

**MAY 16, 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, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, L. Tremble, C. Watson, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustees K. Meissner and J. Weston were unable to attend.

Student Trustees K. Soror was in attendance and Student Trustees 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, S. Miller, L. Read, G. Shantz and J. Veit.

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.

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting at 7:02 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the May 16, 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Trustee K. Woodcock had a declaration of pecuniary interest in the previous in camera meeting.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson S. Piatkowski noted that Trustees K. Meissner and J. Weston are still on leave.

**DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations scheduled.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1002 - OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Trustees discussed the policy. It was suggested that Board Policy 1017 - Human Rights be added as a related reference to Board Policy 1002- Occupational Health and Safety, Board Policy 1004 - Harassment and Board Policy 1009 - Violence in the Workplace. Coordinating Superintendent G. Shantz clarified that during the pandemic, the WRDSB continued to operate under the same Occupational Health and Safety requirements and that the role of the Joint Health and Safety Committee continues to be to provide recommendations on health and safety.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1002- Occupational Health and Safety as presented at the May 16, 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting with the addition of Board Policy 1017 - Human Rights to Related References.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1004 - HARASSMENT**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1004 - Harassment as presented at the May 16 , 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting with the addition of Board Policy 1017 - Human Rights to Related References.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1009 - VIOLENCE IN THE WORKPLACE**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1009 - Violence in the Workplace as presented at the May 16 , 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting with the addition of Board Policy 1017 - Human Rights to Related References.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 3007 - ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION**

5. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by C. Millar:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 3007, and continue with membership in the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) for 2022-2023.**

-Carried-

**REPORTS**

**2022-2023 ANNUAL PUPIL ACCOMMODATION GRANT - SCHOOL RENEWAL ALLOCATION**

The Ministry of Education (Ministry) allocation to the Waterloo Region District School Board towards the School Renewal Grant for the 2022-2023 fiscal year is projected to be \$10,341,306. The School Renewal Allocation is provided by the Ministry of Education to address the cost of repairing and renovating schools and infrastructure. This funding has typically allowed major maintenance programs such as roof replacements, mechanical upgrades and school renovations to be completed. Renovations have included program improvements such as those made to science, libraries, special education, athletic facility upgrades and administrative areas as prioritized through Elementary and Secondary Accommodation Committees.

Trustees asked questions regarding abatement and it was noted that School Councils should speak to the school principal if they have any concerns or to identify renovation needs.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the 2022-2023 Pupil Accommodation Grant expenditures for the year September 1, 2022 to August 31, 2023, not to exceed the estimated level of grant received from the Ministry of Education for School Renewal Allocation, as established in the budget of the report entitled, 2022-2023 Pupil Accommodation Grant – School Renewal Allocation, dated May 16, 2022.**

-Carried-

**2022-2023 ANNUAL SCHOOL CONDITION IMPROVEMENT GRANT - SCHOOL RENEWAL**

This report was provided for information.

Each year, several projects for major maintenance are prioritized and funded from the Annual Pupil Accommodation Grant – School Renewal, but not all prioritized projects can be completed

due to the limited amount of funding available. This additional School Condition Improvement (SCI) Grant will allow for completion of backlogged prioritized projects in the 2022-2023 school year. The intent of these prioritized projects is to bring older schools up to current standards. The Ministry of Education's allocation to the Waterloo Region District School Board towards the SCI Grant – School Renewal for 2022–2023 is projected to be \$32,561,332.

## **ENERGY AND GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS UPDATE**

This report was provided for information.

Since 2008, the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) has monitored energy consumption using weather-normalized Energy Use Intensity (EUI) as a means to identify facilities with optimum performance, those in greater need of attention and to monitor performance year to year. The EUI in all three areas increased this year due to the ventilation measures necessary to reduce COVID-19 transmission, as mandated by the Ministry. Total greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions per square meter (GHG emission intensity) has reduced thirty-seven percent (37%) since 2008. The report detailed the significant success the existing energy conservation program has had in the last twelve years. Since 2009, the Board has received more than \$766k in incentives from the local utilities and the Save ON Energy program.

The WRDSB is required to submit an Energy Conservation and Demand Management (ECDM) plan every 5 years by the Electricity Act. In this plan, the WRDSB assessed plans for the use of capital and operational funds and set a target of an 11.8 percent decrease in EUI from 2017/18 levels by 2022/23. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the WRDSB is not on track to meet the target set in its latest ECDM plan. In 2020, the WRDSB became a pledging member of Sustainable Waterloo Region by committing to reduce its GHG emissions intensity by twenty percent from 2018/19 levels by 2028/29. The WRDSB is also not on track to meet the target it committed to through Sustainable Waterloo Region.

Trustees discussed the report and asked questions regarding the WRDSB's ranking of 53 and 56 out of 72 boards based on the EUI and Emissions Intensity and student engagement. Controller J. Veit shared that a further report will be provided to Trustees in the fall regarding energy monitoring.

## **SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM**

Superintendent J. Albrecht provided trustees with a presentation regarding the Summer Learning Program. The presentation reviewed highlights from the 2021 Summer Learning Program and feedback from families and educators. Superintendent J. Albrecht shared information about the upcoming 2022 Summer Learning Program including the dates and grades and how the program is expanding to serve 1200 students from Kindergarten to Grade Five. She reviewed information regarding the program and the support it provides.

Trustees asked questions regarding student achievement and whether the same students access the Summer Learning Program year after year. Trustees requested a copy of the presentation be sent to them via email.

## **BOARD REPORTS**

### **ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION AGM DIRECTION FOR VOTING DELEGATE**

The purpose of this report is to provide direction for Chairperson S. Piatkowski (or alternate) as voting delegate at the OPSBA AGM. As is the usual practice, OPSBA sent several items slated for consideration at the OPSBA 2022 AGM so they could be reviewed and discussed as necessary at board tables prior to the General Meeting in June. It was noted that the Policy Resolution from the WRDSB on Indigenous Course Requirement was recommended for review by the Indigenous Trustees' Council and comments be shared at the AGM.

7. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by C. Millar:

**(1) That the Waterloo Region District School Board support Executive Council's position on Member Board Policy Resolution (A) Virtual OPSBA Meetings; and**

**(2) That the Waterloo Region District School Board support Executive Council's position on Member Board Policy Resolution (B) Independent Study of Duties and Powers of District School Boards; and**

**(3) That the Waterloo Region District School Board support Executive Council's position on Member Board Policy Resolution (C) Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act; and**

**(4) That the Waterloo Region District School Board support Executive Council's position on Member Board Policy Resolution (D) Capital Funding Formula; and**

**(5) That the Waterloo Region District School Board support Executive Council's position on Member Board Policy Resolution (E) Real Estate and Housing Crisis; and**

**(6) That the Waterloo Region District School Board support Executive Council's position on Member Board Policy Resolution (F) Indigenous Course Requirement; and**

**(7) That the Waterloo Region District School Board support Member Board Policy Resolution Environmental Determinants of Student Health and Well-Being; and**

**(8) That the Waterloo Region District School Board empower the voting delegate to use his discretion when voting in the OPSBA Elections at the Annual General Meeting.**

-Carried-

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee C. Watson asked for an update on school attendance as it relates to COVID-19. Associate Director L. Read shared that she did not have specific data but confirmed that no schools have exceeded the 30% above normal absenteeism rate which would trigger engagement of Public Health.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 16, 2022, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:12 p.m.