

**DECEMBER 12, 2022**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Committee of the Whole 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, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Virtual Attendees: M. Synder and M. Waseem.

Student Trustee V. Raina attended in person and Student Trustee K. Soror attended virtually.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: j. chanicka (Director of Education and Secretary), D. Ahluwalia, E. Dougan-McKenzie, N. Landry, D. Liebermann, S. Miller, A. Russell and G. Shantz.

Other staff in attendance: M. Mayer, S. Reidel and S. Uttley.

Guests: E. Gayle, Associate, Hicks Morley  
M. Dugard, Principal, Grant Thornton

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by M. Radlein:

**That the agenda of the December 12, 2022, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee M. Radlein attended the Black Brilliance conference at the Education Centre on November 30, 2022.

Trustees C. Johnson, M. Radlein and M. Waseem attended and shared ideas at the November 15, 2022 monthly KW Teach meeting at a local Google office.

Trustee M. Waseem attended the Children and Youth Planning Table annual forum.

**DECEMBER 12, 2022**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

Trustees S. Piatkowski and J. Weston attended the Kitchener Public Library public screening of Black Legal Action Centre's (BLAC) documentary, *Links to Justice: Addressing the school to prison pipeline in Ontario*. Director j. chanicka participated in a panel discussion following the film.

**DELEGATIONS**

As a point of information, Trustee C. Watson asked if delegates were informed that the motion was withdrawn. Chairperson J. Weston noted that all delegations were contacted and informed of the intent to withdraw the motion.

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Justin Buhr - International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Definition of Antisemitism
- Anita Bromberg, CAEF - IHRA Definition of Antisemitism
- Beisan Zubi - IHRA Definition of Antisemitism
- Lauren Weinberg - IHRA Definition of Antisemitism
- James Kafieh - IHRA Definition of Antisemitism
- Sameh Salah - IHRA Definition of Antisemitism
- Dr. Sheryl Nestel - IHRA Definition of Antisemitism
- Irene O'Toole - IHRA Definition of Antisemitism

Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions of clarification.

**REPORTS**

**2021-22 AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The draft 2021-2022 Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) Consolidated Financial Statements were reviewed. Melanie Dugard, Principal at Grant Thornton LLP, was present (virtually) during the meeting to elaborate on the audited statements.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Audited Financial Statements for the year ended August 31, 2022, as recommended by the Board Audit Committee.**

-Carried-

**2021-22 FINAL FINANCIAL REPORT**

This report was provided for information.

**DECEMBER 12, 2022**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

The Board of Trustees (Board) approved the 2021-22 operating budget on June 16, 2021, and at that time the expected in-year deficit was \$6.62M, or 0.8% of operating revenues. The 2021-22 year-end financial position is an in-year (unappropriated) deficit of \$3.27M; this represents approximately 0.40% of the WRDSB's operating budget for the year and decreases our Accumulated Unappropriated Surplus to \$54.67M as of August 31, 2022. As indicated in previous updates to the Board, COVID-19 continued to have a material impact on the finances and operations of the WRDSB throughout the 2021-22 school year. These events, and the associated responses by the Ministry and board, account for the variances noted in this report and our 2021-22 financial statements.

Trustees asked questions regarding variances from the budget in salaries and student enrolment. It was noted that variances in the 2022-23 school year will not be reportable until the second quarter report.

**2021-22 TRUSTEE EXPENSES**

This report was provided for information.

Board Policy 3001 Travel, Meals, Hospitality – Trustees directs staff to present, annually, a public report regarding Trustee expenses that were reimbursed during the previous fiscal year. Staff are required to present the report in November as part of the year-end financial reporting process. Trustee expenses have been reviewed by our external auditors.

Trustee C. Watson asked what the \$118 charge, to both her and Trustee Ramsay's professional development line included. Chairperson J. Weston agreed to investigate and follow up with Trustees by email with the requested information.

**RISE AND RECONVENE TO SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

3. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by M. Snyder:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board rise and reconvene to a Special Board Meeting.**

-Carried-

Trustees moved to a Special Board Meeting at 8:53 p.m.

The Committee of the Whole meeting resumed at 8:55 p.m.

**STAFF AND BOARD REPORTS**

**MOTION: INTERNATIONAL HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE ALLIANCE  
DEFINITION OF ANTISEMITISM**

This Notice of Motion was served at the September 26, 2022, Board meeting by Trustee M. Ramsay with support from Trustee C. Watson. Chairperson J. Weston shared that she received notice earlier that afternoon that Trustees M. Ramsay and C. Watson wished to withdraw the Notice of Motion. Chairperson J. Weston referred to WRDSB Bylaw 24.3.2 which reads “Every motion shall be seconded and shall be disposed of only by a vote of the Board unless the mover and seconder, by permission of the Chair, withdraw the motion, as long as the motion has not been ‘put’ or stated by the Chair.”

She asked for a mover and seconder for the motion in order to withdraw. She noted that she would not feel comfortable making that decision this evening and would take direction from the Board regarding a withdrawal.

A Point or Order was called by Trustee M. Ramsay when the motion was moved by Trustee Radlein. Chairperson J. Weston ruled that this was in order and it was noted that there is no bylaw that requires the original Notice of Motion supporters to be the ones to move it once it is scheduled by Agenda Development Committee and included in the meeting’s agenda package.

Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Order requesting that section 24.3.2 of the WRDSB Bylaws be read again. Chairperson J. Weston read the requested section again. The Chairperson ruled that both she and the Manager of Corporate Services have read and interpreted the current bylaws to require the motion be on the table in order for a withdrawal to occur.

4. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by M. Ramsay:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board withdraw the motion.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
C. Johnson  
M. Radlein  
M. Snyder  
M. Waseem  
\*V. Raina  
\*K. Soror

\* 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))

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board adopts and recognizes the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) Working Definition as its operative definition of antisemitism, guiding its staff in the administration of its operational policies, including its human rights and equity policies.**

-Withdrawn by majority vote-

**MOTION: REQUESTING MASKS FOR STAFF, STUDENTS, AND VISITORS IN OUR BUILDINGS**

This Notice of Motion was served at the November 28, 2022, Board meeting by Trustee M. Snyder with support from Trustee S. Piatkowski. The motion was moved and seconded. Trustee M. Snyder spoke to her motion asking students, staff and visitors to wear masks in schools.

Trustees discussed the motion, some in support and others opposed to the motion.

An amendment to the main motion was moved and seconded and discussion on the amendment occurred.

Amendment #1

6. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by F. Meissner:

**That the motion be amended to remove “which could look like a regular morning announcement that says, "We're asking all staff and student to please mask whenever you can"” to read:**

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board 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; 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.**

-Amendment Carried-

**DECEMBER 12, 2022**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

Trustee M. Ramsay called a Point of Order and asked if the motion could be voted on as separate votes for each paragraph. Upon review, the Chairperson confirmed that paragraphs 1, 2 and 4 would need to be voted on together as the language does not allow them to stand alone, but that paragraph 3 could be voted on separately.

Discussion continued on the main motion as amended.

7. Moved by C. Johnson, seconded by B. Cody:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extended the meeting an additional thirty minutes to 10:00 p.m.**

-Carried-

Discussion continued on the main motion as amended. It was noted that masks continue to be available at entrances to schools and work sites.

An amendment to the amended main motion was moved and seconded and discussion on the amendment occurred.

Amendment #2

8. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by M. Radlein:

**That the motion be amended to change “That the policy to request masks be worn” with “That this request” so the motion would read:**

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board 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; 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 this request will take effect on the first school day after this motion is ratified by the Board of Trustees.**

-Amendment Carried-

Discussion continued on the main motion as amended. Staff were asked for their comments on the amended motion. Director j. chanicka shared that encouragement to wear masks is already in place and current decisions are guided by public health. He asked for trustees to consider the

**DECEMBER 12, 2022**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

impact on staff. Associate Director G. Shantz shared that the discussion occurring this evening will assist staff in interpreting the intention and suggested that trustees may want to consider the use of “encourage” rather than “request”. E. Gayle, Associate at Hicks Morley, added that it would be up to schools to operationalize and that the word “request” may require further clarification and guidelines.

Another amendment to the amended main motion was moved and seconded.

Amendment #3

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

**That the motion be amended to change remove the word “request” so the motion would read:**

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board encourage 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 is routinely shared with all staff and students at WRDSB locations; 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 this motion will take effect on the first school day after this motion is ratified by the Board of Trustees.**

-Carried-

Opposed: S. Piatkowski

10. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by M. Radlein:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extended the meeting an additional thirty minutes to 10:30 p.m.**

-Carried with two-thirds majority-

When asked, staff shared that they are currently communicating information received from health care professionals and continue to provide masks and hand sanitizers at building entrances. Discussion on the amended motion continued.

**DECEMBER 12, 2022**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

Main Motions as Amended:

11. Moved by M. Snyder, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board encourage 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 is routinely shared with all staff and students at WRDSB locations; and**

**That this motion will take effect on the first school day after this motion is ratified by the Board of Trustees.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

12. Moved by M. Snyder, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

**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**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee C. Watson asked about the consent process for parents regarding the Safe, Caring and Inclusive School Survey (SCIS). Associate Director S. Miller shared that the SCIS meets a Ministry of Education requirement for a bi-annual climate survey. Information was provided to parents via School Day, a web post on November 3, 2022 and that administrators send home hard copies, if appropriate, for the school community and in the appropriate languages. The notification provides information on how to opt out of the survey. It was shared that the survey was for all students in Grades 4 - 12 unless parents opted out. Students were also provided an opportunity to opt out at the beginning of the survey. Parents were not provided the survey questions in advance.

Trustee M. Ramsay asked what guides the principal to decide what activities can be opted out of and in what form. Director j. chanicka noted that schools are asked to use their judgment and knowledge of the school community. Some schools have parents who are very connected



**DECEMBER 12, 2022**  
**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

virtually while others are not. Trustee M. Ramsay asked about not being able to stop the survey once started. Associate Director S. Millar noted that students are provided an opportunity to opt out at the beginning of the survey.

**ADJOURNMENT**

13. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by M. Radlein:

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 12, 2022, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.