

**APRIL 24, 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, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Virtual Attendees: M. Ramsay and M. Waseem

Trustee M. Snyder was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees V. Raina and K. Soror 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, R. Dallon, C. Dey, E. Dougan-McKenzie, E. Giannopoulos, C. Hill, P. Kaur, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, S. Miller, M. Newlands, and G. Shantz.

Other staff in attendance: L. Bates, B. Chatha, A. Gotsaridis, C. Harris, S. Hill, M. Mayer, S. Reidel, R. White and M. Yoshy.

Guest: Jack Ammendolia, Managing Partner, Watson & Associates Economists Ltd.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:19 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the April 24, 2023, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by B. Cody:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of April 24, 2023, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Motion 10 on Folios 19 and 20.

-Carried-

Motion: Request for Report on eBooks, Surveys and Curriculum

Trustee C. Watson indicated that she does not wish to re-debate the item, but would like to request a recorded vote on the matter. The motion was moved and seconded.

Trustees discussed the item and it was clarified that for all motions those who are opposed are recorded in the minutes.

Trustee M. Ramsay called a Point of Order indicating that someone would need to move the motion. Chairperson J. Weston clarified that the motion has been moved and seconded.

Motion 10, April 19, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting;
Moved by C. Watson, seconded by B. Cody:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board provide a written report to the Board of Trustees explaining why elementary students are able to access eBooks that are not age appropriate from the WRDSB online library, as well as details about what filtering process is being used to ensure that elementary children are not able to access eBooks that are not age appropriate; and

That the report also include the process by which parents are provided information and opt out notice before surveys and sexual health teaching in its various forms to help ensure parents are informed and included in their child’s sexual health education; and

That the written report be presented at a Committee of the Whole in May 2023.

-Defeated-

In Favour:
B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

Opposed:
C. Johnson
F. Meissner
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Waseem
J. Weston
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))

3. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by B. Cody:

That Folio 19-20, from the consent agenda of the April 24, 2023, Board Meeting, 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. Waseem:

That the agenda of the April 24, 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 April 24, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

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

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

Student Trustee V. Raina participated in the Federal-Provincial Conference Simulation. It is a role-playing exercise where students have the opportunity to step into the shoes of Canada's leaders and negotiate agreements on issues important to Canadians.

Trustees M. Radlein attended the Cambridge United Way Spirit Awards with Chairperson J. Weston, Trustee C. Johnson and Student Trustee V. Raina.

Trustee C. Johnson visited Elgin Street Public School and shared plans to visit Clemens Mills Public School in the near future.

Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Trustee M. Snyder.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

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

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

REPORTS

EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGE BY-LAW REVIEW ANNUAL UPDATE

This report was provided for information.

The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) and Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) (or the Boards) have jointly entered into a process for the review of their respective Education Development Charges (EDC) By-laws. In May 2021, the Boards committed to annually reviewing various EDC inputs, including land value assumptions.

Despite the change in land values, the annual increase in EDC rates is capped under Ontario Regulation (O. Reg.) 20/98 (refer to Appendix B). The maximum eligible charge established as part of the 2022 by-law amendment (\$4,423 per residential unit; \$2.72 per non-residential square foot) is sufficient to allow the board to increase its EDC charges annually, in compliance with O. Reg. 20/98. As such, no further increase to the maximum EDC charge is being recommended at this time.

Trustees asked questions regarding new developments.

Trustee M. Ramsay left the meeting at 7:52 p.m.

2022-23 TIM WALKER MEMORIAL AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

This report was provided for information.

Student Trustees V. Raina and K. Soror presented this report. In May 2006, the Board passed a motion to administer the Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship, annually, to honour the life of secondary school teacher Tim Walker and his contribution to education and

environmental initiatives. At a meeting on April 5, 2023, an evaluation committee reviewed the applications submitted by ten schools for the 2022-23 Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship.

The following recipients were selected:

- Lincoln Heights Public School - Vegetable and Butterfly Gardens
- Rockway Public School - Rockway Edible Food Forest Initiative
- Trillium Public School - Learning Gardens Project
- Eastwood Collegiate Institute - Closed Loop Hot Compost

BOARD IMPROVEMENT AND EQUITY PLAN UPDATE: MATHEMATICS

This presentation was provided for information.

Associate Director S. Miller introduced the presentation with a review of the Strategic Plan & Board Improvement and Equity Plan. B. Chatha, System Administrator - Learning Services, shared that the presentation would focus on the work and impact of the Intermediate Math Intervention Project. She provided background on how the identified student learning need resulted in the project aimed to build teacher capacity in identifying what students know to be able to deliver an equitable and inclusive “Response To Intervention” model with an emphasis on small-group instruction. This not only addresses the Achievement goals in the Board Improvement and Equity Plan, but also works towards goals in Sovereignty, Human Rights and Equity, Mental Health, Well-Being and Engagement and Pathways and Transitions. She provided background on the project over the last two years. L. Bates, Program and Curriculum Consultant, reviewed pre-pandemic data, indicating the probability that a student would not graduate if they did not successfully complete grade 9 Applied Math was 96.8%. She noted that the Intermediate Math Intervention project aims to support grade-level conceptual understanding of Math concepts for all students in the intermediate grades, as a precursor to successful completion of 3 compulsory secondary Math courses leading to graduation. She reviewed the goal of the project and the Response To Intervention model, as well as the project outcomes so far. The presentation concluded with a short video with feedback from staff and students.

Student Trustee K. Soror left the meeting.

Trustee asked questions of clarification regarding the data presented, the small group work, using this model in other curriculum areas, supporting primary and junior students and class selection for the project.

Director j. chanika thanked staff for their leadership and the great example of equity being foundational and changing the outcomes for math.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) UPDATE

Trustee F. Meissner thanked Superintendent J. Albrecht and Administrative Assistant L. Gil for their work supporting SEAC. He updated trustees on the most recent SEAC meeting and noted that National Accessibility week is May 28 to June 3, 2023.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Rainy River District School Board to Minister of Education
- Simcoe County District School Board to Minister of Education

Chairperson J. Weston noted that we would not necessarily see the Ministry of Education's responses to other school boards unless it was shared with us.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee K. Woodcock asked what guidance was provided to schools regarding Grade 8 year-end celebrations. Associate Director S. Miller shared that staff continues to support year-end celebrations and the transition to secondary school. As in previous years, schools work with school councils, students and staff to provide an equity informed approach for the school community. Trustees receiving parent questions or concerns on the matter should direct the parent to the school Principal.

Trustee M. Radlein asked about what supports are in place for elementary school with French Immersion regarding music. Superintendent C. Hill clarified that there is a difference between curriculum and extra-curricular and that there have only been changes to French curriculum. 80-85% of students will continue to learn music in English. Choirs and concerts also remain unchanged. French teachers will be provided professional development regarding the changes noting that all elementary teachers are qualified to teach all elementary subject matter. This also provides an opportunity for French teachers with a passion for the arts to share their passion and skills. Trustee M. Radlein asked about the logistics of concerts and choirs and rehearsals may be more difficult without the use of class time. Associate Director S. Miller noted that staff will be supported through these changes and students can still receive instruction for assemblies in music class. He also noted that not all schools have a single music teacher.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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

Whereas the Waterloo Region District School Boards virtual library has no supervision or age appropriate filter,

Whereas parents have shared that younger elementary students are able to access secondary books in the virtual library that may not be age appropriate,

Whereas WRDSB chrome books have age appropriate filtering,

Whereas the Ministry of Education mandates age appropriateness within the sexual health guidelines from grade one to twelve,

Therefore be it resolved that the Waterloo Region District School Board develop a virtual library policy that would ensure that virtual libraries are age appropriate, with graduated filtering that is consistent with the filtering used for WRDSB chrome books and that this filtering also aligns with the Ministry of Education's Sexual Health Curriculum guidelines.

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Johnson:

That the Board Meeting of April 24, 2023, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.