

JUNE 6, 2022
SPECIAL 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, 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 not in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: j. chanicka (Director of Education and Secretary), E. Dougan-McKenzie, M. Gerard, L. Read and G. Shantz.

Other staff in attendance: R. Lam and S. Reidel.

Guest in attendance: E. Roher, Senior Counsel and National Leader of the Education Law Group, BLG.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. Piatkowski called the meeting to order at 8:05 p.m.

Chairperson S. Piatkowski noted that this Special Meeting has been called with the sole purpose of dealing with the report from the Integrity Commissioner on a Code of Conduct complaint filed on February 24, 2022.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by K. Meissner:

That the agenda of the June 6, 2022, Special Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

Opposed: C. Watson

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

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

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

That the agenda of the June 6, 2022, Special 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 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.

REPORTS

TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT COMPLAINT

Chairperson S. Piatkowski shared that trustees met in closed session to receive and discuss the report from the Integrity Commissioner with respect to a Code of Conduct complaint alleging that Trustee M. Ramsay breached the Trustee Code of Conduct. He reviewed the process followed to date as outlined in Board Policy G201 - Trustee Code of Conduct. Responding to the Integrity Commissioners report is the only business to be conducted in the meeting. He further provided clarification regarding the process. The report is a finding of facts and does not include any recommendations. It is the responsibility of the Board of Trustees to determine if a breach occurred and to impose any sanctions. The respondent and the complainant are not to vote on the determination of a breach or sanctions. Chairperson S. Piatkowski reviewed the available sanctions as outlined in Board Policy G201 - Trustee Code of Conduct.

Trustees requested a recorded vote. A motion to find Trustee M. Ramsay in breach of the Code of Conduct was moved and seconded in the in camera session to be voted on at the public session.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees find Trustee Mike Ramsay in breach of Board Policy G201 - Trustee Code of Conduct.

-Carried with two-thirds-

In Favour

J. Herring
K. Meissner
C. Millar
S. Piatkowski
J. Weston
K. Woodcock

Opposed:

K. Smith
C. Watson
C. Whetham

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Chairperson S. Piatkowski stated that the Board of Trustees can now consider imposing sanctions in response to the breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees impose the following sanction against Trustee M. Ramsay for the breach of Board Policy G201- Trustee Code of Conduct:

(a) censure of the trustee

-Carried with Two-thirds-

In Favour

J. Herring
K. Meissner
C. Millar
S. Piatkowski
J. Weston
K. Woodcock

Opposed:

K. Smith
C. Watson
C. Whetham

Trustees discussed a motion to bar Trustee M. Ramsay from attending all Board and Committee meetings up to September 30th. Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Order in regards to the Board Meetings. Chairperson S. Piatkowski referred to legal counsel who indicated that the Education Act and Board Policy G201 - Trustee Code of Conduct allows barring the Trustees from attending one Board meeting but up to 6 months of Committee of the Whole meetings. Trustees introduced new motions based on this advice.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees impose the following sanction against Trustee M. Ramsay for the breach of Board Policy G201- Trustee Code of Conduct:

(b) barring the trustee from attending all of the June 27, 2022, Board Meeting.

-Carried with Two-thirds-

In Favour

J. Herring
K. Meissner
C. Millar
S. Piatkowski
J. Weston
K. Woodcock

Opposed:

K. Smith
C. Watson
C. Whetham

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees impose the following sanction against Trustee M. Ramsay for the breach of Board Policy G201- Trustee Code of Conduct:

(c) barring the trustee from sitting on the Committee of the Whole up to and including September 30, 2022.

-Carried with Two-thirds-

In Favour

J. Herring
K. Meissner
C. Millar
S. Piatkowski
J. Weston
K. Woodcock

Opposed:

K. Smith
C. Watson
C. Whetham

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustee impose the following sanction against Trustee M. Ramsay for the breach of Board Policy G201- Trustee Code of Conduct:

(d) restrictions on the rights of the trustee to attend in camera meetings or receive in camera materials up to and including September 30, 2022.

-Carried with Two-thirds-

In Favour

J. Herring
K. Meissner
C. Millar
S. Piatkowski
J. Weston
K. Woodcock

Opposed:

K. Smith
C. Watson
C. Whetham

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of June 6, 2022, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:27 p.m.