

MAY 29, 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, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Ramsay, M. Waseem, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

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

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the May 29, 2023, Board Meeting be approved with the addition of delegations from Simon Guthrie and Justin Buhr and relocation of the Delegations agenda item prior to the Consent Agenda.

-Carried-

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

RECIPIENTS OF THE 2022-23 PAST-DIRECTORS' BURSARY

The Past-Directors' Bursary, formerly known as the Linda Fabi Bursary, will provide funding for students who are pursuing a trade, through college or apprenticeship, and who have not already been selected to receive an award at their graduation ceremony. The Adjudication Committee, comprised of Jeewan Chanicka, Director of Education, Joanne Weston, Chairperson, Kathleen Woodcock, Vice-Chairperson and Scott Piatkowski, Past Chair, reviewed 18 applications and selected the following 10 recipients for the 2022-23 Past-Director's Bursary:

- Tucker Armstrong - Elmira District Secondary School
- Cisco Feijao - Galt Collegiate Institute
- Jarod Forrest - Forest Heights Collegiate Institute
- Demonica French - Grand River Collegiate Institute
- Chaz Halliwell - Jacob Hespeler Secondary School
- Maverick Horst - Elmira District Secondary School

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- Houston Kaufman - Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate Institute and Vocational School
- Allan Moua - Grand River Collegiate Institute
- Nathan Paul - Eastwood Collegiate Institute
- John Van Wijngaarden - Glenview Park Secondary School

All ten recipients met the necessary criteria and will receive a \$200 bursary.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee M. Radlein attended the Galt Collegiate Institute Black Brilliance Film Fest.

Trustees S. Piatkowski and M. Radlein visited Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate and Vocational School.

Trustee S. Piatkowski attended Laurel Heights Secondary School and Waterloo-Oxford District Secondary School.

Trustee C. Johnson visited Moffat Creek Public School and Saginaw Public School with an upcoming visit to Clemens Mill Public School tomorrow. She attended a Kodaly Choir concert at Tait Street Public School.

Trustees S. Piatkowski, J. Weston and K. Woodcock also attended a Kodaly Choir concert at the Kitchener Farmers Market.

Trustee K. Woodcock took part in the Ontario Public School Boards' Association Take your MPP to School Day visiting Vista Hills Public School with MPP Fife and Lackner Woods Public School with MPP Lindo. She also attended the WEFI Golf Tournament.

Trustee M. Waseem announced that Student Trustee Soror and Sarah Terier were nominated for the Outstanding Young Adult category for the KW Oktoberfest Women of the Year awards.

Trustees M. Radlein and M. Waseem attended the Coalition of Muslim Women of KW's Eid Gala.

Trustee J. Weston congratulated Student Trustees V. Raina and K. Soror for being recipients of this year's Ontario Public Student Trustee Leadership Scholarship.

Trustee J. Weston visited Huron Heights Secondary School with MPP Dixon for Take your MPP to School Day.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations spoke at the Board meeting:

- Tim Petrovic - Trustee Vacancies
- Martin Mirt - Trustee Vacancies

- Simon Guthrie - Trustee Vacancies
- Justin Buhr - Trustee Vacancies

Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions of clarification. Chairperson J. Weston noted that the delegations were allowed to delegate at this meeting as the item is already on the agenda and it would be out of order to move to add them to the agenda.

The delegation from Martin Mirt was paused after 1 minutes and 10 seconds as the delegation was deemed to be speaking off topic. He was asked to keep to the topic at hand. Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Order stating that he should be allowed to continue. Chairperson J. Weston noted that the delegation could continue if he stayed on topic and ruled against the Point of Order.

Mr. Mirt disagreed with the ruling and attempted to debate the Chairperson. Chairperson J. Weston requested that Trustee C. Watson take her seat after she got up to speak to the delegation privately at the podium. Chairperson J. Weston reiterated that he was able to continue if he spoke to the trustee vacancy not COVID-19.

Mr. Mirt continued to speak about COVID-19 and called the Chairperson out of line. Chairperson J. Weston ended the delegation and Mr. Mirt was escorted from the Boardroom.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of May 29, 2023, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folio 24-27, 31, 34 and 49-54.

-Carried-

Folio 24-27 Delegations and Motion: CO2 Monitoring Pilot

It was requested that the minutes note that the concerns of the delegations were not met as part of the Motion. Trustees discussed the request.

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

That Folio 24-27 from the consent agenda of the May 29, 2023, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the addition to the end of folio 26 stating “Concerns of delegation were not addressed within the motion.”

-Carried-

In Favour:
B. Cody

Opposed:
C. Johnson

S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Ramsay
M. Waseem
C. Watson
J. Weston
K. Woodcock
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)).

Folio 31 Question Period

Trustees asked that additional language be added to better reflect the question posed and a recorded vote was requested.

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

That Folio 31 from the consent agenda of the May 29, 2023, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the additional language to Question Period regarding Avenue Road Public School include “and were they included in the decision making process.”

-Carried-

In Favour:

B. Cody
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Ramsay
M. Waseem
C. Watson
J. Weston
K. Woodcock
K. Soror*

Opposed:

C. Johnson

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Folio 34 Delegations

An error was noted regarding the mover and seconder of the motion on Folio 34 of the consent agenda.

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

That Folio 34 from the consent agenda of the May 29, 2023, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the correction to the motion being moved and seconded by Trustees Ramsay and Watson.

-Carried-

Folio 49 through 54 - Student Aggression Report

Associate Director G. Shantz clarified that complex students benefit from familiar staff in the classroom but this is not always possible with staff absences. The report staff complete does not require this data to be included, but it is monitored on a macro level.

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

That Folio 49-54, from the consent agenda of the May 29, 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 K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Johnson:

That the agenda of the May 29, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera with the addition of a Finance Update under Other Business.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the May 29, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

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

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustee M. Ramsay declared pecuniary interest for the previous in camera meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Executive Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie introduced the Communications Good News Update video sharing highlights from the month and items of traditional media and social media interest.

STAFF FOLLOW UP

REMOTE LEARNING PROGRAM UPDATE

Associate Director G Shantz provided a follow up as a response to a delegation regarding the Remote Learning Program (RLP). The individual has been updated by both Associate Directors. She had raised some concerns about enrolment into the RLP: it was clarified that the WRDSB continues to see students register for the RLP, both new and returning, but that many families are choosing to move into in-person learning. Staff followed up with the school boards mentioned during the delegation. Each board offers their program in a different format and the WRDSB plans to learn from best practices.

Associate Director S. Miller noted the excellent suggestions made by the delegation regarding parent involvement and school council which will be passed along to the RLP principal.

GRAND RIVER TRANSIT BUS PASSES MOTION UPDATE

Senior Manager of Planning L. Agar informed trustees, as a follow up to the motion from the January 16, 2023 Committee of the Whole meeting, that discussions have occurred with the Region of Waterloo, Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR) and the City of Kitchener. Other municipalities and the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB) will be included in future conversations. The goal is to provide input for the upcoming Grand River Transit (GRT) plan for initiatives to be considered. The Region of Waterloo approved \$200K in funding for a secondary Universal Transit Pass feasibility study in 2023. Staff have reviewed Kingston's model where fully-subsidized passes cost the city \$250K per year, the school boards contribute a combined \$60K and the gas tax funds a further \$125K. It should be

noted that Limestone is smaller than the WRDSB with a total of 19K students and only 57 schools. WRDSB has approximately 65K students. Secondary passes would cost \$385K annually based on Average Daily Enrolment. Staff will continue to work with partners and hope to report back early 2024 with the results of the feasibility study. It was noted that the idea of sponsorships has not yet been explored.

REPORTS

SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAM

Associate Director S. Miller and Superintendent J. Albrecht introduced the Summer Learning Program presentation. K. Moore, System Administrator, provided a brief history of the program. She then reviewed the 2022 program and feedback received from families and educators. She reviewed the Ministry of Education Directives for 2023 noting the renewed emphasis on identifying and assessing learning gaps, and then providing specific plans to help students increase achievement levels. There is also a requirement that all boards provide indicators and data to demonstrate the impact of the Summer Learning Program and changes to student learning. She reviewed the plans for the 2023 program which will be offered to up to 600 students at 6 school sites.

Trustees asked questions regarding the reduction in students, how students are identified, support programs such as Nutrition for Learning, and schools are selected to host the program and students from other schools.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

PROPOSED TRUSTEE APPOINTMENT PROCESS AD HOC COMMITTEE

At the Committee of the Whole Meeting of May 15, 2013, trustees approved a motion to strike an Ad Hoc committee of three trustees to develop an appointment process to fill both trustee vacancies. This motion was ratified at a Special Board Meeting on May 15, 2023. The committee developed an application-based appointment process as outlined in the report and related appendices.

Trustees on the Ad Hoc Trustee Vacancy Committee spoke to the process developed. Decisions were made collaboratively with all in agreement.

Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Order when the motion was moved suggesting that trustees should be able to ask questions before the motion is moved and again after. Chairperson J. Weston ruled against the Point of Order as the process is to move a motion and then discuss the motion after it is on the table.

Trustees discussed the motion. It was noted that recent by-elections for school boards have had very low turn out. The Ad Hoc committee members clarified process questions about the initial trustee review of applicants. No consideration was given by the committee to publishing the

completed application publicly due to applicant privacy but that the final presentations would occur in public at a Special Board Meeting. When asked about following a process similar to 2017 and not 2020, the committee indicated that the 2020 vacancy occurred during the pandemic making an appointment process difficult.

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

That the Board Meeting of May 29, 2023 be extended an additional thirty minutes to 10:00 p.m.

-Carried-

Discussion continued on the proposed process and previous practices.

A motion to postpone the vacancy process until other boards can be surveyed was moved and seconded and discussion occurred.

A recorded vote was requested on the postponement.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) postpone consideration of the recommended process until a formal survey of similar sized Ontario school boards can be contacted on how they filled trustee vacancies in the last 10 years.

-Postponement Defeated-

In Favour:

B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

Opposed:

C. Johnson
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Waseem
J. Weston
K. Woodcock
K. Soror*

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Trustees continued discussion on the main motion. A number of trustees expressed support for the proposed process.

A motion to amend the process to change the voting to appoint the trustees to an open vote was moved and seconded. Trustees discussed the proposed amendment. It was determined that the

details of the proposed open voting process could be determined at a later date. When discussing previous practices, it was confirmed that the ballot process proposed was also used in 2017.

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

That the Board Meeting of May 29, 2023 be extended an additional thirty minutes to 10:30 p.m.

-Carried-

Discussion on the amendment continued. Trustees discussed how the ballot process is also used for elections of Chairperson, Vice-Chair, and Ontario Public School Boards' Association Director and Voting Delegate positions. Some trustees were of the opinion that there was not enough transparency in this process while others were of the opinion that it could create complicated dynamics. Others compared the ballot process to voting in municipal, provincial or federal elections.

A motion to Call the Question was moved but withdrawn to allow the last speaker on the amendment to speak.

Trustee discussion continued and a recorded vote for the amendment was requested.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend the recommended process, to fill the vacancy for the positions of Trustee – Waterloo / Wilmot and Trustee - Woolwich / Wellesley to change the trustee voting method to an open vote at the Special Board meeting on June 28, 2023.”

-Amendment Defeated-

In Favour:

B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

Opposed:

C. Johnson
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Waseem
J. Weston
K. Woodcock
K. Soror*

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A motion to postpone consideration to consult the people being represented was moved and seconded and a recorded vote was requested.

11. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Board of Trustees calls the question on the postponement.

-Carried-

Opposed:
B. Cody
C. Watson

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) postpone consideration of the recommended process to develop a survey to ask the community members of Waterloo / Wilmot and Woolwich / Wellesley their preferred selection process; and

That it be advertised and included on the WRDSB website.

-Postponement Defeated-

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

Opposed:
C. Johnson
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Waseem
J. Weston
K. Woodcock
K. Soror*

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

That the Board of Trustees calls the question.

-Carried-

Opposed:
B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

A recorded vote was requested.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the recommended process, timeline and application that will be used to fill the vacancy for the positions of Trustee – Waterloo / Wilmot and Trustee - Woolwich / Wellesley as outlined in this report and related appendices.

-Main Motion Carried-

In Favour:

C. Johnson
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Waseem
J. Weston
K. Woodcock
K. Soror*

Opposed:

B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

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ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS’ ASSOCIATION (OPSBA) DIRECTION FOR ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The purpose of this report is to provide direction for Trustee C. Johnson (or alternate) as voting delegate at the OPSBA AGM. As is the usual practice, OPSBA sent several items slated for consideration at the OPSBA 2023 AGM in order that they may be reviewed and discussed as necessary at the board table prior to the General Meeting in June. This review will help prepare the Voting Delegate for the AGM. This year’s AGM is being held in Collingwood on June 9-10, 2023.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board allow the voting delegate to vote at the 2023 OPSBA Annual General Meeting as she deems appropriate.

-Carried-

Abstained:

C. Johnson
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Rainy River DSB Special Education Advisory Committee to Minister of Education
- Rainy River District School Board to Minister of Education

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of May 29, 2023, be adjourned.

-Carried-

Opposed:
B. Cody
M. Ramsay
M. Waseem
C. Watson

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.