

**MARCH 21, 2022**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Committee of the Whole 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 and K. Woodcock.

Trustees K. Smith and C. Whetham were unable to attend.

Student Trustees K. Soror was in attendance. Student Trustee N. Vishkin was not in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: j. chanicka (Director of Education and Secretary), D. Ahluwalia, J. Albrecht, E. Dougan-McKenzie, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, C. Hill, P. Kaur, N. Landry, D. Lataille-Herdsman, 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.

Chairperson S. Piatkowski acknowledged that today was both International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and World Down Syndrome Day.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the March 21, 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interests.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting.

**DELEGATIONS**

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Tamara Lorincz - WRDSB Statement Regarding Ukraine
- Julie Meier - Grade 8 Year-End Celebrations
- Andrew Wilson - Ventilation and CO2 Monitoring

Trustees asked questions of clarification of J. Meier and A. Wilson.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1006 - PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

2. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by L. Tremble:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1006 - Prevalent Medical Conditions as presented at the March 21, 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 5010 - EMPLOYMENT AND PLACEMENT OF RELATIVES**

Trustees asked questions regarding the applicable relationships, definitions and disciplinary actions. It was noted that unlike most policies, there are procedures embedded in the policy to ensure equitable hiring practices are being maintained.

A housekeeping change to include non-binary pronouns was agreed to.

3. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by L. Tremble:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 5010 - Employment and Placement of Relatives as presented at the March 21, 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

Abstained  
M.Ramsay  
C. Watson

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 5009 - TRAVEL, MEALS AND HOSPITALITY  
EXPENDITURES – STAFF**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 5009 - Travel, Meals and Hospitality Expenditures – Staff as presented at the March 21, 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 6006 - ADULT AND CONTINUING EDUCATION**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 6006 - Adult and Continuing Education as presented at the March 21, 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**REPORTS**

**INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT AND FORECAST**

This report was provided for information.

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided follow up information regarding the Experiential Learning allocation which is used for staffing, co-operative education, partnerships, software fees and funds to support some class trips.

The information contained in this report is based on financial results up to February 28, 2022. The forecast for the 2021-22 school year remains an in-year deficit (\$8.44M), but there are a number of variables that will impact our financial position over the next six months, including forecasted savings in utilities, staffing, professional development and supply costs. Revenue adjustments have also been made to reflect additional Priorities & Partnerships Funding (PPF) announced after the Q1 Report. Despite an increase in the WRDSB's projected in-year deficit, the budget remains compliant with the Ministry of Education's in-year deficit requirements.

Trustees asked questions regarding student enrolment and new home builds.

## **MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS QUARTERLY UPDATE**

This report was provided for information.

Current capital projects with budgets greater than \$2.5M were presented with significant milestones and basic project statistics. All projects are proceeding as planned through the design and construction stages. The new school, formerly referred to as Tartan Avenue, has received an official name of Oak Creek Public School. In addition, an architect is now in place for the new school in South Kitchener.

### **650 LAURELWOOD DRIVE SCHOOL RENAMING**

The Naming Committee identified Laurel Heights Secondary School as its preferred choice. The connections to the neighborhood will offer students an opportunity to learn about, connect with, and develop deep respect for the both natural world and their neighbourhood. The renaming of 650 Laurelwood Drive and the process of renaming serves as an act of Reconciliation in which the committee acknowledges the harm caused by the original legal name. At every opportunity throughout the process, during the consultation with the wider community and the “feedback” loop with the school community, the committee communicated the reasons for renaming the school, referencing WRDSB Board Policy 4020 and Administrative Procedure 4865, and the Calls to Action within the Truth and Reconciliation Report.

Trustees made comments of support for the recommended name and thanked the committee members and school community.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the name, Laurel Heights Secondary School from the following shortlisted names for the renaming of the secondary school at 650 Laurelwood Drive, Waterloo, Ontario:**

- **Laurel Heights Secondary School**
- **Headwaters Secondary School**
- **Northwestern Secondary School**

-Carried-

Opposed: M. Ramsay

## **TRUSTEE DETERMINATION AND DISTRIBUTION**

In February of each election year, school boards receive PEG Reports (Population of Electoral Group Reports) which are produced by the Municipal Property Assessment Corporation (MPAC). They contain information on the number of eligible voters for each of the four types of boards within the municipalities of the school board’s jurisdiction. The information contained in these reports is the basis for the calculations required for the Determination and Distribution Report.

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

**That, pursuant to Section 4(1)(b) of Ontario Regulation 412/00 of the Education Act, the Waterloo Region District School Board agrees that no areas within the Board's area of jurisdiction in the Region of Waterloo be designated as low population municipalities; and**

**That, pursuant to Section 58.1(10.0.1) of Ontario Regulation 412/00 of the Education Act (adopted in 2003) which says the number of elected trustee positions on a district school board be set at the number determined by the Board for the 2006 school board election, the Waterloo Region District School Board confirms that the number of trustees for this Board will remain at eleven ( 11); and**

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board distributes its members as follows:**

- **four (4) representatives for the City of Kitchener;**
- **three (3) representatives for the combined area of the City of Waterloo and the Township of Wilmot;**
- **three (3) representatives for the combined area of the City of Cambridge and the Township of North Dumfries; and**
- **one (1) representative for the combined area of the Township of Wellesley and the Township of Woolwich.**

-Carried-

## **BOARD RETIREMENT CELEBRATION**

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and the amount of advance planning involved with this annual event, it is unknown whether holding a large, indoor dinner will be prudent in the coming months. As a result, trustees will honour retirees in the following way:

1. In lieu of providing a dinner, the Board will make a donation to Nutrition for Learning, Food4Kids or WEFI - WCSSAA Student Athletic Assistance, on behalf of each retiree, to address the needs of families and students in our community. An explanation of each organization will be provided so that retirees can select which organization they would like to support.
2. A retirement gift of a mantle clock will be offered to all retirees. As an exception for this recognition event, retirees will have the option to receive the mantle clock or have the WRDSB donate the equivalent value to either Nutrition for Learning, Food4Kids, or WEFI - WCSSAA Student Athletic Assistance. Clocks will be couriered to retirees.
3. A booklet, with a congratulatory message from Trustees and the name and years of service of each retiree, will be printed and sent to retirees.

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

**That, due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and health and safety considerations, the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) approve celebrating 2022 WRDSB retirees by making a donation on their behalf to address the food insecurity in our region or to support students through WEFI - WCSSAA Student Athletic Assistance; and**

**That the 2022 retirees are provided a gift to acknowledge their service to the board.**

-Carried-

**MOTION: CO2 MONITORS**

This Notice of Motion was served at the January 17, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting by Trustee J. Weston with support from Trustee J. Herring. Trustee J. Weston spoke to her motion requesting that a report be developed to determine the feasibility of a pilot project of CO2 monitors in schools.

Trustees discussed the motion. When discussing the timeline for reporting back, it was noted that while staff will strive to meet the deadline in the recommendation, it is possible that there will be a delay. Trustee discussed equipment, costs, funding sources and whether other school boards are also investigating CO2 monitors.

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

**That Trustees direct staff to investigate the feasibility and effectiveness of placing CO2 monitors in a minimum of three schools, as a pilot project, to determine their usefulness at measuring and logging air quality, including CO2, and clean air delivery rate (CADR) in occupied rooms; and**

**That the report includes a full costing of implementing this pilot; and**

**That staff report back to Trustees in April 2022.**

-Carried-

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee J. Herring asked if staff choosing to wear masks can wear any mask they choose now that masks are no longer required. Coordinating Superintendent G. Shantz shared that the direction to staff choosing to wear a mask is to wear one of the two options being provided by WRDSB at no cost to staff. Trustee J. Herring asked if this direction was coming from the Ministry of Education and asked if other boards provided the same direction. Coordinating Superintendent G. Shantz shared that PPE is the responsibility of the employer and that he cannot speak for other boards but might assume that they would also be providing PPE.

**MARCH 21, 2022**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

Trustee K. Woodcock asked if staff had any preliminary information on how school went today without mandatory masks. Associate Director L. Read shared that many staff, students and families went into today with trepidation given the divisive nature of the matter. The feedback she received, however, is that staff, students and families were respectful of individual choice and were happy to return to school after March Break. There was also no notable change in absenteeism.

Trustee M. Ramsay asked that trustees receive an update next week on any sanctions of students without masks as part of the COVID-19 Update. Trustee M. Ramsay will provide Associate Director L. Read with some further information via email. Associate Director L. Read noted that she is not aware of any situations of that nature and appreciates receiving any information for follow up. She also encouraged families with concerns to reach out to their classroom teacher or school administrator.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following Notice of Motion was served by Trustee J. Herring with support from Trustee C. Millar:

Whereas Trustees, as elected officials, are responsible for their words, are accountable to their constituents and transparency is of paramount importance; and

Whereas families, staff and members of the public have indicated their appreciation to be able to view meetings after they have occurred; and

Whereas since the pandemic, we have experienced the value of having our meetings recorded and live-streamed; and

Whereas we understand that new processes will need to be developed to guide this new practice; and

Whereas the WRDSB has approved the investment of funds and is in the process of ensuring that Committee of the Whole and Board meetings will continue to be livestreamed starting as soon as possible;

It is recommended:

*That staff prepare a report investigating the possibility for all Committee of the Whole and Board Meeting recordings to be made available for viewing on the WRDSB website; and*

*That a retention schedule be developed to guide this practice; and*

*That until a discussion and determination can be made by trustees, that all future recordings be retained; and*

**MARCH 21, 2022**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

*That if approved by the Board of Trustees, that a Policy be developed to guide this practice.*

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

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.