

NOVEMBER 21, 2022
INAUGURAL 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: J. Weston (Chairperson), B. Cody, C. Johnson, F. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Ramsay, M. Synder, M. Waseem, C. Watson 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, 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: L. Agar, M. Delisle, R. Lam, M. Mayer and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Pro Tem j. chanicka called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

Director of Education and Secretary j. chanicka announced to trustees that he would be serving as Chairperson Pro Tem (temporary), in accordance with Board Bylaws, and that he would serve in that capacity until completion of the election of the Board Chairperson.

He welcomed everyone to the Inaugural meeting and congratulated new and returning trustees.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND O CANADA

Chairperson Pro Tem j. chanicka provided the Land Acknowledgement followed by the playing of the national anthem.

MUSIC

Shonna Buschlen, student at Eastwood Collegiate Institute, introduced her class's musical recording of Neil Young's "Heart of Gold". The class, lead by Head of Music, Matthew Drysdale, are submitting it to CBC's Class Cover competition. They hope to be a top 10 finalist, which will be announced on December 7, 2022.

After the recording, Director j. chanicka thanked everyone involved and wished the class the best in the competition.

GUEST SPEAKER - IDRISA PANDIT

Outgoing Chairperson S. Piatkowski introduced Idrisa Pandit, Founder of Muslim Social Services Waterloo Region. She provided a speech titled *Triple A: Awareness, Acknowledgment, Action—A path to building an antiracist school system in the Waterloo Region*.

SWEARING-IN CEREMONY - DECLARATION AND OATH

Director j. chanicka presented the Return of the Municipal Clerks, reading out each trustee's name in their respective areas of representation.

The Honourable Madam Justice Catrina Braid officiated the swearing-in ceremony for trustees. Each Trustee recited and signed a copy of Board Policy G201 - Trustee Code of Conduct, signifying that they understand, and will follow, the Trustee Code of Conduct.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON/VICE-CHAIRPERSON

APPOINT SCRUTINEERS

Chairperson Pro-Tem j. chanicka appointed Associate Directors S. Miller and G. Shantz as scrutineers for the election of Board Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Pro-Tem j. chanicka provided trustees with a reminder of the procedure for nominations.

Trustee C. Johnson nominated Trustee J. Weston for the role of Board Chairperson.

There were no other nominations at this time.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

2. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by M. Waseem:

That the nominations for the position of Board Chairperson now be closed.

-Carried-

Trustee J. Weston accepted the nomination.

Following the vote, Director j. chanicka announced that Trustee J. Weston had been acclaimed to the position of Board Chairperson for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson J. Weston assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Trustee M. Radlein nominated Trustee K. Woodcock for the role of Board Vice-Chairperson.

There were no further nominations at this time.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

3. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by F. Meissner:

That nominations for the position of Board Vice-Chairperson now be closed.

-Carried-

Trustee K. Woodcock accepted the nomination.

Chairperson J. Weston announced that Trustee K. Woodcock was acclaimed as Vice-Chairperson for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

BOARD VICE-CHAIRPERSON'S INAUGURAL REMARKS

At this time, Board Vice-Chairperson K. Woodcock presented the following remarks:

Thanks to Trustee Radlein for nominating me. I am looking forward to serving with my trustee colleagues as we work together to advocate for public education and as we work together to support WRDSB students in achieving success. I am looking forward to supporting the Chairperson Weston and believe we will all be very productive.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON'S INAUGURAL REMARKS

At this time, Board Chairperson J. Weston presented the following remarks:

Thank you Trustee Johnson for nominating me and to my colleagues for your confidence in me to represent the WRDSB as chairperson. I look forward to working with Vice-Chair Woodcock and all of you in the year ahead.

I would like to take a moment to thank past Chair Piaktowski for being steady at the helm as we navigated through some challenging times this past year. And I would like to thank him for his leadership as the previous Board developed a new strategic plan that will guide the work of this new Board of Trustees and the system.

I am looking forward to working with this new Board as, together, we implement our vision, mission and strategic directions. I know we won't be doing this alone. Staff will be operationalizing the plan, in consultation with students, families and the community. I want to recognize and thank Director Chanicka, the senior team and every employee of the WRDSB for their ongoing work to help our students be successful in learning and in life. And thank you to the many community organizations for their partnerships to support the children and youth in Waterloo Region.

Students, you are the reason why each of us is here at this table. We have the unifying goal to support your achievement and wellbeing and to ensure you get the best education and caring

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learning environment possible to help you succeed. While WRDSB students, families and staff continue to feel the impacts of the pandemic, it is now more important than ever before to ensure our focus is on setting up each and every student for success. How we do this might be the subject of respectful and constructive debate at this table, but I know that each of us is here with the goal of centering and improving student achievement and wellbeing.

This Board of Trustees will also continue to advocate for a strong public education system in Ontario and ensure that the policies that guide this school board are equitable, inclusive and focused on supporting students and staff. Our strategic plan will be at the front and center of all our work.

I look forward to the year ahead and doing this important work with Vice-Chair Woodcock, my trustee colleagues, Student Trustees Soror and Raina, Director Chanicka, staff and the community. Thank you.

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by M. Waseem:

That the Inaugural Board Meeting of November 21, 2022, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.