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, May 9, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order

O Canada

Approval of Agenda

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Celebrating Board Activities/Announcements

Delegations

Staff Follow Up

Consumption and Treatment Sites in Kitchener and Guelph - Proximity to Schools	E. Giannopoulos
--	-----------------

Policy and Governance

01 Board Policy 5001 - Appointment of Principals and Vice-Principals-Elementary and Secondary

03 Board Policy 2010 - Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting

E. Giannopoulos J. Albrecht / R. DeBoer G. Shantz

06	Board Policy 4021 - Volunteerism
----	----------------------------------

Reports

08	Development Area Update - Cambridge West to Southwood SS	M. Gerard
11	Education Development Charges By-law Amendment	M. Gerard
16	Motion: Meeting Recordings	Trustee J. Herring

Motion: Meeting Recordings 16

Board Reports

Ontario Public School Boards' Association Board of Directors Update 18

Trustee L. Tremble

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



APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS – ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

Legal References:	
Related References:	Education Act; Education Quality Improvement Act (Bill 160)
Effective Date:	February 23, 1998
Revisions:	May 13, 2019, <mark>May 9, 2022</mark>
Reviewed:	September 21, 2015, February 13, 2017

1. The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) is invested in strong leadership that demonstrates outstanding educational leadership, a commitment to Human Rights, Indigenous sovereignty and equity, anti-oppression, and anti-racism the necessary skills and attitudes to advance student achievement and well-being. The WRDSB is committed to using a fair and equitable hiring process to select Principals and Vice-Principals to their associated pools, and strives to align school community and system needs when determining Principal and Vice-Principal placements. All Principal and Vice-Principal pool and school transfers and appointments will be provided in a confidential report to the Board, for information.



APPOINTMENT OF PRINCIPALS AND VICE-PRINCIPALS – ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY

Legal References:	
Related References:	Education Act; Education Quality Improvement Act (Bill 160)
Effective Date:	February 23, 1998
Revisions:	May 13, 2019
Reviewed:	September 21, 2015, February 13, 2017

1. The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) is invested in strong leadership that demonstrates the necessary skills and attitudes to advance student achievement and well-being. The WRDSB is committed to using a fair and equitable hiring process to select Principals and Vice-Principals to their associated pools, and strives to align school community and system needs when determining Principal and Vice-Principal placements. All Principal and Vice-Principal pool and school transfers and appointments will be provided in a confidential report to the Board, for information.



ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

Legal References:	
Related References:	Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools 2010 Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting Handbook Grades 9 - 12, 2013, WRDSB Administrative Procedure 1660 – Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting – Grades 7 – 12 Administrative Procedure 1670 – Effective Use of Diagnostic Assessments WRDSB Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA)
Effective Date:	September 2011
Revisions:	June 13, 2016, November 20, 2017, May 9, 2022
Reviewed:	June 17, 2019

1.

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) believes that effective assessment, evaluation and reporting practices:

- 1.1 optimize learning, well-being, and achievement for all;
- 1.2 are fair equitable, transparent, inclusive and differentiated;
- 1.3 promote clear and common understandings among teachers and students of what students need to know and be able to do;
- 1.4 are ongoing and varied in nature, and provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate learning over a period of time and in a variety of ways;
- 1.5 relate to the curriculum expectations and, as much as possible, incorporate the interests and learning styles of all students;
- 1.6 reflect student learning gathered through observations, conversations and products;
- 1.7 provide descriptive feedback that is clear, meaningful, and timely;
- 1.8 identify next steps for learning on **an ongoing** a continuing basis;
- 1.9 develop students' self-assessment skills enabling them to assess their own learning, set specific goals and plan for future learning;
- 1.10 communicate to students and parents/guardians information about student progress toward meeting learning goals and next steps for learning in a meaningful way at appropriate intervals;

These beliefs serve as a foundation for all practices related to assessment, evaluation and reporting.



ASSESSMENT, EVALUATION AND REPORTING

Legal References:	
Related References:	Growing Success: Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting in Ontario Schools 2010 Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting Handbook Grades 9 - 12, 2013, WRDSB Administrative Procedure 1660 – Assessment, Evaluation and Reporting – Grades 7 – 12 Administrative Procedure 1670 – Effective Use of Diagnostic Assessments WRDSB Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA)
Effective Date:	September 2011
Revisions:	June 13, 2016, November 20, 2017
Reviewed:	June 17, 2019

1.

The Waterloo Region District School Board believes that effective assessment, evaluation and reporting practices:

- 1.1 optimize learning, well-being, and achievement for all;
- 1.2 are fair, transparent, inclusive and equitable;
- 1.3 promote clear and common understandings among teachers and students of what students need to know and be able to do;
- 1.4 are ongoing and varied in nature, and provide multiple opportunities for students to demonstrate learning over a period of time and in a variety of ways;
- 1.5 relate to the curriculum expectations and, as much as possible, incorporate the interests and learning styles of all students;
- 1.6 provide descriptive feedback that is clear, meaningful, and timely;
- 1.7 identify next steps for learning on a continuing basis;
- 1.8 develop students' self-assessment skills enabling them to assess their own learning, set specific goals and plan for future learning;
- 1.9 communicate to students and parents/guardians information about student progress toward meeting learning goals and next steps for learning in a meaningful way at appropriate intervals;

These beliefs serve as a foundation for all practices related to assessment, evaluation and reporting.



VOLUNTEERISM

Legal References:	
Related References:	AP1415 – Use of Volunteers AP3770 – Criminal Reference Checks
Effective Date:	November 21, 2016
Revisions:	June 10, 2019 May 9, 2022
Reviewed:	November 12, 2018, June 10, 2019, May 9, 2022

It is the policy of the Waterloo Region District School Board to welcome and to encourage the participation of volunteers within our schools in performing tasks under the direct supervision of staff while helping to ensure the safety of students, staff and volunteers.

In this policy, volunteers refers to either a parent/caregiver volunteer in a school who is a parent, or guardian, or caregiver who currently has a child enrolled in and that school, or a community volunteer who is any member of the community who does not have a child enrolled in the school. Engagement of volunteers occurs with the following understandings:

- Volunteers are individuals who willingly give of their time and talent to assist students in our schools by encouraging their participation in order to enhance school-based activities and learning;
- 2. Volunteerism is a form of community engagement whereby increased communication and positive relationships between the school, parents and the community is realized;
- 3. Volunteers will not receive any type of remuneration;
- 4. Under exceptional circumstances, and in accordance with the procedure accompanying this policy, a volunteer may assist in the operation of an extracurricular activity when a teacher advisor is not available, and only upon the approval of the school Principal; and
- Volunteers, prior to being approved, are subject to procedures for screening, a satisfactory Criminal Reference Check (Level 3) *, orientation/training, supervision, recognition and program evaluation for the volunteer program.

* Note: Volunteers, who wish to volunteer year after year, will be required to submit annually, a satisfactory Criminal Reference Check (Level 3).



VOLUNTEERISM

Legal References:	
Related References:	AP1415 – Use of Volunteers AP3770 – Criminal Reference Checks
Effective Date:	November 21, 2016
Revisions:	June 10, 2019
Reviewed:	November 12, 2018

It is the policy of the Waterloo Region District School Board to welcome and to encourage the participation of volunteers within our schools in performing tasks under the direct supervision of staff while helping to ensure the safety of students, staff and volunteers

In this policy, volunteers refers to either a parent volunteer in a school who is a parent or guardian who currently has a child enrolled in and that school, or a community volunteer who is any member of the community who does not have a child enrolled in the school. Engagement of volunteers occurs with the following understandings:

- 1. Volunteers are individuals who willingly give of their time and talent to assist students in our schools by encouraging their participation in order to enhance school-based activities and learning;
- 2. Volunteerism is a form of community engagement whereby increased communication and positive relationships between the school, parents and the community is realized;
- 3. Volunteers will not receive any type of remuneration;
- 4. Under certain circumstances, and in accordance with the procedure accompanying this policy, a volunteer may act as a supervisor assist in the operation of an extracurricular activity when a teacher advisor is not available, and only upon the approval of the school Principal; and
- 5. Volunteers, prior to being approved, are subject to procedures for screening, a satisfactory Criminal Reference Check (Level 3) *, orientation/training, supervision, recognition and program evaluation for the volunteer program.

* Note: Volunteers, who wish to volunteer year after year, will be required to submit annually, a satisfactory Criminal Reference Check (Level 3).



Report to Committee of the Whole

May 9, 2022

Subject: Cambridge West Development Area Reassignment

Recommendation

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approves the Holding School reassignment of the Cambridge West Development Area from Galt Collegiate Institute to Southwood Secondary School, as presented to the Board of Trustees at the May 9, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting, effective immediately.

Status

Administrative Procedure 4992 - Temporary Student Accommodation for Development Areas (AP 4992) allows the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) staff to assign students from new growth areas with capacity shortfalls to schools with available space and/or room for temporary capacity.

Development Area reassignments are subject to approval by the Board of Trustees. This report recommends reassigning the Holding School for Grade 9 to 12 students within the Cambridge West DA (as shown in Appendix A). This recommendation is being brought forward before students move into the DA.

Background

On January 24, 2022, the Board of Trustees approved the Development Areas Annual Report 2021-2022. The report assigned all "to be determined" or "TBD" DAs to Holding Schools. The Cambridge West DA was assigned to:

- Blair Road Public School (Junior Kindergarten to Grade 6);
- St. Andrew's Public School (Grades 7 & 8); and
- Galt Collegiate Institute (Grades 9 to 12).

The plans of subdivision within the Cambridge West development are not registered, nor have homes been built/occupied. It is anticipated that registration will occur within the next several months, with the potential for students to register at the WRDSB within the 2022-2023 school year.

In analyzing the projected enrolment at Galt Collegiate Institute and Southwood Secondary School, it was determined that Southwood Secondary School could derive benefit from acting as a Holding School to the Cambridge West DA.

Financial implications

No financial implications.

Communications

Information about DA assignments is available on the Planning Department website.

Further, the "School Finder" application on the WRDSB's website is updated regularly to display the school assignments and transportation eligibility based on up-to-date municipal addressing.

Letters are sent to the local real estate boards and new home sales centres, where possible, to advise them of the Development Area holding school assignments. An interactive map is accessible from the WRDSB's website for the public to view and search addresses within.

The WRDSB requests conditions of approval imposed on new developments that meet the DA criteria. These conditions require the developer to post signage and include clauses in Agreements of Purchase and Sale indicating that students from the development may need to be accommodated at schools outside the area.

Before assigning development areas to Holding Schools, school administrators, Superintendents of Student Achievement & Well-Being, Facilities Services and Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region are consulted.

Prepared by: Matthew Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services & Treasurer of the Board Lauren Agar, Manager of Planning Sarah Galliher, Senior Planner in consultation with Coordinating Council

Appendix A

10





Report to Committee of the Whole

May 9, 2022

Subject: Education Development Charges Amending By-law, 2022

Recommendation

That the Waterloo Region District School Board enact and pass an Education Development Charges Amending By-law in the form attached as Schedule A to this report, presented to the Board of Trustees at the May 9, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting.

Status

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) and Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) (or the Boards) have jointly entered into a process for the review of their respective Education Development Charges (EDC) By-laws.

The WRDSB and the WCDSB have been reviewing their existing EDC by-laws and rates due to the increasing price of land in the Region of Waterloo.

In May 2021, the Boards committed to annually reviewing EDC inputs such as land value assumption. Cushman & Wakefield, an appraiser, was retained by the Boards in late 2021. The appraiser was instructed to review the current land values compared to what was appraised as part of the 2021 EDC Background Study.

The appraisers and the EDC consultant (Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.) determined an amendment to the 2021 EDC by-law is appropriate.

Background

On May 10, 2021, the WRDSB adopted the Education Development Charges By-law, 2021. The by-law is in effect as of June 1, 2021, for 5 years (expiring May 31, 2026); however, the following motion was passed on May 10, 2021:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board direct staff to annually review land values and provide a report to the Board if land values support an amendment to the Education Development Charge By-law (2021) to increase residential and non-residential charges.

As such, an appraiser was retained by the Boards in late 2021, who was instructed to review the current land values compared to what was appraised as part of the 2021 EDC Background Study.

EDCs are the WRDSB's primary funding source for school site property acquisition needs, given enrollment growth within the jurisdiction exceeds the capacity available.

On March 29, 2019, the Ministry of Education (Ministry) issued Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 55/19, which amended O. Reg. 20/98; the latter is the regulation that governs EDCs. Further amendments were made by O. Reg. 371/91 on November 8, 2019. These amendments to O. Reg 20/98 removed a freeze on EDC rates and imposed the following restricted rate increases:

• In year 2 of the By-law and each subsequent year, the residential rate can be increased by a further \$300.00 or 5% of the previous year's EDC rate or \$0.10 per square foot of GFA, whichever is greater. The non-residential rate can be increased by 5% of the previous year's non-residential EDC rate.

The WRDSB has an existing EDC By-law that is jurisdiction-wide. This By-law was implemented on June 1, 2021, for a maximum term of 5 years. The EDC charge is imposed on residential and non-residential development within the Region of Waterloo. The current WRDSB rates apply to building permits within the Region of Waterloo:

- Residential rate of \$2,248.00 per unit
- Non-residential rate of \$1.51 per square foot.

The EDC rates calculated in the 2021 EDC Background Study established a maximum of:

- Residential rate of \$2,708.00 per unit
- Non-residential rate of \$1.66 per square.

School boards may review the prescribed maximum EDC rate to ensure that inputs such as the price of land are consistent with the assumptions made in the original study. The regulation permits school boards to increase the quantum of the EDC rate once in a one-year period via an amendment.

The Boards hired the same appraiser (Cushman & Wakefield) that provided land values for the original EDC Background Study in 2021 to examine whether the rise in land values in the Region would increase the in-force EDC rates.

Financial implications

Site acquisition costs are based on appraisals completed by Cushman & Wakefield, dated January 1, 2022. The per acre acquisition values range from \$1,630,500 to \$2,402,000 for sites in Waterloo Region (values previously ranged from \$750,000 to \$1,484,500 per acre). The appraised values increased between 62% and 82% from December 2020 to January 2022.

Watson & Associates Economists Ltd. has recalculated the EDC rates, incorporated the increased land values as well as updated each board's EDC reserve fund to reflect current balances. The analysis has resulted in an increase to the proposed maximum rates initially set out in the 2021 EDC Background Study. Based on the \$300 residential and \$0.10 non-residential per year increase cap, the implementation of the charge would be phased in as:

- Year 2 (June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023) residential rate of \$2,548 per unit; non-residential rate of \$1.61 per square foot (2021 By-law rates are \$2,548/unit and \$1.61/square foot; therefore no change);
- Year 3 (June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024) residential rate of \$2,848 per unit; non-residential rate of \$1.71 per square foot (*2021 By-law rates are* \$2,708/unit and \$1.66/square foot);
- Year 4 (June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025) residential rate of \$3,148 per unit; non-residential rate of \$1.81 per square foot (*2021 By-law rates are* \$2,708/unit and \$1.66/square foot); and
- Year 5 (June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026) residential rate of \$3,448 per unit; non-residential rate of \$1.91 per square foot (*2021 By-law rates are* \$2,708/unit and \$1.66/square foot).

Based on the approved 2021 rates, the WRDSB would reach the maximum of \$2,708 in Year 3. However, the new maximum rate of \$4,423 would allow the WRDSB to charge the full phase-in value for the duration of the 5-year by-law but would not reach the maximum rate.

Communications

A stakeholder meeting was held on April 14, 2022. The meeting was attended by 29 individuals, including representatives of the home builders' association, developers, the Ministry of Education and municipalities.

The 2022 EDC Amendment report and Notice of Intention to amend the 2021 by-law have been posted on the Boards' respective websites. Stakeholders were advised of the availability of the Amendment report.

If approved, all stakeholders will be notified of the new rates.

Prepared by: Matthew Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services & Treasurer of the Board Lauren Agar, Manager of Planning in consultation with Coordinating Council

WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES AMENDING BY-LAW (2022)

A by-law to amend Education Development Charges By-law, 2021

WHEREAS the Waterloo Region District School Board enacted Waterloo Region District School Board Education Development Charges By- law, 2021 (the **"Education Development Charges By-law, 2021**") on May 10, 2021;

AND WHEREAS Section 257.70 of the Education Act, R.S.O. 1990, c. E.2 (the "**Act**"), provides for amendments to education development charges by-laws;

AND WHEREAS the Waterloo Region District School Board requires amendments to Education Development Charges By-law, 2021;

AND WHEREAS in accordance with the Act, the background study for Education Development Charges By-law, 2021 has been made available to the public;

AND WHEREAS the Waterloo Region District School Board has made available to the public sufficient information to allow the public to understand the proposed amendments to Education Development Charges By-law, 2021;

AND WHEREAS the Waterloo Region District School Board has given notice of the proposed amendments to Education Development Charges By-law, 2021 in accordance with the Act and Ontario Regulation 20/98;

AND WHEREAS an opportunity was given to interested parties to provide comments and submissions to the Waterloo Region District School Board in respect of this amending by-law;

NOW THEREFORE, THE WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD HEREBY ENACTS AS FOLLOWS:

1. Section 8 of Education Development Charges By-law, 2021 is hereby repealed and replaced with the following:

Subject to the provisions of this by-law, an education development charge per dwelling unit shall be imposed upon the designated categories of residential development and the designated residential uses of land, buildings or structures, including a dwelling unit accessory to a non-residential use, and, in the case of a mixed-use building or structure, upon the dwelling units in the mixed-use building or structure. The education development charge per dwelling unit shall be in the following amounts for the periods set out below:

a. June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022 - \$2,248.00;

- b. June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 \$2,548.00;
- c. June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024 \$2,848.00;
- d. June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025 \$3,148.00; and
- e. June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026 \$3,448.00.
- 2. Section 13 of Education Development Charges By-law, 2021 is hereby repealed and replaced with the following:

Subject to the provisions of this by-law, an education development charge shall be imposed upon the designated categories of non-residential development and the designated non-residential uses of land, buildings or structures and, in the case of a mixed-use building or structure, upon the non-residential uses in the mixed-use building or structure. The education development charge per square foot (square metre) of such non-residential development and uses of land, buildings or structures shall be in the following amounts for the periods set out below:

- a. June 1, 2021 to May 31, 2022 \$1.51 per square foot (\$16.25 per square metre)
- b. June 1, 2022 to May 31, 2023 \$1.61 per square foot (\$17.33 per square metre);
- c. June 1, 2023 to May 31, 2024 \$1.71 per square foot (\$18.41 per square metre);
- d. June 1, 2024 to May 31, 2025 \$1.81 per square foot (\$19.48 per square metre); and,
- e. June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026 \$1.91 per square foot (\$20.56 per square metre).
- For greater certainty, Education Development Charges By-law, 2021, remains in full force and effect subject to the amendments thereto described in Sections 1 and 2 of this amending by-law.
- 4. This amending by-law shall come into force on May 14, 2022.

ENACTED AND PASSED this 9th day of May, 2022.

Chairperson

Director of Education and Secretary



Report to Committee of the Whole

May 9, 2022

Subject: Motion: Meeting Recordings

Recommendation

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

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

Status

This Notice of Motion was served at the March 21, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting by Trustee J. Herring with support from Trustee C. Millar.

Background

The following recitals were provided as part of this Notice of Motion:

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

16

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;

Financial implication

The financial implications are not known at this time.

Communications

If approved, the requested report, retention schedule and draft policy will be provided at a future meeting of the Board of Trustees.

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



May 9, 2022

Subject: OPSBA Board of Directors Update

Recommendation

This report is for the information of the Board.

Status

The Ontario Public Schools Boards' Association (OPSBA) held its first in-person Board of Directors (BOD) meeting since February 2020 on April 29 and 30, 2022 in Toronto. Trustee Tremble (WRDSB Board of Directors member) and Vice-Chair Woodcock (2nd Vice-President) attended. A full summary of discussions was circulated to trustees by email. Highlights are included below.

Guest speaker Patricia DeGuire, Chief Commissioner of the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC), spoke on Friday evening about the recently released <u>Right to</u> <u>Read</u> report. With a focus on early and universal screening for reading disabilities and early evidence-based interventions for identified students, the report attempts to address barriers that have prevented students in Ontario from developing as readers to their highest potential. As Ms. DeGuire said, the right to read is the right to a future and the right to dignity.

The OPSBA <u>Annual General Meeting</u> will be held in Ottawa from June 9-11. Notable speakers include Nik Nanos of Nanos Research who will break down the results of the provincial election, likely cabinet ministers, priorities for the new government and suggestions for OPSBA and its member boards on how to navigate the next four years. At the meeting, OPSBA Voting Delegates will vote on policy resolutions and elected positions on the Executive Council, Program Work Teams, and Regional Councils. Note that our Policy Resolution advocating for an Indigenous Course Requirement for Graduation which was passed at our April 11 Committee of the Whole meeting has been forwarded to the Indigenous Trustees Council for their review and feedback.

OPSBA has prepared many resources for the general public and for trustees for the provincial and municipal elections. For the provincial election, OPSBA is running an Education Day initiative on May 18, 2022. They have developed resources to help members of the public run all-candidates meetings with a focus on education issues on or around the May 18 date. In addition, a comparison of each party's platform compared to OPSBA's strategic priorities is available on their website. When received, they will also share each party's response to an OPSBA education priorities questionnaire.

Page 1 of 3

For the municipal election, OPSBA is pausing work until after the provincial election. Once that election is over, expect to see a media/social media campaign from OPSBA highlighting the opportunity for candidates to run for school board trustee. A focus will be on encouraging diverse candidates to join the race. OPSBA has posted many resources for voters and candidates for trustee on their website including *Making a Difference: Running for Election as a School Board Trustee*, printable public awareness posters and an FAQ area. This material has also been provided to municipal clerks, school board staff and an extensive list of community stakeholders and equity-seeking groups. The municipal election will be held on October 24, 2022 and nominations for trustee are now open.

Information was shared on recent funding announcements including the 2022-2023 Grants for Student Needs. Of note:

- Funding in the GSNs is guaranteed regardless of the election outcome
- Construction benchmark funding was increased by 15% for the latest round of capital priorities announcements
- Some COVID-19 related recovery funding continues.

In response to the COVID-19 funding, BOD members raised concerns about reverting back to pre-pandemic standards for ventilation and filters once the funding is no longer offered. In addition, concerns were raised about the expectations that have been raised in the community regarding tutoring for students who fell behind during the last two years and the reality that many boards are having difficulty finding staff to take on this work.

Two great opportunities for staff were highlighted at the meeting. First, the Ministry of Education is offering \$1M for pilot projects to boards for programs related to experiential learning for credit. Current programs of this nature include Specialist High Skill Majors (SHSM) and others, but the government would like to expand opportunities of this type. Programs involving community partnerships with Indigenous elders for land-based learning opportunities are an example of the type of pilot project that will be considered.

Second, OPSBA maintains a database of <u>Exemplary Practices</u> on its website. These are organized around themes such as Skilled Trades and Apprenticeships, Alternative Education (our UTurn program is highlighted here), Indigenous Education (Indigenous Recognition Week activities at the Waterloo Region District School Board are highlighted here), and more. This year's theme is Equity, Diversity, Inclusion and

20

Human Rights. Staff have received the information on how to submit initiatives/exemplary practices from our board that can be shared provincially. I look forward to seeing us on the list again.

Background

The Waterloo Region District School Board Board of Trustees is an active member of OPSBA and has been for many years. OPSBA was created in 1988. In 2014, when collective bargaining was divided between the central and local tables, OPSBA became the bargaining unit for Boards.

Financial implications

No known financial implications.

Communications

In addition to trustees, many OPSBA communications are sent to Communication Directors and Directors of Education among other staff at member boards. Resources are also shared publicly on the OPSBA website, <u>opsba.org</u>, and through various media and social media channels.

Prepared by: Laurie Tremble, Trustee and OPSBA Board of Directors member.