

**MARCH 27, 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: B. Cody, C. Johnson, F. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Ramsay, C. Watson and K. Woodcock. Virtual Attendees: M. Snyder and M. Waseem.

Chairperson J. Weston was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees V. Raina and K. Soror (virtual) were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: j. chanicka (Director of Education and Secretary), L. Agar, D. Ahluwalia, J. Albrecht, J. Brown, V. Collis, C. Dey, E. Dougan-McKenzie, J. Fedosoff, E. Giannopoulos, S. Hickey, C. Hill, P. Kaur, N. Landry, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, S. Miller and G. Shantz.

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

Guest: Benoit Bourgault, Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chair K Woodcock called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and indicated that in Chairperson J. Weston's absence, she would chair this evening's meeting.

Vice-Chair K Woodcock shared that there would be a 10-minute recess so that trustee members can break their fast and that as the director is also fasting, at approximately 7:40, the director will step out to break the fast and at that time Associate Director Scott Miller will assume responsibilities of the director until the director returns.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the March 27, 2023, Board Meeting be amended to include a delegation from Carrie Hall on the Development Areas Annual Report.

-Carried-

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

That the agenda of the March 27, 2023, Board Meeting be approved as amended.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

3. Moved by F. Meissner, seconded by C. Johnson:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of March 27, 2023, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-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 S. Piatkowski, seconded by M. Radlein:

That the agenda of the March 27, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the March 27, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

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

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

Vice-Chair K. Woodcock shared regrets from Chairperson J. Weston.

STUDENT TRUSTEE ELECTION RESULTS

Vice-Chair K. Woodcock announced that Casper Dong, from Laurel Heights Secondary School, was the first place candidate in the north riding and Abdullah Awan, from Southwood Secondary School, was the first place candidate in the south riding. Casper Dong and Abdullah Awan are the 2023-2024 Student Trustees. Both students were present and congratulated.

Student Trustee K. Soror joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Student Trustee K. Soror, with Trustees M. Radlein and K. Woodcock, attended the WRDSB Muslim Culture Celebration Assembly at Eastwood Collegiate Institute.

Trustee M. Ramsay, with Trustees B. Cody and C. Watson, attended the “Is Social Media Undermining Democracy?” on-stage panel debate at TVO Day at Kitchener Public Library.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Executive Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie introduced the Interim Chief Communications Officer, Scott Hickey, who will be joining the Communications Team until the end of June 2023. She also noted that Melissa Giroux was hired as the new Communications Officer - Strategic Communications.

Interim Chief Communications Officer S. Hickey introduced the video sharing highlights from the month and items of traditional media and social media interest.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegation spoke at the Board Meeting:

- Carrie Hall - Development Annual Areas Report 2022-2023

Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions of clarification.

FOLLOW UP

DEVELOPMENT AREAS ANNUAL REPORT 2022-2023 -UPDATE

On February 13, 2023, the Board approved (in principle) the Development Area Annual Report for 2022-2023 (Appendix A-1), which included the creation of new Development Areas (DAs), the dissolution of DAs, and the redirection of certain DAs. Ratification of that decision has not

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yet occurred. Of the ten (10) DA amendments and nine (9) new DAs recommended, only one DA, the Hunt Club (River Mill North) DA, proposes to change holding schools for an existing community. At the Board Meeting on March 6, 2023, Trustees heard from three delegations whose families would be impacted by the Hunt Club (River Mill North) DA amendment, and as a result, a motion was passed to refer the report back to staff to gather information on the number of families requiring grandfathering. In response to the motion that was approved on March 6, 2023, staff have sought additional input from families residing within the Hunt Club (River Mill North) Development Area through distribution of the survey to Hunt Club (River Mill North) DA families and a Public Information Session. These opportunities to provide input on the proposed changes were in addition to efforts taken by staff to inform families of the recommended changes and provide input before March 6, 2023. The report provided a summary of the input received. The report notes that a ‘grandparenting’ exemption for unregistered siblings of existing DA students contravenes Administrative Procedure 4260 - Student Transportation, Section 12.

A recess was called by Vice-Chair K. Woodcock at 7:41 p.m.

The meeting was called back to order at 7:50 p.m.

Trustees asked questions regarding warning clauses for properties in the development areas, communications with families, impact the additional siblings could have on transportation, and possible accommodations for families with extenuating circumstances.

Trustee C. Watson moved an amendment to the motion. Trustee M. Ramsay moved an amendment to Trustee C. Watson’s amendment. Trustees discussed the amendment to the amendment. Staff reiterated the school site safety concerns behind the recommendations, and that the procedure has been applied consistently over the past eight years for other communities. Associate Director G. Shantz noted that Administrative Procedure 1040 - Out of Boundary Requests could be utilized by families. Discussion continued.

Amendment to the amendment:

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

That the amendment to the motion be amended to state “and that staff make an exception to Administrative Procedure 4260 - Student Transportation so that the 7 children referenced on folio 51 (born 2019 or later) in the survey be grandparented with their sibling to attend Hillcrest Public School.”

-Defeated-

Opposed:
C. Johnson
F. Meissner
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein

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M. Snyder
M. Waseem
K. Woodcock
*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))

Amendment to the motion:

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

That the motion be amended to include “and that the 7 children referenced on folio 51 (born 2019 or later) in the survey be grandparented with their sibling to attend Hillcrest Public School.”

-Defeated-

Opposed:
C. Johnson
F. Meissner
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Snyder
M. Waseem
K. Woodcock
*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))

Discussion resumed on the main motion and trustees voted.

6. Moved by C. Johnson, seconded by F. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the new Development Areas, attached as Appendix A to the report titled “Development Areas Annual Report 2022-2023”, presented at the February 13, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting, effective March 1, 2023; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the amendments to existing Development Areas, attached as Appendix B to the report titled “Development Areas Annual Report 2022-2023”, presented at the February 13, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting, effective for the 2023-2024 school year; and

That those students residing in the Hunt Club (River Mill North) Development Area as of March 27, 2023, and registered at Hillcrest Public School, may remain at Hillcrest Public School until the end of Grade 6; and

That transportation be provided to Hillcrest Public School for those students in the Hunt Club (River Mill North) Development Area, in accordance with Section 12 (Grandparenting Provision) of Administrative Procedure 4260 - Student Transportation, for a period not to exceed June 30, 2030.

-Carried-

Opposed: C. Watson

REPORTS

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES OF WATERLOO REGION (STSWR) ANNUAL REPORT

This report was provided for information.

Benoit Bourgault, General Manager of Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region Inc. (STSWR), shared the 2021-2022 Annual Report with the Board of Trustees. He reviewed performance measurements, a summary of appeals, a 2021-2022 overview, a 2022-2023 outlook and a financial overview. An update on delays and cancellations from the fall was also provided. Trustees asked questions regarding pedestrian training, active transportation, the walking school bus program, special needs transportation and speed cameras in school zones.

Trustees asked questions regarding actions to attract and retain drivers, transportation eligibility, seatbelts on buses, stop arm cameras, safety and communication.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) UPDATE

Trustees F. Meissner and M. Snyder updated the Board of Trustees on this month’s SEAC meeting. They shared that SEAC received a presentation from the Mental Health Lead and discussed mental health. SEAC also reviewed a number of policies. It was shared that National Accessibility week is May 28 to June 3. SEAC plans to review letters from other boards advocating for funding for complex learners.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communication:

- Simcoe County District School Board to Minister of Education

OTHER BUSINESS

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson asked about the implications of moving music to French for the elementary French Immersion (FI) Program. Superintendent C. Hill shared that the changes were made in order to achieve the number of minutes of French instruction as required by the Ministry of Education. The requirement isn't specifically for Music in French in Grade 1; the requirement is for Arts such as Drama, Dance, Visual Art, Music or Health and Physical Education. The subject selected is a school-based decision. This requirement expands to include Music in Grades 2-6. In grades 7-8, music shifts to English again. What this means is that before students head to high school, they will have experienced a balance of music education in both French and English, reflecting a highly differentiated educational experience. Given the feedback received through the extensive FI review process and implementation planning surveys, revisiting subject allocations is not useful at this time. In addition to the French Review Committee and the Malatest Report, there has also been internal Subject Allocation Subcommittee work. This committee, made up of core French teachers, French Immersion teachers, consultants, and union partners, have had these discussions and made informed decisions about the structures for programming that will best support the overall achievement of students learning in FI programs. Superintendent C. Hill provided the background on the French Immersion Review Committee and the resulting recommendations approved by the Board of Trustees in June of 2022, noting that in June of 2024, an implementation update will be provided. Staff will be supported and provided learning opportunities for a successful implementation. Trustee C. Watson asked about the decision to move math to English and if that was a committee recommendation. Superintendent C. Hill confirmed it was part of the committee's decisions after consulting staff. EQAO Math assessments are performed in English, so it is important that the instruction match the language of assessment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The following Notice of Motion was served by Trustee F. Meissner with support from Trustee K. Woodcock:

That an ad hoc committee be formed to review the current Board Bylaws (September 2020) with a focus on Bylaw 13, Board Meetings, Bylaw 14, Delegation Procedures, Bylaw 24, Rules of Order and other bylaws requiring updates per changes in legislation and/or practice and make recommendations for updates/revisions commensurate with current legislation, policies and procedures before or by October 30, 2023.

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

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Whereas the Waterloo Region District School Board ("Board"), like all district school boards in Ontario, is a corporation pursuant to Section 58.5(1) of the Education Act and that Trustees of the Board hold positions comparable to those of directors of a corporation.

Whereas the Trustees of the Board have the fiduciary obligation to safeguard public funds entrusted to the Board for its operations are spent prudently, and that the Board does not enter into contracts providing for the excessive compensation of any individual.

Be it resolved:

That any contract entered into the Board for the receipt of services, where the rate of compensation for the services of any individual equals or exceeds \$300/hour, shall require the personal written approval of the Director of Education; and

That the Director of Education shall inform the Chair of the Board of any such contract prior to approving such contract; and

That the Director of Education shall inform the Board of all such contracts at the Board meeting immediately following the entry of such contracts, and shall cause a copy of all such contracts to be included in the agenda package for such meeting; and

That notwithstanding paragraphs (1) through (3) above, any contract entered into by the Board for the receipt of services, where the rate of compensation for the services of any individual equals or exceeds \$500/hour, shall also require a recorded ratification vote of a majority of the members of the Board at a special meeting called for that purpose, or at a general meeting of the Board, in order for such contract to be valid and binding on the Board and all contracts calling for such compensation shall contain a proviso describing the ratification requirement; and

That paragraphs 3 and 4 shall not apply to contracts for the provision of legal services or legal advice to the Board by a lawyer.

Notices of Motion will be scheduled by the Agenda Development Committee.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of March 27, 2023, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:16 p.m.