

MAY 30, 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, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, K. Smith, L. Tremble, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Trustees K. Meissner, J. Weston and C. Whetham were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustee K. Soror was in attendance and 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, R. DeBoer, E. Dougan-McKenzie, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, C. Hill, P. Kaur, D. Lataille-Herdsman, B. Lemon, 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 C. Millar:

That the agenda of the May 30, 2022, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of May 30, 2022, and the actions contained therein, be approved (with the exception of Motions).

-Carried-

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

Note: The following motions were approved in the In Camera session held earlier this evening.

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

That the agenda of the May 30, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

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

That the consent agenda of the May 30, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Opposed:
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

C. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by K. Smith:

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 C. Whetham and Student Trustee N. Vishkin. He noted that Trustees K. Meissner and J. Weston remain on leave.

Chairperson S. Piatkowski expressed condolences for Trustee L. Tremble on the loss of her father-in-law.

Trustee K. Woodcock, Chairperson S. Piatkowski and Associate Director L. Read attended a celebration of life on May 18, 2022, for Upper Grand District School Board's former Director of Education, Martha Rogers.

Trustees C. Millar, S. Piatkowski and K. Woodcock attended Northlake Woods Public School's 25th anniversary celebration.

Trustee K. Woodcock attended the Waterloo Education Foundation Inc. (WEFI) annual golf tournament.

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting at 7:08 p.m.

Trustee K. Smith attended the Kodaly Festival in Victoria Park on May 17, 2022, and the Eid Festival Volunteer Appreciation Event at Chandler Mowat Community Centre.

Trustee C. Millar brought greetings on behalf of the Board to the Waterloo Region Occasional Teachers Annual General Meeting.

Student Trustee K.Soror left the meeting at 7:15 p.m.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Interim Chief Communications Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie provided trustees with the monthly Communications Good News Update. She reviewed activities and events from the system including a focus on creative classrooms, a scholarship story, a community volunteer story and student initiatives and perspective from the Ed Centre. She reviewed the monthly web traffic, social media engagement and traditional media engagement and concluded the presentation with a preview of upcoming events and celebrations for the month of June.

REPORTS

2021-2022 PAST DIRECTORS' BURSARY

This report was provided for information.

The Past-Directors' Bursary, formerly known as the Linda Fabi Bursary, will provide funding for students who are pursuing a trade, through college or apprenticeship, and who have not already been selected to receive an award at their graduation ceremony. All eleven applicants were confirmed to meet the criteria and were selected to receive the 2021-22 Past-Directors' Bursary; each student will receive \$200.

Trustees discussed acknowledging the applicants in person. It was noted that barring any unforeseen circumstances, that next year, the bursary will likely be presented in person.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Bluewater District School Board to Minister of Education
- Thames Valley District School Board SEAC to Minister of Education and Minister of Health
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education

- Waterloo Region District School Board to Indigenous Education Advisory Council (IEAC)

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Millar asked for an update on the EQAO glitch and postponement. Associate Director L. Read shared that staff have been receiving updates from EQAO and expect further details including next steps in the coming days. She noted that classroom concerns are also being worked through.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following Notice of Motion was served by Trustee C. Watson with support from Trustee M. Ramsay:

Whereas parents fully support Equity and Inclusion but have concerns that “Critical Race Theory” (CRT) and or the theory of “White Privilege” are being drawn on to develop “anti-racist” lesson plans that are being used in WRSDB Schools,

Whereas some students, parents and staff fear they might be labeled racist or a white supremacist if they share/bring their concerns to the attention of the Board,

Whereas parents are concerned that the use of these lesson plans could create a sense of shame and guilt in their children as well as create a stigma and or bias among the school population,

Therefore be it resolved that the Waterloo Region District School Board request that staff prepare a report and a presentation that explains the working definition of CRT and “White Privilege” as they relate to the development of “anti-racist” lesson plans, as well as the grade levels that the plans are introduced,

And that this report and presentation be presented back to the board no later than the end of Sept 2022.

And that staff also provide recommendations that will help support children if they internalize guilt and shame and solutions that will help prevent a possible stigma and or bias that could affect the school climate.

And that parents be provided supplemental material on the theory of “White Privilege” before their students are taught White Privilege.

And that a letter be written to the Minister of Education about parental concerns regarding CRT and or the theory of “White Privilege” that are being taught to their children.

This motion will be scheduled by the Agenda Development Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of May 30, 2022, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.