

APRIL 25, 2022
BOARD MEETING

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Board Meeting this evening following the Special Committee of the Whole meeting via video conference, with the following members in attendance: S. Piatkowski (Chairperson), J. Herring, K. Meissner, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

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, 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 7:10 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the April 25, 2022, Board Meeting be approved with the addition of a Student Roundtable Update under Board Reports.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of April 25, 2022, 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 L. Tremble, seconded by C. Millar:

That the agenda of the April 25, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera with the addition of a COVID-19 Update under Employee Relations and Staffing.

-Carried-

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

That the consent agenda of the April 25, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folios 6-7 and 11.

-Carried-

Opposed: J. Herring

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

That Folios 6-7 and 11, from the consent agenda of the April 25, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved as presented.

-Carried-

In Favour:

J. Herring
K. Meissner
C. Millar
L. Tremble
J. Weston
C. Whetham
K. Woodcock

Opposed:

M. Ramsay
K. Smith
C. Watson

D. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by K. Smith:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve an unpaid leave of absence for Trustee J. Weston from May 1, 2022 to June 4, 2022, and for Trustee K. Meissner from May 1, 2022 to June 3, 2022.

-Carried-

Abstained:

K. Meissner
J. Weston

E. Moved by C. Whetham, 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 that Trustees approved leaves for Trustees K. Meissner and J. Weston in alignment with the provincial election campaign period.

Trustees C. Whetham and K. Woodcock attended the Cambridge State of the City Address.

Trustees C. Millar and L. Tremble attended the Grand River Collegiate Institute Open House for Students in Grades 8 through 10.

Trustee J. Weston provided greetings from the WRDSB at an Iftar hosted by Muslim Social Services and Ihelp International. Trustee K. Smith was also in attendance.

Trustees J. Weston and K. Woodcock attended the Kitchener State of the City Address.

Chairperson S. Piatkowski, with Trustees K. Meissner and L. Tremble, participated in a walk to school at Suddaby Public School with Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard and staff from the Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Interim Chief Communications Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie provided a good news update including creative classroom activities, celebrations of inclusivity, the new WeAreWRDSB online student hub and perspectives from the Ed Centre. She reviewed the monthly web traffic, social media engagements and top media stories.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations scheduled.

STAFF FOLLOW UP

BOARDROOM UPGRADES

Trustees were informed that due to supply chain issues staff continue to wait for the hardware required to upgrade the media system in the Boardroom. For accessibility reasons, staff recommend remaining virtual until necessary upgrades to the Boardroom's media system are completed. Without upgrades, meetings which take place in the Boardroom will not be capable of live-streaming, recording or a functional hybrid system.

Trustees asked to be kept updated as additional information on timing becomes available.

BOARD POLICY 3008 - USE OF BOARD RESOURCES DURING THE ELECTION CAMPAIGN

At the April 11, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting, a trustee asked if they were allowed to use the word "trustee" in their twitter handle during the campaign. While there is nothing in the policy preventing trustees from using the word "trustee" in their handle, it was noted that Section 4.6 states that Trustees will use their personal information technology resources to create and use social media accounts created for campaign purposes. These are to be separate and distinct from any accounts used by the candidate in their position as a trustee.

Trustees asked questions regarding staff's use of personal Twitter accounts and information was provided regarding the acceptable use of WRDSB technology procedure.

BOARD POLICY 3003 - TRUSTEE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT EXPENSES

Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard provided trustees with the requested information regarding their professional development expenses. He noted that trustee professional development expenses can be found on the WRDSB website.

REPORTS

TIM WALKER MEMORIAL AWARDS

This report was provided for information.

In May 2006, the Board passed a motion to administer the Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship, annually, to honour the life of secondary school teacher Tim Walker and his contribution to education and environmental initiatives. The annual award is \$2,000, which is to be equally distributed amongst four schools. At a meeting on April 8, 2022, an evaluation committee reviewed the applications submitted for the 2021-22 Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship.

The following recipients were selected:

- Elgin Street Public School - Vermicomposting
- Janet Metcalfe Public School - Pollinator Garden Project
- Moffat Creek Public School - Bird Feeding and Nesting Area
- Glenview Park Secondary School - Glenview Wellness Courtyard

COVID-19 UPDATE

This report was provided for information.

Associate Director L. Read introduced the presentation. Coordinating Superintendent G. Shantz provided an update on staffing shortages and school/classroom closures. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard updated trustees on transportation and custodial staffing. Superintendent B. Lemon provided an update on absence reporting. Associate Director L. Read provided information on masking in schools and concluded the presentation with an expression of gratitude to administrators, central staff, school staff and service departments and noted the continued prioritization of safely keeping schools open.

Trustees asked questions regarding ensuring pre-COVID-19 protocols for lunch rooms are followed and staff shared that they have communicated these expectations with schools and requested that trustees forward any parental concerns to staff for follow up.

OPERATIONAL PLAN - IMPLEMENTATION UPDATE

This report was provided for information.

Given the unprecedented nature of the past 25 months, it has been necessary to ensure that the Operational Plan takes into account the current context and shifting landscape. As the WRDSB has responded to the many challenges encountered as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we have continued to gather feedback and input from students, staff and families. It is recognized that staff need to prioritize this complex body of work in responding to the realities of the pandemic while also delivering on our commitments to do more and do better to support all those who have been made more vulnerable as a result of COVID-19. Clarifying our operational priorities also serve to stabilize the system as we focus our energies on what matters most.

WRDSB's Operational Plan for 2021-2022 reflects the following priorities:

- Ensuring the continuity of quality learning for all students with an emphasis on literacy and numeracy skill development and student reengagement
- 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 that ensures identity and social location are not predictors of outcomes
- Ensuring continuity of effective operations of the school district

Trustees asked questions regarding strategic planning consultation, literacy plans and the Ontario Human Rights Commission Right to Read inquiry report.

Trustee C. Millar left the meeting at 8:33 p.m.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

STUDENT ROUNDTABLE UPDATE

Student Trustee N. Vishkin shared information about the March 31, 2022, Student Roundtable regarding the Strategic Planning Process.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- District School Board Ontario North East to Minister of Education
- Halton District School Board to Minister of Education
- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to Minister of Education
- York Region District School Board to Minister of Education
- Avon Maitland District School Board to Minister of Education

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Meissner asked for an update on the Anonymous Reporting Tool pilot for students. Superintendent B. Lemon shared that the pandemic has complicated the work for both staff and the vendor but that work continues and they hope to be ready to implement the 3-year pilot in the 2022-23 school year.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by K. Smith:

That the Board Meeting of April 25, 2022, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.