

JANUARY 16, 2023

**WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
NOTICE AND AGENDA**

A Committee of the Whole meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board will be held in the Board Room, Building 2, 51 Ardel Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, on **Monday, January 16, 2023, at 7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

Call to Order

O Canada

Approval of Agenda

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Celebrating Board Activities/Announcements

Delegations

Jean Stacey - Grand River Transit Bus Passes for Students

David Todor - Transparency and Communication

Staff Follow Up

Policy and Governance

Reports

Update on the Bus Driver Shortage

G. Shantz / N. Landry

Board Reports

01 Motion: Grand River Transit Bus Passes

Chairperson

Question Period (*10 minutes*)

Future Agenda Items (*Notices of Motion to be referred to Agenda Development Committee*)

Adjournment

Questions relating to this agenda should be directed to
Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services
519-570-0003, ext. 4336, or Stephanie_Reidel@wrdsb.ca



Report to Committee of the Whole

January 16, 2023

Subject: Motion: Grand River Transit Bus Passes

Recommendation

That the Waterloo Region District School Board request a report exploring the feasibility of partnering with the Region of Waterloo (and/or the cities of Cambridge, Kitchener, Waterloo, Wilmot & Woolwich) to provide free bus passes for secondary school students as well as free transportation for students from Kindergarten to age 14 (currently free for children under 4) as currently being modeled in the program in place in Kingston between the City and the Limestone District School Board; and

That the possibility of partnering with local businesses to assist with ongoing stable funding for the program also be investigated; and

That the existence of possible ongoing stable funding supports that might be in place to encourage public and active transportation be explored; and

That a report with the results from these investigations and all costs associated with the program, be provided to the Board of Trustees as soon as possible and as scheduled by the Agenda Development Committee.

Status

This Notice of Motion was served at the September 19, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting by Trustee J. Herring with support from Trustee L. Tremble. The term has ended for Trustees J. Herring and L. Tremble.

Background

The following recitals were included by Trustee J. Herring to serve as a Background for this motion:

Whereas barriers should be removed so that all students are able to attend school; and

Whereas some parents have advised that for various reasons, it is often difficult for students to find transportation to and from school; and

Whereas active transportation and alternative routes to school continue to be encouraged; and

Whereas an increased focus on the environment is encouraging the use of public transportation; and

Whereas reductions in fares for elementary and secondary students were eliminated in July 2021, and the Affordable Transit Program (ATP) does not apply to everyone.

Financial implication

The financial implications are not known at this time.

Communications

There is no communication plan at this time.