

**MARCH 6, 2023
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. Waseem, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Virtual Attendee: M. Snyder

Student Trustee K. Soror was in attendance virtually. Student Trustee V. Raina was not in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: S. Miller (Interim Director of Education and Secretary), L. Agar, D. Ahluwalia, J. Albrecht, J. Brown, V. Collis, R. Dallan, C. Dey, E. Dougan-McKenzie, J. Fedosoff, E. Giannopoulos, C. Hill, N. Landry, B. Lemon, I. McIsaac, M. Newlands and G. Shantz.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the March 6, 2023, Board Meeting be approved with the Delegations occurring prior to the Consent Agenda.

-Carried-

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations spoke at the meeting:

- Jelena Pejic - Hunt Club (River Mill North) Development Area
- Biljana Todorovic - Hunt Club (River Mill North) Development Area
- Cedric Daley - Hunt Club (River Mill North) Development Area
- Sarah Inwood - Integrated Support Program
- Lisa Cook - Integrated Support Program

Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions of clarification of delegations.

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

That the delegation from Jelena Pejic be referred to staff for information.

-Carried-

Opposed: K. Woodcock

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

That the delegation from Biljana Todorovic be referred to staff for information.

-Carried-

Opposed: K. Woodcock

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

That the delegation from Cedric Daley be referred to staff for information.

-Carried-

Opposed: K. Woodcock

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

That the delegation from Sarah Inwood be referred to staff for information.

-Carried-

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

That the delegation from Lisa Cook be referred to staff for information.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of March 6, 2023, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folio 24 Motions 13, Folio 12-14 Motions 1-4 & Folio 32.

-Carried-

Folio 12-14 - January 30, 2023 Consent Agenda

Trustee C. Watson asked how trustees and staff would know not to use this as a past practice. Chairperson J. Weston shared that the minutes of January 30, 2023 have an italicized note regarding the correction.

Development Areas Annual Report back to staff was discussed by trustees. Specifically concerns regarding the Hunt Club (River Mill North) Development Area. Trustees asked staff questions regarding the time-sensitive nature of the motion, how quickly staff could report back to the

**MARCH 6, 2023
BOARD MEETING**

Board of Trustees, the impact on the current procedure and how a hypothetical exemption would work. Staff advised about creating the precedent of exceptions to procedures. It was noted by staff that this is not the first scenario like this; students in the Mattamy Wildflowers Development Area in South Kitchener were reassigned schools.

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

That Folios 12-14 Motions 1-4, from the consent agenda of the March 6, 2023, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Folio 32 - Student Aggression Report

Trustees asked questions regarding the increase in incidents. Staff noted that the two previous years occurred during the pandemic where some or all students were not in classrooms for large periods of time. It was recommended that trustees compare the data to the 2019-2020 school year, prior to the start of the pandemic. Trustees also received clarification on how injuries are categorized by the outcome, not the type of aggressive behaviour.

9. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by C. Johnson:

That Folio 32, from the consent agenda of the March 6, 2023, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Folio 24 Motion 13 - Development Areas Annual Report

A motion was moved to refer the Development Areas Annual Report back to staff. Trustees discussed the motion. A recorded vote was requested.

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

That the motion be referred back to staff to gather information on the number of families requiring grandfathering for possible reconsideration; and

That staff take the delegations of the March 6, 2023, Board Meeting into consideration.

-Carried-

In Favour:

B. Cody
M. Radlein
M. Ramsay

Opposed:

C. Johnson
F. Meissner
S. Piatkowski

M. Snyder
M. Waseem
C. Watson
J. Weston
K. Soror*

K. Woodcock

* 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))

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. Waseem, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the agenda of the March 6, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera, with the addition of a Personnel Item under Employee Relations / Staffing.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the March 6, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folio 8.

-Carried-

C. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by C. Johnson:

That the amended Folio 8, from the consent agenda of the March 6, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board return to the In Camera Board Meeting after the public sessions are complete.

-Carried-

E. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by M. Radlein:

That we rise and report to a public Board meeting following a Special Committee of the Whole meeting.

-Carried-

ADJOURNMENT

F. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by M. Radlein:

That the In Camera Meeting be adjourned.

-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 Student Trustee V. Raina.

Chairperson J. Weston welcomed new Superintendents V. Collis and M. Newlands to their first Board Meeting. She also expressed well wishes for Superintendent D. Laitalle-Herdsman in her retirement and for Communications Officer R. Howey in his new role outside of the WRDSB.

Trustee F. Meissner attended the Robotics Team Pancake Breakfast at Elmira District Secondary School.

Trustee S. Piatkowski attended the first performance of the Drayton Entertainment Youth Academy High School Musical Production of Legally Blonde The Musical. Both Chairperson J. Weston and Vice-Chair K. Woodcock have also seen the production.

**MARCH 6, 2023
BOARD MEETING**

Trustees B. Cody, C. Johnson, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Ramsay, J. Weston, and K. Woodcock attended the Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario Meet and Greet. Both Student Trustees V. Raina and K. Soror were also in attendance.

Trustees C. Johnson, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, J. Weston and K. Woodcock attended the Waterloo Region International Women's Day luncheon.

Trustee M. Radlein and Chairperson J. Weston attended the Courtland Avenue Public School Community Open House on March 2, 2023.

Trustee M. Waseem attended the Community Justice Initiative and Roots to Rise youth-driven summit.

Trustee C. Johnson attended the Ontario Public School Board Association's Board of Directors Meeting, as Alternate Director, with Trustee K. Woodcock.

Trustee C. Johnson and Chairperson J. Weston met with local MPP Jess Dixon.

Trustee K. Woodcock attended the City of Kitchener Black Heritage Month Fireside Chat where Trustee M. Radlein was a speaker on the panel.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

The Communications Department presented a video sharing highlights from the month and items of traditional media and social media interest.

STAFF FOLLOW UP

INTEGRATED SUPPORT PROGRAM (ISP) UPDATE

Associate Director S. Miller thanked the many voices over the last few weeks for sharing their experiences and reminding staff why the program was put in place. Superintendent J. Albrecht shared that after consideration and reflection, a decision was made to continue to offer the ISP program for both existing students and new students. A memo will go out to schools tomorrow with instructions for referring new students to the program. Referral deadlines are being extended beyond the normal timelines. There will be further consultations with families regarding improvements to the program.

11. Moved by C. Waston, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

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

-Carried-

Trustees asked questions regarding the deadline extension and gathering feedback from the program.

Trustees discussed a motion to write a letter advocating for further support.

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

That the WRDSB write a letter to the Minister of Education advocating for additional community supports and partnerships for students with special education needs; and

That the letter also request better supports for Legacy Ontario Autism Program children; and

That the letter include the story from Lisa Cook's delegation; and

That SEAC provide input into the letter; and

That copies of the letter be sent to OPSBA, public school boards in Ontario and local MPPs.

-Carried-

Trustees continued to ask questions regarding communication of the referral process and resolving gaps in service.

Trustee M. Waseem left the meeting at 9:36 p.m.

REPORTS

BOARD IMPROVEMENT AND EQUITY PLAN (BIEP) UPDATE: DE-STREAMING PRESENTATION

Interim Director S. Miller introduced the presentation noting it is the first of a series of updates staff will be providing to the Board regarding the BIEP. He reviewed the Strategic Plan, which guides WRDSB's directions and priorities and the way the BIEP describes how staff operationalize the Strategic Plan. He reviewed the four areas of the BIEP and the corresponding results statements and the de-streaming work that falls under the Sovereignty, Human Rights and Equity area of the BIEP.

J. Shortreed, System Administrator - Learning Support Services, reviewed why grades 9 and 10 are being de-streamed and the WRDSB's Belief Statements. She shared the implementation timeline for de-streaming and de-streaming goals.

Trustee M. Waseem rejoined the meeting at 9:44 p.m.

J. Shortreed also reviewed the supports provided to teachers and students. She shared feedback provided by students and next steps for implementation.

13. Moved by C. Waston, seconded by M. Ramsay:

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

-Carried-

Trustees asked questions regarding in-class supports, ensuring math continues to be challenging for high achieving students, the allocation of itinerant support staff and the impact of absences and “fail to fills”.

Trustee C. Johnson left the meeting at 10:02 p.m.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) UPDATE

Trustees M. Snyder and F. Meissner provided an update from a recent SEAC meeting where members were provided information on the transition from elementary to secondary school and discussed the Integrated Support Program. The trustees also provided information on upcoming and ongoing special education resources and events.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Greater Essex County District School Board, SEAC Chair to Minister of Education
- Rainy River District School Board to Minister of Education & Minister of Colleges and Universities
- Rainy River District School Board to Minister of Finance
- Toronto Catholic District School Board to President of the Treasury Board & Minister of Education
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - Transportation Funding
- Avon Maitland District School Board, SEAC Chair to Minister of Education

14. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education and the President of the Treasury Board in support of the letter from Toronto Catholic District School Board regarding Executive Compensation.

-Carried-

Abstained: K. Woodcock

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson asked about a recent parent concern regarding music and arts for French Immersion students now being taught in French. Superintendent C. Hill shared that in September, French Immersion will include six core periods and two periods of additional areas such as arts or physical education. Chairperson J. Weston asked that the email be sent to staff, and if required, staff can bring the information back to trustees.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following Notice of Motion was served by Trustee M. Ramsay with support from Trustee C. Watson:

WHEREAS: The Board’s “Mission” is about “Creating learning environments where all students excel as they become skilled, caring, and compassionate citizens.

WHEREAS: The Board’s Strategic Plan states “The learner profile is made up of the skills and attributes students need to be successful in learning and in life as we move toward the 22nd century...”

WHEREAS: The Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) is mandated to “support and guide student improvement by providing credible information about the quality of the province’s publicly funded elementary and secondary education system.

WHEREAS: Some WRDSB students and individual schools performed at or above the provincial average in reading, writing and mathematics, while a number of WRDSB students and individual schools also performed below the provincial average in reading, writing and mathematics.

WHEREAS: The WRDSB’s Senior Team has placed emphasis on the Boards improvement plan as a vehicle to improve student learning and achievement.

BE IT RESOLVED:

That the Senior Team of the WRDSB be directed to fast track the development of a detailed report on the Board’s improvement plan that clearly identify specific, measurable, achievable and time limited (SMART) key performance indicators for student achievement in reading, writing and mathematics; and

That the report be tabled with the Board no later than the end of the 2022-2023 school year (June 30th).

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

**MARCH 6, 2023
BOARD MEETING**

Whereas the Board of Trustees adopted the following motion on March 21, 2022: "That Trustees direct staff to investigate the feasibility and effectiveness of placing CO2 monitors in a minimum of three schools, as a pilot project, to determine their usefulness at measuring and logging air quality, including CO2, and clean air delivery rate (CADR) in occupied rooms; and That the report includes a full costing of implementing this pilot; and That staff report back to Trustees in April 2022."

Whereas the Board of Trustees subsequently adopted the following motion on April 11, 2022: "That the Waterloo Region District School Board Trustees direct staff to proceed with the CO2 monitoring pilot project, as laid out in the motion as presented at the March 21, 2022, Committee of the Whole meeting, scheduled to begin when the building automation system (BAS) returns to pre-COVID levels and to run for a minimum of 3 months, with a report brought to Trustees within two months of the pilot concluding."

Whereas the capacity to implement the direction passed in April 2022 now exists, but there is no clear timeline on when the condition regarding a return to pre-COVID levels might be met,

Whereas the Board would benefit from the results of the CO2 monitoring pilot project sooner rather than later,

Be it resolved that Trustees direct staff to proceed with the CO2 monitoring pilot project, as previously approved, for the months of April, May and June 2023, rather than waiting until the building automation system (BAS) returns to pre-COVID levels, as previously decided; and

That Trustees ask for a report on the results of this initiative at a Committee of the Whole meeting in October 2023.

The following Notice of Motion was served by Trustee C. Watson with support from Trustee M. Ramsay:

Whereas the WRDSB bylaw 14. Delegation Procedure, does not ensure that voices on both sides of an issue are equally heard and valued before a decisions is made by the board of trustees,

Whereas the WRDSB bylaw 4. Trustee Responsibility, states that Trustees shall be expected to model ethical practices which include 4.3.3. a. Making decisions in a manner which is open, accessible and equitable, and b. respecting different points of view.

Whereas the WRDSB bylaw 13.5. Board Meetings, states that trustees are not able to access the Board Agenda until the Friday at 1:00 p.m. prior to the Board meeting and yet delegations are expected to register on the Thursday prior to the board meeting,

Whereas some parents find out at the last minute about a motion and have no opportunity to speak to a motion even if delegations cancel minutes before the meeting,

**MARCH 6, 2023
BOARD MEETING**

Whereas the Board Meeting Agendas list the delegations after the minutes are ratified,

Whereas the WRDSB current bylaws or practice will only allow trustees to ask two questions per report, even if time permits and other trustees forgo asking questions,

Whereas the WRDSB current bylaw or practice only allows 10 minutes at “Question Period” for eleven trustees,

Whereas the language around withdrawal of motions is unclear and open to interpretation,

Therefore be it resolved that the Waterloo Region District School Board establish an Ad-Hoc committee to review the following amendments listed below and report back to the Board of Trustees by the end of May 2023 with recommendations.

That the WRDSB bylaw 14. Delegation Procedures be amended to include a fair delegation process which would allow delegations on both sides of the motion to have an opportunity to present to trustees at the same meeting to ensure fair, informed and balanced decision making,

And that the delegation process remove the penalty for delegations who register after the Thursday prior to the Monday meeting,

And that the delegation process allow members of the gallery to speak to items on the agenda if previous delegations cancel or do not attend and if time exist within the delegations time period, And that Board Meeting Agendas list delegations before the minutes of Committee of the Whole are ratified,

And that individual trustees be given an opportunity to ask more than two questions per report if other trustees forgo asking questions and time permits,

And that the chair be given authority to extend question period without a motion to ensure that all trustees are treated fairly and given an equal opportunity to ask questions on behalf of their constituents,

And that the language of WRDSB Bylaw 24. Rules of Order, 24.3.2. be clarified according to Roberts Rules, that the withdrawal of a motion refers only to the proposer of the motion and the seconder and that it is after the proposer and seconder have moved the motion and then read by the chair, that it belongs to the board.

These three notices of motion will be scheduled by the Agenda Development Committee.

RISE AND RECONVENE

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

That the meeting be adjourned and trustees return to the In Camera Board meeting.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 10:16 p.m. and trustees returned to the In Camera Board Meeting.