

**FEBRUARY 28, 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. Lam and S. Reidel.

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the February 28, 2022, Board Meeting be approved with the addition of OPSBA Board of Directors Verbal Update under Board Reports.**

-Carried-

**CONSENT AGENDA**

2. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by C. Millar:

**That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of February 28, 2022, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of the Reported Student Aggression Quarterly Data Report starting on Folio 30.**

-Carried-

Trustees discussed the information and asked questions regarding any possible trends in the data from the first quarter.

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

**That Folios 30-35, from the consent agenda of the February 28, 2022, Board Meeting, 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 K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Millar:

**That the agenda of the February 28, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera. with the agenda - other business - trustee attendance matter.**

-Carried-

B. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by J. Weston:

**That the consent agenda of the February 28, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

Abstained: M. Ramsay

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Trustee K. Smith's absences up to and including March 20, 2022.**

-Carried-

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

**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. He shared that trustees have approved her absence for this regular meeting of the Board.

**COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

Interim Chief Communications Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie shared stories from the classrooms, and highlights from Black Brilliance, Pink Shirt Day, Winter Walk Day and International Mother Language Day. She reviewed the Communications engagement through web traffic, social media and traditional media.

**DELEGATIONS**

The Board of Trustees received the following delegation:

- Marie Snyder- COVID-19 Health and Safety in Schools

**STAFF FOLLOW UP**

**MAPLE SYRUP EDUCATION PROGRAM**

Superintendent D. Lataille-Herdsman provided an update on the Maple Syrup Education Program based on a request at a previous meeting. She shared that 276 classes have signed up to participate in the program, and due to the high demand, the program will be offered at both the White Owl Native Ancestry Association (WONAA) site and Camp Heidelberg. The program will be co-delivered by WRDSB staff and WONAA at both sites. The program will occur outside and focus on Indigenous practices and stewardship. Information was also provided on site facilities and safety.

**REPORTS**

**CAPITAL PRIORITIES PROGRAM 2022-23**

This report was provided for information.

The 2020-2030 Long-Term Accommodation Plan (LTAP) identifies the Waterloo Region District School Board's (WRDSB) accommodation needs up to 2030. As specified in the LTAP, the WRDSB's most urgent needs include five projects:

- New elementary school, North Cambridge (Equestrian Way);
- Parkway Public School addition;
- Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School addition;
- Ayr Public School addition; and
- New secondary school, Southwest Kitchener Secondary VII.

This list also reflects the current assessment of needs based on enrolment, utilization trends, the number of projects the WRDSB currently has underway and the status of these projects, development activity and building conditions. For these priorities, business cases describing the current situation, the project rationale, scope, funding and estimated cost have been submitted to the Ministry of Education.

Trustees asked questions regarding timelines and were provided with follow up information regarding the pupil places for the Ayr Public School addition.

### **AVIATION PROGRAM UPDATE**

This report was provided for information.

After a review, it was recommended that the aviation program target students in Grade 6 given the Grade 6 curriculum identifies aviation as an area of focus for students. This approach also ensures widespread reach to all elementary students early in their education and as a way to promote and highlight the aviation industry as a possible pathway to a variety of job and career options. As such, a plan was developed whereby schools can sign up for class trips to the Region of Waterloo International Airport. Busing will be provided and the focus of the field trip will be to expose students to the many aspects of the aviation sector. In addition, a plan is being developed to deploy the two flight simulators, housed centrally, to interested Grade 6 classes.

Trustees asked questions about how the simulators will be deployed. It was also confirmed that there is sufficient funding within the existing Experiential Learning budget. Staff agreed to provide a further breakdown of this budget as part of the next Interim Financial Report and Forecast update.

### **MULTI-YEAR STRATEGIC PLANNING PROCESS UPDATE**

This update was provided for information.

Trustees were provided with an update on the Multi-Year Strategic Planning Process. It included stakeholder mapping, methods of getting stakeholder feedback and timelines for the process.

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

This update was provided for information.

The COVID-19 Update started with a refresher around the current context which the WRDSB is working within followed by the current vaccination efforts focusing on children aged 5 through 11. Trustees were also provided with a Short Term Virtual Learning Update and information on mask distribution.

Trustees asked questions regarding staff feedback on Short Term Virtual Learning and mask health and safety. When asked again about a recent province wide email campaign, staff asked

trustees to send any specific school concerns from parents to staff for follow up and encourage families to reach out to their school principal if they have concerns.

## **REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

### **STUDENT SENATE UPDATE**

Student Trustee K. Soror informed trustees about the well-attended Student Roundtable meeting on February 9, 2022.

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

Trustee L. Tremble shared highlights from last weekend's OPSBA Board of Directors meeting and noted she will send trustees further information.

## **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board received the following communications:

- Waterloo Region DSB to Minister of Education and Chief Medical Officer of Health
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education
- Avon Maitland District School Board to Minister of Education - EQAO
- Halton District School Board SEAC to Minister of Education
- Avon Maitland District School Board to Minister of Education - Menstrual Equity
- Halton District School Board to Minister of Education
- Bluewater District School Board to Minister of Education

Superintendent S. Miller confirmed that WRDSB Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) have similar concerns to those indicated in the letter from Halton District School Board, regarding PPM 81, and are in the process of drafting a letter to the Ministry of Education.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting that the Suspension/Expulsion, Annual Reports and monthly Suspension/Expulsion reports, be amended to include an in-depth analysis of students with exceptionalities that have been suspended or expelled, and

That this analysis also includes the different types of exceptionalities and the number of students with exceptionalities that have been suspended or expelled; and

That this letter will be shared with other SEACs in the province of Ontario and OPSOA.

This Notice of Motion will be scheduled by the Agenda Development Committee.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Board Meeting of February 28, 2022, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:34 p.m.