

**JUNE 27, 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, 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 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, D. Liebermann, S. Miller, L. Read and G. Shantz.

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

Guest: Natalie Kolos, Partner, BLG.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson S. Piatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Chairperson S. Piatkowski thanked everyone for another successful school year.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the June 27, 2022, Board Meeting be approved with an amendment to the order of business to move Other Business and Delegations prior to the Consent Agenda.**

-Carried-

**OTHER BUSINESS**

**RECONSIDERATION OF BREACH OF TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT**

Trustee M. Ramsay and N. Kolos, legal counsel for the WRDSB, joined the meeting at 7:11 p.m.

Chairperson S. Piatkowski reviewed the finding of a breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct by Trustee M. Ramsay at the June 6, 2022, Special Board Meeting and the related sanctions imposed. He shared that Trustee M. Ramsay received formal written notification of the decisions on June 8, 2022 and that Trustee M. Ramsay submitted a written request for reconsideration on June 24, 2022 as permitted by Board Policy G201- Trustee Code of Conduct. He noted that reconsideration of the breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct was added to the June 27, 2022 meeting agenda. The agenda had previously been circulated earlier on June 24, 2022, but was

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amended later that evening to include the Reconsideration of the Breach of Trustee Code of Conduct. Chairperson S. Paitkowski shared that trustees met earlier this evening, at the In Camera Board Meeting, to deliberate on the reconsideration request. Board Policy G201- Trustee Code of Conduct provides that trustees shall confirm or revoke the determination and if the Board confirms a determination, the Board shall also confirm, vary or revoke the sanctions. If the Board revokes a determination, any sanction imposed by the Board is revoked. He noted that a motion to revoke the breach was moved by Trustee C. Watson and seconded by Trustee K. Smith at the previous In Camera Board Meeting for a vote in the public meeting as per the Education Act. The Chairperson requested a recorded vote on these matters.

Trustee C. Watson noted that she would like to speak to the motion. Chairperson S. Paitkowski reminded Trustee C. Watson that there is no public deliberation on the motion.

Trustee J. Herring called a Point of Order asking that the Chairperson remind Trustee C. Watson to wait to be recognized by the Chairperson before speaking as indicated in the bylaws. Chairperson S. Piatkowski ruled that Trustee J. Herring was correct and that Trustee C. Watson has now been reminded of the rules.

Trustee J. Weston called a Point of Order asking if the motion to revoke the breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct requires a seconder. Chairperson S. Piatkowski noted that the motion has been seconded by Trustee K. Smith as indicated in his opening remarks for this agenda item.

2. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by K. Smith:

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

-Defeated-

In Favour  
K. Smith  
C. Watson  
C. Whetham

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

Abstained:  
\*K. Soror  
\*N. Vishkin

\* Student Trustees votes are recorded for the purpose of public record and for accountability to the student body; however, it is recognized that “a student trustee is not a member of the Board” (Education Act, Section 55 (2))

Trustee J. Herring moved a motion to confirm the decision of June 6, 2022, noting that she needed clarification regarding the requirements of the motion as set out in the Board Policy

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G201-Trustee Code of Conduct. Legal counsel, N. Kolos, reviewed section 73 which indicates that the minutes must include the vote to confirm as well as the reasons for the determination. Chairperson S. Piatkowski instructed Trustee J. Herring to keep the reasons general in nature. Trustee J. Herring asked that she be stopped while she stated the motion should the content violate any In Camera confidentiality. The motion was stated and seconded.

Trustee K. Woodcock stated a Point of Privilege requesting the motion be read a second time. Trustee J. Herring complied with the request.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees confirm finding Trustee Ramsay in breach of Board Policy G201 - Trustee Code of Conduct under the following sections: Integrity and Dignity of Office, Compliance with Legislation, Civil Behaviour and Upholding Decisions by refusing to to accept and respect the decisions of the Chair and the Board and accusing fellow trustees of unlawful 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

Abstained:

\*K. Soror  
\*Vishkin

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Chairperson S. Piatkowski asked for clarification from legal counsel regarding if four separate motions are required for the decisions to revoke, confirm or vary the sanctions, or if trustees so choose, the sanctions could be decided on in one motion. N. Kolos reviewed the policy and confirmed that it could be done in either fashion. Chairperson S. Piatkowski reviewed the sanctions imposed on June 6, 2022.

Trustee K. Woodcock moved a motion regarding one of the sanctions. The motion was seconded.

Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Order indicating that she has a Point of Privilege and a question about the process. She asked if the Chairperson was asking for motions to revoke the individual sanctions separately as she would like to move that trustees revoke all the sanctions. Chairperson S. Piatkowski noted that there is already a motion on the floor requiring attention.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustee confirm 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

Abstained:

\*K. Soror  
\*N. Vishkin

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5. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by K. Meissner:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees confirm 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

Abstained:

\*K. Soror  
\*N. Vishkin

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6. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by K. Smith:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees revoke 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.**

-Defeated-

In Favour

K. Smith  
C. Watson  
C. Whetham

Opposed:

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

Abstained:

\*K. Soror  
\*N. Vishkin

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7. Moved by C. Millar, seconded by K. Meissner:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees confirm 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

Abstained:

\*K. Soror  
\*N. Vishkin

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Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Order indicating that Trustee K. Meissner referred to July 27, 2022. Chairperson S. Piatkowski stated the motion should say June 27, 2022. Trustee K. Meissner noted she had meant to say Jun 27, 2022.

8. Moved by K. Meissner, seconded by J. Weston:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board of Trustees confirm 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

Abstained:

\*K. Soror  
\*Vishkin

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N. Kolos and Trustee M. Ramsay left the meeting at 7:34 p.m.

**DELEGATIONS**

Trustee C. Watson moved to add an additional delegation to the list. Chairperson S. Piatkowski ruled this motion out of order as the bylaws are clear that only eight delegations are permitted. Trustee C. Watson proceeded to move a motion to suspend the rules and Chairperson S. Piatkowski noted that the motion was not in order.

The following delegations spoke at the meeting:

- Alida Wilms - Critical Race Theory Motion
- Mandi-May Bond - French Immersion Review Committee Recommendations
- Carly Greco - Critical Race Theory Motion
- Patricia Shaw & Heather Henderson - French Immersion Review Committee Recommendations

- David Haskell - Critical Race Theory Motion
- Pastor Nancy Vernon Kelly - Critical Race Theory Motion
- Colleen James - Critical Race Theory Motion
- Melissa Valant - Critical Race Theory Motion

Trustees were provided opportunities to ask questions of clarification after each delegation. Trustee C. Watson moved to refer the delegation from Alida Wilms to staff to respond to questions. Chairperson S. Piatkowski noted that as this item is already on the agenda as part of the Consent Agenda, that the Bylaws do not permit referring the item to staff. After the delegation from Mandi-May Bond, Chairperson S. Paitkowski reminded trustees that this item is on the agenda as part of the consent agenda and that the item can be pulled for discussion.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

9. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by K. Smith:

**That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of June 27, 2022, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of folios 29-30 regarding the French as a Second Language Review and folios 31-34 regarding the Critical Race Theory and White Privilege motions.**

-Carried-

Folio 29-30 - French as a Second Language Review

Trustees discussed a motion to defer the decisions on the French as a Second Language Review. When asked about the impact of a delay in decision making, staff noted that the team is ready to prepare for registration in January of 2023 for a September 2023 start. It was noted that transportation was discussed and the committee was provided with additional information. In addition, it was stated that an exhaustive consultation was completed and that this is ongoing work to increase student achievement in all French classes and the recommendations were geared to reduce streaming, increase support for students and be sustainable from a staffing and budget perspective. Trustees continued their discussion on the motion to refer.

10. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by K. Smith:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board defer decisions on the French as a Second Language Review until after staff can provide answers regarding the commentary from delegations.**

-Defeated-

Opposed:  
J. Herring  
K. Meissner  
C. Millar

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K. Smith  
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11. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by J. Herring:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board ratify folios 29-30, from the consent agenda of the June 27, 2022, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

Folios 31-34 - Critical Race Theory and White Privilege

Trustees discussed the Critical Race Theory and White Privilege motions from the June 20, 2022 Committee of the Whole meeting. Trustee C. Watson requested that they be voted on again and that it be a recorded vote.

Trustee J. Herring called a Point of Order when Trustee C. Watson spoke over the Chairperson without being recognized, again. Chairperson S. Paitkowski thanked Trustee J. Herring for reinforcing the issue.

Folio 31 Motion 7

Moved by C. Watson, seconded by K. Smith:

**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 September 2022.**

-Defeated-

In Favour  
K. Smith  
C. Watson  
C. Whetham

Opposed  
J. Herring  
K. Meissner  
C. Millar



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Folio 32 Motion 9

Moved by C. Watson, seconded by K. Smith:

**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.**

-Defeated-

In Favour  
K. Smith  
C. Watson  
C. Whetham

Opposed  
J. Herring  
K. Meissner  
C. Millar  
S. Piatkowski  
L. Tremble  
J. Weston  
K. Woodcock  
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Folio 33 Motion 10

Moved by C. Watson, seconded by K. Smith:

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

-Defeated-

In Favour  
K. Smith  
C. Watson  
C. Whetham

Opposed  
J. Herring  
K. Meissner  
C. Millar  
S. Piatkowski  
L. Tremble

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Folio 33 Motion 11

Moved by C. Watson, seconded by K. Smith:

**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.**

-Defeated-

In Favour  
K. Smith  
C. Watson  
C. Whetham

Opposed  
J. Herring  
K. Meissner  
C. Millar  
S. Piatkowski  
L. Tremble  
J. Weston  
K. Woodcock  
\*K. Soror  
\*N. Vishkin

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the June 27, 2022, Board meeting until 10:00 p.m.**

-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 J. Weston:

**That the agenda of the June 27, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.**

-Carried-

B. Moved by J. Herring, seconded by K. Woodcock:

**That the consent agenda of the June 27, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the amendments to the Terms and Conditions between the WRDSB and its Ontario Principals' Council – Waterloo Local, for the period September 1, 2020 to August 31, 2023.**

-Carried-

D. 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**

Trustee C. Watson declared a conflict of interest at the previous in camera meeting.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES**

#### **PRESENTATION TO THE OUTGOING STUDENT TRUSTEES**

Trustees K. Meissner and C. Millar expressed appreciation to this year's student trustees for all their work and representation of student voice. They wished Student Trustee N. Vishkin well in her future endeavors and shared how excited they were to have Student Trustee K. Soror back as a Student Trustee next year.

## **OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee K. Woodcock attended the School Travel Planning Award Celebration at Janet Metcalfe Public School. She also provided greetings at the Waterloo Collegiate Institute commencement.

Trustee K. Meissner provided greetings at the Elmira District Secondary School commencement and shared a good news story from Riverside Public School. She also congratulated everyone on the completion of another school year.

Student Trustee K. Soror attended the The Ontario Student Trustees' Association Annual General Meeting with incoming Student Trustee V. Raina.

Student Trustee N. Vishkin left the meeting at 9:30 p.m.

Trustee K. Smith provided greetings at the Grand River Collegiate Institute commencement where Trustee L. Tremble was also present as a parent of a graduating student.

Trustee C. Watson provided greetings at the Jacob Hespeler Secondary School commencement.

Chairperson S. Piatkowski provided greetings at the Laurel Heights Secondary School commencement. He also represented the Board as a judge for the My Canada Project contest for Grade 8 students in the region.

Chairperson S. Piatkowski announced that visual equipment has been installed in the Boardroom and the Board should be ready for in person or hybrid meetings in September, as allowed by the Education Act.

## **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, student leadership, the My Canada Project, an electric vehicle challenge, the farewell to the 2021-22 Student Trustees and year-end celebrations. She also reviewed events and activities for Pride Month, National Indigenous History Month and Indigenous Peoples Day. She recognized the launch of the Student Census and perspectives from the Ed Centre. She reviewed the monthly web traffic, social media engagement and traditional media engagement.

## **REPORTS**

### **WRDSB STRATEGIC PLAN UPDATE**

Director j. chanicka introduced the presentation and reviewed the phases of the Multi-year Strategic Plan process. He reviewed the purpose and success measures for the process undertaken this year. He shared that the consultation provided over 10,000 individual

engagements where people shared feedback through a variety of methods. Associate Director L. Read reviewed the different consultation methods including Community Leader Co-Design sessions, interviews, online surveys and pop-up tools. Dr. D. Liebermann, Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, reviewed information regarding the respondents to the online survey. She also provided examples of the two pop-up tools for student feedback: draw your ideal day and a postcard for the future. Director j. chanicka highlighted the trustee input and guidance provided throughout the process. He shared the vision statement, mission statement and learner profiles. Associate Director L. Read reviewed the six strategic directions: centring students; support for student and staff well-being; equitable opportunities and outcomes; strengthen connections through family and community engagement; increase student learning through responsive engagement and collaboration and compassion for transformation. Director j. chanicka reviewed the next steps and concluded the presentation.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the June 27, 2022, Board meeting until 10:30 p.m.**

-Carried-

14. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Watson:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the June 27, 2022, Board meeting until 11:00 p.m.**

-Carried-

Trustees asked questions regarding the consultation process, student achievement and the language used. Staff clarified that the six strategic directions are a result of the concerns expressed during the consultation and that the operational plan, to be developed next, will operationalize the strategic directions. Many trustees expressed appreciation for the work completed, the focus on student voice and excitement for the implementation in the fall.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board support the adoption of the Strategic Plan as presented including the Vision, Mission, Learner Profile, and Strategic Directions.**

-Carried-

Abstained: C. Watson

## **ANNUAL ACCESSIBILITY PLAN UPDATE**

This report was provided for information.

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On June 1, 2021, the Board of Trustees approved the 2021-2026 Accessibility Plan. The 2021 - 2026 Accessibility Plan Working Group has met throughout the 2021-2022 school year to monitor staff's progress on the plan. Trustees were provided a summary of staff's work to meet the objectives outlined in the plan.

Trustee J. Herring left the meeting at 10:48 p.m.

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board received the following communications:

- Ministry of Education to WRDSB - Response to Suspension Expulsion Letter
- Halton District School Board to Ministry of Education - Reimagine Forward
- Halton District School Board to Ministry of Education - Student Trustee Motions

It was the Will of the Board to have the Chairperson and Director of Education write letters of congratulations to local Members of Provincial Parliament and Minister Lecce on their election or reelection earlier this month and to welcome opportunities to work together in the future.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee C. Watson asked why the Chairperson provided a statement regarding the Breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct at the June 20, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting without first getting approval by Trustees. Chairperson S. Piatkowski noted that statements by the Chairperson are not something that require Trustee approval and that Trustee C. Watson was among those requesting further information. Vice-Chair K. Woodcock shared that the Chairperson is the spokesperson for the Board.

**ADJOURNMENT**

16. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by L. Tremble:

**That the Board Meeting of June 27, 2022, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.