

MAY 8, 2023
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, F. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Virtual Attendees: C. Johnson, M. Ramsay and M. Waseem.

Trustee M. Snyder was unable to attend.

Student Trustees V. Raina was in attendance and Student Trustee K. Soror was not in attendance.

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the May 8, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustee C. Watson declared pecuniary interest in the previous in camera meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Student Trustee K. Soror.

Trustee S. Piatkowski visited Bluevale Collegiate Institute.

Chairperson J. Weston and Trustees S. Piatkowski and K. Woodcock attended the Waterloo State of the City Address on April 27, 2023.

Chairperson J. Weston and Trustees B. Cody, S. Piatkowski and M. Radlein attended the Galt Collegiate Institute & Vocational School open house as part of the City of Cambridge 50th Anniversary celebrations.

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Trustees F. Meissner and K. Woodcock visited a destreamed grade 9 math class at Elmira District Secondary School.

Trustee M. Radlein attended a destreamed language class referred to as a “thinking classroom” and also visited five Kitchener secondary schools.

Trustee C. Johnson attended a destreamed class at Galt Collegiate Institute & Vocational School.

Chairperson J. Weston and Trustees C. Johnson, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Ramsay, C. Watson, M. Waseem and K. Woodcock attended the Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC) meeting on May 2, 2023.

Trustee C. Johnson attended the OPSBA Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium with a number of other WRDSB trustees.

Chairperson J. Weston announced that Trustee M. Snyder has resigned from the WRDSB Board of Trustees noting that M. Snyder did not feel she was a good fit and an inability to fully participate due to health concerns. Section 4.1.1 of the WRDSB Board Bylaws requires a motion to accept the resignation.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board accept the resignation of Trustee Marie Snyder effective immediately.

-Carried-

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board rise and report to a Special Board Meeting to ratify the acceptance of the resignation.

-Carried-

Trustees rose to report in the Special Board Meeting.

Chairperson J. Weston reconvened the Committee of the Whole Meeting at 7:19 p.m.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations spoke at this evening’s meeting:

- Amanda Abdo - Air Quality
- Adam Glauser - CO2 Monitoring

Following each delegation, trustees asked questions of clarification.

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Trustee C. Watson moved a motion to refer the delegation from Amanda Abdo to staff. Chairperson J. Weston deemed that to be out of order as the item is on the agenda and will be discussed at that time. Trustee C. Watson appealed the decision of the Chairperson stating that the delegation requested a report for the child's classroom and that this is not related to the agenda item. Chairperson J. Weston reiterated that the item was on the agenda.

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting at 7:39 p.m. and called a Point of Order requesting to be filled in on the challenge. Chairperson J. Weston summarized the situation for Trustee M. Ramsay.

Trustee C. Watson was brought to order for speaking out without being acknowledged by the Chairperson.

4. Chairperson J. Weston asked if the decision of the Chairperson will be sustained:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board sustain the decision of the Chairperson.

-Decision Sustained-

Opposed:
B. Cody
S. Piatkowski
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

Trustee C. Watson moved a motion to refer the delegation from Adam Glauser to staff. Chairperson J. Weston deemed that to be out of order as the item is on the agenda and will be discussed at that time. Trustee C. Watson appealed the decision of the Chairperson stating that the delegation has indicated that the agenda item will not answer his questions. Chairperson J. Weston reiterated that the item was on the agenda.

A recorded vote was requested.

5. Chairperson J. Weston asked if the decision of the Chairperson will be sustained:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board sustain the decision of the Chairperson.

-Decision Sustained-

In Favour:
C. Johnson
F. Meissner
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Waseem

Opposed:
B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

J. Weston
K. Woodcock
V. Raina*

* 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))

REPORTS

EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM FEE FOR 2023-2024

The Extended Day Program (EDP) fee is established annually in accordance with Ministry of Education (Ministry) guidelines outlined in Ontario Regulation 221/11 of the Education Act. A Ministry-issued template is used to calculate the fee. Consistent with the direction provided by the Ministry of Education, the EDP fee has been developed to ensure it bears a reasonable relationship to operating costs and will allow the WRDSB to operate the EDP on a cost-recovery basis. The recommended fee of \$28.50 per day, per pupil means families will experience a decrease of \$0.50, or 1.72%, over the fee charged in 2022-23.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Extended Day Program fee of \$28.50 per day, per child, for the 2023-24 school year.

-Carried-

BOARD REPORTS

MOTION: CO2 MONITORING PILOT

This Notice of Motion was served at the March 6, 2023, Board meeting by Trustee S. Piatkowski with support from Trustee M. Snyder. Trustee S. Piatkowski spoke to his motion and provided the background on the previous motion passed in the spring of 2022.

An amendment to the motion was proposed that would include public reporting of the results throughout the pilot. Trustees discussed the amendment. Some friendly amendments were included, staff provided their input, and it was agreed that monthly reporting, possibly on the WRDSB website, would be sufficient. Trustees requested a brief update once staff has determined the reporting method.

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

That the motion be amended to include “and; That a process be developed that would share CO2 levels of classrooms participating in the pilot with parents upon their request.”

-Amendment Carried-

Discussion continued on the amended motion including discussion on the delegation’s requests. When asked about the Ministry of Education (Ministry) air quality standards, Associate Director G. Shantz indicated that staff could include information on this as part of the Energy Report in June. Discussion continued and questions were asked related to staff training. Staff offered to have school superintendents reach out to the delegations. Director j. chanicka apologized if staff, inadvertently, did not respond to an email from the delegation and noted that our schools continue to follow and surpass Ministry standards. He also reminded trustees that while requests for information may seem simple, what is being requested may not align with how information is reported or collected. He also noted, that as indicated at the Trustee Seminar, the WRDSB surpassed the Ministry requirements for HEPA filters in schools.

Motion as amended:

8. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by F. Meissner:

That the Board of Trustees direct staff to proceed with the CO2 monitoring pilot project, as previously approved, for the months of September, October and November 2023, rather than waiting until the building automation system (BAS) returns to pre-COVID levels, as previously decided; and

That a process be developed that would share CO2 levels of classrooms participating in the pilot with parents upon their request; and

That Trustees ask for a report on the results of this initiative at a Committee of the Whole meeting in January 2024.

-Amended Motion Carried-

Concerns of delegation were not addressed within the motion.

SCHEDULING NOTICE OF MOTION WITH BYLAW AMENDMENTS

Chairperson J. Weston spoke to the scheduling of the motion noting the process required due to the inclusion of specific bylaw changes. Trustees discussed the motion.

Trustee K. Woodcock called a Point of Order on Trustee C. Watson stating that her comments were not related to scheduling. Chairperson J. Weston sustained the Point of Order. Trustees discussed the Point of Order and the motion to schedule.

Trustee S. Piatkowski called a Point of Order on Trustee C. Watson for her comments regarding preferential treatment being made for the next agenda item. Chairperson J. Weston clarified that at this time trustees should be discussing the motion in front of them. A recorded vote was requested.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board schedule the Notice of Motion served on February 27, 2023, by Trustee C. Watson with proposed Bylaw amendments, for discussion at the next Committee of the Whole meeting.

-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*

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MOTION: AD HOC BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE

This Notice of Motion was served at the March 6, 2023, Board meeting by Trustee F. Meissner with support from Trustee K. Woodcock. Trustee F. Meissner spoke to his motion requesting an ad hoc committee work collaboratively to align the bylaws to the Strategic Plan.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend the motion to remove the language “commensurate with current legislation, policies and procedures.”

-Amendment Carried-

Opposed: B. Cody
Abstained: C. Watson

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Trustees continued discussion on the amended motion.

Trustee K. Woodcock called a Point of Order on Trustee C. Watson and asked that trustees not imply the reasons or motivations for how other trustees may vote. Chairperson J. Weston ruled in favour of the Point of Order.

Trustees continued discussion on the amended motion.

A motion to postpone until the passage of Bill 98 was moved and discussed. The reasoning being that the bill may result in reversing any recommendations brought forward by the ad hoc committee.

A Point of Order was raised by Trustee M. Ramsay when discussions became about the main motion not the postponement. The Chairperson ruled in favour of the Point of Order.

Discussion on the motion to postpone continued.

A Point of Order was raised by Trustee S. Piatkowski when discussions became about the main motion not the postponement. The Chairperson ruled in favour of the Point of Order.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board postpone the motion until Bill 98 is passed.

-Postponement Defeated-

Opposed:
C. Johnson
F. Meissner
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Waseem
J. Weston
K. Woodcock
V. Raina*

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Trustees resumed discussion on the amended motion.

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

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

-Carried-

Trustees resumed discussion on the amended motion.

Amended Motion:

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board form an ad hoc committee 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 before or by October 30, 2023.

-Amended Motion Carried-

Opposed:
B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION (OPSBA) BOARD OF DIRECTORS UPDATE

Trustee S. Piatkowski provided an update from the recent OPSBA Board of Directors meeting. He reminded trustees about the upcoming Annual General Meeting and spoke to hosting a regional OPSBA meeting in the fall.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee F. Meissner asked what can be done to stop the vandalism and the potential risks associated with the former Riverside School and if there are plans to sell this vacant property. Associate Director G. Shantz responded that there are mitigation measures in place but that staff have been dispatched to do a visual inspection to determine if additional actions need to be taken to prevent further vandalism. Associate Director G. Shantz also shared that the disposition of school sites is regulated through Ontario Regulation 444/98 – Disposition of Surplus Real Property and if this legislation is updated through the adoption of Bill 98, Better Schools and Student Outcomes Act, 2023, WRDSB practices would be updated accordingly.

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Student Trustee V. Raina asked how staff are working with public health to address the issue of vaping in schools. Associate Director S. Miller shared that there is ongoing work with public health including prevention and sharing information and that there have been a number of workshops with public health offered to families and sessions for staff. And where necessary, there is the ability to fine those in contravention of the Smoke Free Ontario Act.

Trustee C. Watson asked why the decision was made at Avenue Road Public School to move the grade 8 year-end celebration to the school rather than the nearby church and what, if anything, was communicated with parents and were they included in the decision making process. Associate Director S. Miller did not have the information on hand, but will follow up with a response.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 8, 2023, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:37 p.m.