

**JUNE 13, 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), K. Meissner, C. Millar, K. Smith, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

Trustees J. Herring and M. Ramsay were unable to attend.

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, E. Dougan-McKenzie, M. Gerard, C. Hill, P. Kaur, D. Liebermann, S. Miller, L. Read, G. Shantz and J. Veit.

Other staff in attendance: B. Jaklic, D. Lane 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 C. Watson, seconded by K. Woodcock:

**That the agenda of the June 13, 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved with the addition of two additional delegations and that the delegation from WCI be the first delegation to present.**

-Carried-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee K. Smith attended the 47th Annual Interfaith Community Breakfast.

Trustee L. Tremble attended the OPSBA AGM in Ottawa with Chairperson S. Piatkowski, Trustees K. Smith and K. Woodcock and Student Trustee N. Vishkin. Trustee K. Woodcock was elected as First Vice-President. The policy resolution submitted by the WRDSB passed. Former Trustee John Hendry received the President's Award and WRDSB employee Kimiko Shibata received the Fred L. Bartlett Memorial Award.

Trustee K. Woodcock attended the raising of the Pride flag ceremony at Country Hills Public School.

Trustee J. Weston attended the Oak Creek Public School groundbreaking ceremony with Chairperson S. Piatkowski and Trustee M. Ramsay.

Trustees K. Meissner and K. Woodcock attended a presentation from Kyne Santos at Waterloo Collegiate Institute for GSA students from across the WRDSB.

### **DELEGATIONS**

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Victoria Marsh, Kamilah Islam and WCI BSA / MSA Students - Eid on the WRDSB School Year Calendar
- Meg Ruttan - Critical Race Theory Motion & Black Parent Council of KW Recommendations
- Jodi Koberinski - Critical Race Theory Motion & Black Parent Council of KW Recommendations
- Cait Glasson - Critical Race Theory Motion
- Laila El Mugammar - Critical Race Theory Motion
- Rev. Joe Gaspar, Parkminster United Church - Critical Race Theory Motion
- Angela McKenna - Critical Race Theory Motion
- Lannois Carroll-Woolery - Critical Race Theory Motion

Trustees asked clarifying questions regarding the delegation on Eid on the WRDSB School Year Calendar. It was confirmed that the request is for consideration on the 2023-2024 School Year Calendar.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer the delegation regarding Eid on the WRDSB School Year Calendar to staff for follow up**

-Carried-

Abstained: C. Watson

### **REPORTS**

#### **MAJOR CAPITAL PROJECTS QUARTERLY UPDATE**

This report was provided for information.

Current capital projects with budgets greater than \$2.5M were presented with dashboard symbols to indicate the project's status relative to the schedule, budget and scope. All projects are proceeding as planned through the design and construction stages except for the new school in Southeast Cambridge and the Lackner Woods Public School child care addition.

Trustees asked questions regarding timelines and related costs for the new school in Southeast Cambridge.

**RESPONSE TO TRUSTEE BUDGET QUESTIONS FROM JUNE 8, 2022 (IF REQUIRED)**

It was noted that questions from the June 8, 2022, Special Committee of the Whole Budget meeting will be responded to at the June 15, 2022, Special Committee of the Whole Budget meeting.

**COMPLIANCE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

As required by the Municipal Elections Act, 1996, every district school board must appoint a Compliance Audit Committee by October 1, 2022, to hear and decide on applications for compliance audits regarding a trustee candidate's campaign expenses. As in previous years, staff is proposing a joint Compliance Audit Committee with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board for the 2022 Municipal Election. This committee would be composed of the external Audit Committee Members from each board. Each Board is responsible for approving two of the four members of the jointly held Compliance Audit Committee.

3. Moved by K. Smith, seconded by C. Whetham:

**That the the Waterloo Region District School Board appoints the following two members to the Compliance Audit Committee, held jointly with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board, for a four-year term effective November 15, 2022:**

- 1) Sharmilla Rasheed, External Member, WRDSB Audit Committee**
- 2) Jeff Weir, External Member, WRDSB Audit Committee**

-Carried-

**BLACK PARENT COUNCIL KW RECOMMENDATIONS - REPORT FROM STAFF**

This report was provided for information.

On April 11, 2022, during the Committee of the Whole meeting, the Board of Trustees moved a motion referring recommendations 1 to 11 from the letter from the Black Parent Council KW to staff to provide a report and recommendations as appropriate. Staff have met with Black Parent Council KW Co-Chairs on April 8 and May 9, 2022. From the perspective of WRDSB staff and Black Parent Council Co-Chairs, meetings have been positive and have provided a space for honest dialogue. WRDSB staff will continue to meet with representatives from the Black Parent Council KW. Human Rights and Equity Advisor Deepa Ahluwalia shared work underway that addresses demands from the Black Parent Council KW.

Trustees asked questions regarding the Black Parent Council KW's membership and it was confirmed that conversations are on-going.

## **STUDENT CENSUS**

This report was provided for information.

Associate Director L. Read introduced the presentation. Dr. D. Liebermann, Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, reviewed the reasons for collecting the data including Ministry of Education direction, the *Anti-Racism Act*, and alignment with WRDSB Operational Plan and Equity and Indigenous Action Plan. David Lane, Research Strategist, shared that throughout the 2021/2022 school year, research staff conducted data cleaning and sorting, and preliminary data analysis and then engaged in consultations with staff and community representatives to gain a deeper understanding of the results and strengthen the communication of the data. He also reviewed the guiding principles for using student data. Dr. D. Liebermann, Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, reviewed the list of documents which will be publicly available on the WRDSB website tomorrow. David Lane, Research Strategist, reviewed what the data does and does not reveal about students and reviewed the 5 key focus areas for action items.

Trustees asked questions regarding the release of the student census data. Trustees were reminded of the seminar in April where data results were shared in addition to the report they were provided on June 10, 2022. It was shared that Trustees would have an opportunity to ask questions about the data at a future meeting regarding the Board Improvement and Equity Plan. Director j. chanicka offered to answer any data-related questions but none were asked.

## **TRUSTEE DISCUSSION: INDIGENOUS TRUSTEE POSITION**

Chairperson S. Piatkowski invited Superintendent C. Hill to provide legislative context regarding Indigenous Trustee positions. She shared that Indigenous Trustee positions are limited to school boards with tuition agreements with First Nations communities. Current regulations do not provide for school boards to appoint an Indigenous Trustee outside of these requirements. Ottawa Carleton District School Board has written the Ministry of Education for permission to appoint an Indigenous Trustee to represent the urban Indigenous student population. The WRDSB could take a similar approach.

Trustee discusses a motion to send a letter to the Ministry of Education. It was unknown whether the Ministry of Education responded to the request from Ottawa Carleton District School Board. Trustees expressed concern that a board table is inherently colonial in nature and acknowledged that the trustees still require work to ensure the board table is a safe space for Indigenous Trustees.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting permission for an Indigenous Trustee Position.**

-Carried-

Discussion continued. Trustees discussed a motion to consult with the Indigenous Education Advisory Circle (IEAC) about other ways to represent Indigenous voices at the Board table. It was confirmed that the feedback from the consultation would be brought back to the board table for further discussion and/or approval, and that no one is suggesting violating the Education Act.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the meeting by an additional thirty minutes.**

-Carried-

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board request staff discuss potential ways to have Indigenous representation at the Board table with the Indigenous Education Advisory Circle (IEAC).**

-Carried-

### **QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee C. Watson asked for next steps regarding the Trustee Code of Conduct complaint as she has heard parents want the report released. Chairperson S. Piatkowski advised that further clarification will be shared at the June 20, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

7. Moved by K. Meissner, seconded by K. Smith:

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of June 13, 2022, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.