

**NOVEMBER 28, 2022
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. Synder and C. Watson.

Virtual Attendee: M. Waseem

Trustees M. Ramsay and K. Woodcock were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees V. Raina was in attendance and Student Trustee K. Soror attended virtually.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: j. chanicka (Director of Education and Secretary), D. Ahluwalia, J. Albrecht, J. Brown, R. Dallan, R. DeBoer, C. Dey, 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, R. Lam, M. Mayer and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by C. Johnson, seconded by M. Snyder:

That the agenda of the November 28, 2022, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of November 28, 2022, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of folio 55 and 56.

-Carried-

Discussion on November 14, 2022, Special Board Meeting Minutes (folio 55-56)

Trustee C. Watson noted that in the Question Period question, she was referring to recommendations by Equity and Inclusion Officers. The minutes will be adjusted to reflect this clarification.

3. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That Folio 55 and 56, from the consent agenda of the November 28, 2022, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved. with the correction

-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 M. Radlein, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the agenda of the November 28, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

It was noted that there was an error in the agenda package. Minutes from November 14, 2022 are included not November 15, 2022.

- B. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by F. Meissner:

That the consent agenda of the November 28, 2022, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

- A. Moved by M. Radlein, seconded by M. Snyder:

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

Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Trustees M. Ramsay and K. Woodcock.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Chief Communications Officer A. Russell shared the November Communications Department Good News Update. She reviewed recent events and activities including Indigenous Veterans Day, Remembrance Day, kindness at Groh Public School, Commencement at Huron Heights Secondary School, microforests, WRDSB partnerships with Smart Waterloo Region and A Better Tent City, and parent learning sessions. She also reviewed the WRDSB website statistics and social media impressions. She concluded her presentations with congratulations to the new term of Trustees.

REPORTS

ANNUAL SUSPENSION REPORT 2021-2022

This report was provided for information.

This annual report provides information concerning suspension, expulsion and violent incident data for the 2021-22 school year. The WRDSB continues to support students in alternative programs that support their success. Suspension and expulsion data is helpful in supporting schools as inclusive and caring communities. This data was collected by schools operating adapted learning programs including distance- and in-person learning. The data is analyzed by percentage of students suspended, number of students expelled, violent incident reports, suspension by gender, suspension by grade, length of suspension, by category and by location.

Trustees asked questions regarding the volume of Grade 9 suspensions and received clarification regarding the Code of Conduct violations. Staff confirmed that work is underway with the student information system to clarify the violation codes and classifications. Trustees continued to ask questions regarding conflict resolution skills in younger students and male identifying students, and violations of possessing a weapon.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

2022/2023 TRUSTEE COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP CHAIRPERSON

On November 17, 2022, trustees received a link to the Trustee Committee Preference 2023 Survey and were asked to submit their committee preferences to the Manager of Corporate Services by November 23, 2022. The survey requested trustees rank their committee choices in order of preference. On November 23, 2023, the Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Past Chair, along with the Manager of Corporate Services, met to review the responses to the Trustee Committee Preference Survey and provide the recommendation. Most trustees have been selected for the

committee they indicated as their first choice with the exception of where three Trustees requested the same position as their first choice.

4. Moved by M. Radlein, seconded by F. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approves the 2022/2023 Board Committee Membership as outlined in Appendix A titled “2022/2023 - Board Committee Membership Structure” dated November 28, 2022.

-Carried-

ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS’ ASSOCIATION DIRECTOR AND VOTING DELEGATE

The Board of Trustees appointed Trustees to positions within the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) for the 2023 year and in preparation for the Association’s Annual General Meeting (AGM) being held from June 8-10, 2023 in Blue Mountain, Ontario.

Voting Delegate

Trustee S. Piatkowski nominated C. Johnson for the position of Voting Delegate for the 2023 OPSBA Annual General Meeting.

1. Moved by M. Radlein , seconded by B. Cody:

That nominations for the position of OPSBA Voting Delegate be closed.

-Carried-

Trustee C. Johnson accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Trustee C. Johnson was acclaimed as the Voting Delegate.

OPSBA Director

Trustee C. Johnson nominated Trustee S. Piatkowski for the position of OPSBA Director for 2023.

2. Moved by M. Radlein, seconded by M. Snyder:

That nominations for the position of OPSBA Director be closed.

-Carried-

Trustee S. Piatkowski accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Trustee S. Piatkowski was acclaimed as OPSBA Director for 2023.

Alternate Voting Delegate

Trustee C. Johnson nominated Trustee S. Piatkowski for the position of Alternate Voting Delegate for the 2023 OPSBA Annual General Meeting.

3. Moved by M. Snyder, seconded by M. Radlein:

That nominations for the position of OPSBA Alternate Voting Delegate be closed.

-Carried-

Trustee S. Piatkowski accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Trustee S. Piatkowski was acclaimed as the Alternate Voting Delegate.

OPSBA Alternate Director

Trustee S. Piatkowski nominated Trustee C. Johnson for the position of OPSBA Alternate Director for 2023.

4. Moved by F. Meissner, seconded by Bill Cody:

That nominations for the position of OPSBA Alternate Director be closed.

-Carried-

Trustee C. Johnson accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Trustee C. Johnson was acclaimed as OPSBA Alternate Director for 2023.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - Capital Funding
- Kawartha Pine Ridge DSB to Minister of Education and Attorney General
- Durham District School Board to Minister of Education - Capital Funding
- Durham District School Board to Minister of Education - Student Trustees
- Thames Valley District School Board to Minister of Education

- Grand Erie District School Board to Minister of Education

OTHER BUSINESS

PRESENTATION TO OUTGOING CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson J. Weston thanked Past Chair S. Piatkowski for his work this past year. She noted he will receive a plaque and gavel in the near future as a token of appreciation.

Past Chair S. Piatkowski thanked Chairperson J. Weston for her kind words and thanked everyone for the opportunity to have served as Chairperson of the Board.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson referred to a recent article in The Record regarding the traffic concerns for students of Chicopee Hills Public School and inquired what the next steps are to alleviate the safety concerns. L. Agar, Manager of Planning, provided an update on recent conversations with partners at the City of Kitchener and the Region of Waterloo. The Region has been running into conflicts between school zone signage and compliance with the Highway Traffic Act as the school does not front onto Fairway Road. Some changes to a pinch point where there is a light standard obstructing the sidewalk are being proposed but require approval through a capital forecast process first. She shared some of the educational practices and campaigns being implemented at the school level by the WRDSB and Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region. Trustee C. Watson shared that she felt a more fulsome discussion on the matter was needed. Director j. chanicka suggested that staff bring forward a report at a later date. Trustee M. Radlein asked if the City or Region has provided timelines for improvements. L. Agar, Manager of Planning, shared that staff can include this as part of the follow up reporting to the Board.

Trustee S Piatkowski asked for an update on a request made to have someone from Region of Waterloo Public Health attend tonight's meeting. Associate Director S. Miller confirmed that Public Health was invited but had other commitments and that Public Health followed up with a written communication which will be shared with all Trustees.

Trustee M. Radlein asked about Aspen, the WRDSB's new Student Information System, and changes to the student achievement reporting. Associate Director G. Shantz shared that families will find the progress report is nearly identical with the exception of font and that the Ministry of Education has changed the provincial report card template. There is a larger comment area rather than multiple small topic or course specific comment boxes. As we expand our use of Aspen, parents will be provided additional opportunities to interact with schools.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following notice of motion was served by Trustee M. Snyder with support from S. Piatkowski:

RE: Requesting Masks for Staff, Students, and Visitors in Our Buildings Whenever Possible

Whereas a board mask mandate is not supported by our local Medical Officer of Health, and could potentially create hostility and divisiveness in our schools;

Whereas there has been a significant increase of Covid-19 cases, influenza, RSV, and other serious respiratory and airborne diseases in the Region of Waterloo, as demonstrated by the levels of hospital admissions in the region, the extended wait times for access to the emergency room, and inconsistent access to emergency vehicles in our region;

And, whereas recent statements from the Dr. Kieran Moore, Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health strongly recommends wearing well-fitting masks, and the Region of Waterloo Public Health strongly advises masks "in any indoor space other than your home" to curb the spread of respiratory viruses that are having a damaging effect on our community members, and that the Government of Canada recognizes that over 30% of all Covid-19 cases are carriers without symptoms, which means we can feel healthy but still be spreading this virus;

Therefore be it resolved that the WRDSB request all staff, students, and visitors wear a mask, if they can and whenever they can, until the Region of Waterloo Public Health is no longer recommending masks be worn inside public buildings; and

That this request is routinely shared with all staff and students at WRDSB locations, which could look like a regular morning announcement that says, "We're asking all staff and student to please mask whenever you can"; and

That our communication platforms are used to help circulate factual information to the WRDSB community, from the Region of Waterloo Public Health, about the benefits of wearing well-fitting masks; and

That the policy to request masks be worn will take effect on the first school day after this motion is ratified by the Board of Trustees.

This motion will be scheduled for discussion at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by M. Radlein, seconded by C. Johnson:

That the Board Meeting of November 28, 2022, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 p.m.