

**NOVEMBER 14, 2022
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Board Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Boardroom, with the following members in attendance: S. Piatkowski (Chairperson), J. Herring, K. Meissner, C. Millar, M. Ramsay, L. Tremble, C. Watson, J. Weston, C. Whetham and K. Woodcock.

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, C. Hill, P. Kaur, N. Landry, D. Lataille-Herdsman, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, S. Miller, A. Russell, G. Shantz and J. Veit.

Other staff in attendance: M. Delisle, M. Mayer, D. Pichen and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson S. Piatkowski called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the November 14, 2022, Special Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

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 November 14, 2022, Special In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

RECEIVE MINUTES – IN CAMERA BOARD MEETING OF OCTOBER 31, 2022

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board receive the minutes from the In Camera Board meeting of October 31, 2022.

-Carried-

APPROVE DECISIONS – IN CAMERA COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING OF NOVEMBER 14, 2022

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the decisions from the In Camera Committee of the Whole meeting of November 14, 2022.

-Carried-

Opposed: C. Watson

RISE AND REPORT

D. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by C. Whetham:

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

Trustee K. Woodcock attended the Remembrance Day service at the WRDSB Education Centre where a live-stream from Coronation Public School was presented. She thanked Jenni-Rebecca Baer, Ceilidh Greenwood and Denise Harrington from Coronation Public School.

Trustee C. Millar provided greetings on behalf of the Board at the Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School commencement.

STAFF FOLLOW UP

STUDENT WELL-BEING AND EQUITY WORKERS, SYSTEM NAVIGATOR AND EQUITY OFFICER ROLES

In response to an inquiry at a previous meeting's question period, Associate Director S. Miller provided a description of the Student Well-Being and Equity Workers, System Navigator and Equity Officer roles. System Navigators liaison between the system and families. Student Well-Being And Equity Workers support affinity groups and students, including those with anxieties and mental health. Equity and Inclusion Officers focus on developing procedures and implementing policies. They provide leadership regarding policies and the Indigeneous and Equity Action Plan.

Trustees received further clarification on recommendations, communications and position funding. A Point of Order was called by Trustee C. Millar when Trustee C. Watson asked a question about land and felt it was not germane to the topic. The Chairperson deemed it to be off topic and asked that she wait for Question Period.

Trustee questions continued regarding the advisory position of these roles. It was noted that principals consult the expertise of consultants, paraprofessionals and other experts for a variety of reasons.

REPORTS

EQAO RESULTS

Associate Director S. Miller introduced the presentation and reviewed the context and considerations regarding EQAO, noting it was paused since 2019 and that these results establish a new baseline.

Dr. D. Liebermann, Senior Manager of Research and Evidence-Based Practice, began with the primary results:

- Grade 3 reading, 72% of WRDSB students who wrote the EQAO achieved the provincial standard, which was 1% below the provincial average of 73%
- Grade 3 writing, 63% of WRDSB students achieved the provincial standard, which is 2% below the provincial average
- Grade 3 mathematics, 58% of WRDSB students achieved the provincial standard, which is 1% below the provincial average

She shared the achievement of primary students who were identified as having special education needs (excluding gifted) and students who were identified as English-language learners/multilingual learners.

This was followed by the Junior results:

- Grade 6 reading: 85% of WRDSB students who wrote the EQAO achieved the provincial standard, which is on par the provincial average
- Grade 6 writing, 85% of WRDSB students achieved the provincial standard, which is 1%

above the provincial average

- Grade 6 mathematics, 49% of WRDSB students achieved the provincial standard, which is 2% above the provincial average

Dr. Liebermann shared the achievement of junior students who were identified as having special education needs (excluding gifted) and students who were identified as English-language learners/multilingual learners.

She also shared the results of the new Grade 9 Mathematics assessment, 51% of WRDSB students achieved the provincial standard, which is 1% below the province and 85% of both first time and previously eligible students achieved a level 3 or higher in the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. This is above provincial results for the first time and equal to the province for previously eligible students. She shared the results for students identified as having special education needs and students who were identified as multilingual learners. The presentation concluded with the steps implemented or being implemented for improvement.

Trustees asked questions regarding reporting the results, supports for multilingual learners, grade nine destreaming and the tutoring program.

OTHER BUSINESS

FAREWELL TO M. GERARD, COORDINATING SUPERINTENDENT, BUSINESS SERVICES AND TREASURER OF THE BOARD

Chairperson S. Piatkowski wished Coordinating Superintendent M. Gerard well and success in his new role as Associate Director, Support Services with the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB). Trustees were provided an opportunity to bid farewell and acknowledge M. Gerard's work. Director j. chanicka also shared some remarks about M. Gerard. M. Gerard expressed appreciation for everyone.

FAREWELL TO OUTGOING TRUSTEES

A slide presentation with photo memories of the outgoing trustees was presented. Chairperson S. Piatkowski wished outgoing trustees well. Trustees were provided an opportunity to express appreciation and bid farewell.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Meissner asked staff to provide an update on whether we are considering implementing any mitigation measures regarding COVID-19. Coordinating Superintendent G. Shantz indicated that there have been various provincial announcements recently. Staff will continue to support those choosing to wear masks, support effective hygiene practices, continue to monitor the situation and watch for Ministry of Education or Public Health direction.

Trustee C. Watson asked about communication at the school level when school's receive recommendations by Equity and Inclusion Officers. Director j. chanicka shared that principals do

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their best to build understanding and make collaborative decisions while handling competing demands. He noted that not all decisions are shared with all people at all times. Where possible, broader consultation occurs but it is dependent on the situation or decision being made.

Trustee K. Woodcock called a Point of Order expressing concerns that Trustee C. Watson's comments regarding property may be in camera. Chairperson S. Piatkowski asked that comments be kept general.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Whetham:

That the Special Board Meeting of November 14, 2022, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.