2022, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:29 p.m.