

**OCTOBER 31, 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, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

Trustees M. Ramsay and C. Whetham were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees V. Raina and K. Soror 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, J. Fedosoff, M. Gerard, E. Giannopoulos, P. Kaur, D. Lataille-Herdsman, B. Lemon, S. Miller, G. Shantz and A. Russell.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. Piatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by J. Herring:

That the agenda of the October 31, 2022, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of October 31, 2022, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of folio 5.

-Carried-

Opposed: C. Watson

Discussion on Folio 5

Trustee C. Watson asked why her comments were not included in the minutes following being called to order by the Chairperson. Corporate Services Manager S. Reidel indicated that the minutes are a record of actions, and that while a ruling of the Chairperson needs to be included in the minutes, additional trustee comments do not.

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

That Folio 5, from the consent agenda of the October 31, 2022, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, 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.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the October 31, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera with the addition of Appointment of Temporary Treasurer of the Board.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

B. Moved by L. Tremble, seconded by J. Weston:

That the consent agenda of the October 31, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

APPOINTMENT OF TEMPORARY TREASURER OF THE BOARD

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the appointment of Nick Landry as Treasurer of the Board (temporary), effective November 19, 2022, until January 31, 2023, unless the position of Treasurer of the Board is filled prior to January 31, 2023.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

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

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

Chairperson S. Piatkowski shared regrets from Trustees M. Ramsay and C. Whetham.

Trustee J. Herring provided greetings on behalf of the Board at the Glenview Park Secondary School commencement.

Chairperson S. Piatkowski announced that with the departure of Matthew Gerard, Coordinating Superintendent, Business Services and Treasurer of the Board, the WRDSB has appointed Nick Landry as Temporary Treasurer of the Board effective November 19, 2022 until January 31, 2023, unless the position of Treasurer of the Board is filled prior to January 31, 2023.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Chief Communications Officer A. Russell announced that the theme of this month's update is achievement. She thanked the Communications department for their work while she was on leave. She shared that the WRDSB Communications team won a CACE Award of Distinction for the #WeAreWRDSB campaign and Communications Officer Ross Howey won the CACE Coup de Coeur for a written piece called Teacher Captures Student Portraits 10 Years Apart.

She shared highlights from the Moment of Movement Campaign, the opening of Oak Creek Public School, Acorn the kindergarten mascot and the Co-op Placement Series. She shared news articles highlighting the work of the WRDSB and graduation rates. The presentation concluded with the Student Census video.

Trustees welcomed Chief Communications Officer A. Russell back and commended the Communications Department for the excellent Student Census video.

REPORTS

INCLEMENT WEATHER PRESENTATION

This presentation was provided for information.

Superintendent P. Kaur started the presentation by referencing the related administrative procedures and noted that with the end to COVID-19 health and safety distancing measures, the WRDSB would be reverting back to a pre-pandemic severe weather protocol. In most scenarios where buses may be cancelled, schools will still be open where possible. She shared the infographic the WRDSB will be using in communications related to severe weather. She reviewed street maps of the Region of Waterloo, showing just how many roads are used every day by buses transporting students to and from school, and provided background information on the snow clearing timelines in the region. She reviewed the decision-making process, severe weather plan and communications. The presentation concluded with the number of historical school closures due to severe weather.

Trustees asked questions regarding asynchronous learning and the various scenarios. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard offered to provide assistance to trustees requiring further understanding on the severe weather scenarios.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

21-22 ANNUAL TRUSTEE/BOARD SELF-EVALUATION REPORT

This report was provided for information.

Between June 24-30, 2022, Trustees were invited to complete a self-evaluation survey as an opportunity to share their experiences and communicate their needs to each other. Ten out of eleven WRDSB Trustees participated in the self-evaluation. The report includes the responses as Appendix A.

Trustees discussed the report and results of the survey. It was noted that this report provides some areas where trustees might benefit from some professional development.

STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

Student Trustees K. Soror and V. Raina provided an update on the recent Student Roundtable with a focus on elections and politics. The next Student Roundtable is being planned for the end of November.

Student Trustees were commended by Trustees for organizing the roundtable and encouraging youth involvement in politics and voting.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Bluewater District School Board to Minister of Education
- Simcoe County District School Board to Minister of Education
- Rainy River District School Board to Minister of Education
- Halton District School Board to Minister of Education
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Woodcock asked for an update on student absence rates at WRDSB. Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard shared that staff can bring this information to trustees at a future meeting.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of October 31, 2022, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.