

JUNE 19, 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), C. Johnson, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Ramsay, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.
Virtual Attendance: M. Waseem.

Trustees B. Cody was unable to attend.

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, V. Collis, E. Dougan-McKenzie, C. Hill, N. Landry, D. Liebermann, 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 7:01p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting at 7:03 p.m.

1. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by C. Johnson:

That the agenda of the June 19, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved with the addition of a Trustee Self-Evaluation Process Update under Board Reports.

-Carried-

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

FAREWELL TO OUTGOING STUDENT TRUSTEES

Chairperson J. Weston and Vice-Chair K. Woodcock expressed appreciation for outgoing Student Trustees V. Raina and K. Soror. They highlighted the new election process implemented by the Student Trustees for Student Trustee elections and shared the plans each Student Trustee has for the fall.

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Student Trustees V. Raina and K. Soror shared comments about their experiences as trustees and words of gratitude.

Student Trustees were presented with plaques to commemorate their time as Student Trustees at the WRDSB.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Trustee B. Cody.

Student Trustee K. Soror attended the Smart Waterloo Region Innovation Lab 2023 GIMI Impact Innovation Pitch Day. She also attended the Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute CHCI UNITAS - Cameron Diversity Celebration.

Student Trustee K. Soror also implemented the Hear Us Sing lunchtime music initiative at CHCI, where students perform music selected by students at lunch that represents the diverse cultures in the school community. This activity will continue next year at CHCI.

Trustees M. Ramsay and K. Woodcock attended the 81st Annual Ceremonial Review of the KW Air Cadets 80 Squadron where Student Trustee V. Raina was there in her role as Warrant Officer 1.

Trustee J. Weston noted the upcoming secondary school commencement ceremonies and wished all graduating students all the best as they move onto post-secondary education or the workplace.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Carolyn Bowman - Indoor Air Quality
- Feiyang Luo - Bell Times

Trustees asked delegations questions of clarification. A recorded vote was requested for each motion to refer the delegations to staff.

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

That the Delegation from Carolyn Bowman on Indoor Air Quality be referred to staff to respond to the delegate.

-Carried-

In Favour

C. Johnson
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Ramsay

M. Waseem
C. Watson
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 S. Piatkowski:

That the Delegation from Feiyang Luo on Bell Times be referred to staff to respond to the delegate.

-Carried-

In Favour

C. Johnson
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Ramsay
M. Waseem
C. Watson
J. Weston
K. Woodcock
V. Raina*
K. Soror*

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STAFF FOLLOW UP

ADDRESSING FINANCIAL INSECURITIES

Associate Director S. Miller introduced the staff follow up item as a referral from trustees to report on the work being done to address financial insecurities. He reviewed some of the work we are currently engaged in to support students and families including:

- Anti-poverty work in education through professional development with school principals and vice-principals that focuses on supporting the implementation of Administrative Procedure 4900: Fees for Learning Material and Activities

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- Broad, coordinated efforts and partnerships across the region to address food insecurity, with the Food Bank, Nutrition for Learning and Food 4 Kids
- Menstrual Equity: De-stigmatization of menstruation, education about period product dispensers, access to free products
- Addressing school activities such as holiday celebrations and year end activities to ensure that they are not creating financial barriers for students to access and participate
- Intentionally embedding additional staffing resources to support literacy, numeracy and de-streaming in schools using the WRDSB Equity Index
- Many WRDSB Schools have established an account within WEFI (Waterloo Education Foundation Inc), which is used at the discretion of the school to support students. In doing so, schools distribute funds for a variety of reasons, which would include field trips, sports, clubs etc..

Associate Director S. Miller shared that there are a number of partnerships with local agencies that support newcomers to Waterloo Region as well as supporting pathways for students and providing equitable opportunities. This includes the work with Reception House and the Immigration Partnership and Settlement Workers through the YMCA of Three Rivers. The WRDSB also works closely with Camino to support students and families accessing mental health supports; and the Pathways to Education program which can provide education and financial support for youth, as well as many other services. The WRDSB continues to work with the Region, the City of Kitchener and Grand River Transit to establishing a pilot for free transit passes for secondary students. The WRDSB is committed to supporting students and families facing financial insecurity. This work is continuous and ongoing, however, staff know we can always do better and are committed to doing so.

Trustees asked questions regarding field trips and menstrual equity. Staff agreed to look at posting a list of supports available on the WRDSB website. Associate Director S. Miller requested that trustees forward specific field trip concerns to staff for follow up.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1011 - COMMUNITY PLANNING AND FACILITY PARTNERSHIPS

Vice-Chair K. Woodcock noted that staff were recommending one additional change to the policy in section 6.4: to change "demonstrate compliance with Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights legislation" to "demonstrates compliance with human rights legislation".

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1011 - Community Planning and Facility Partnerships as presented at the June 19, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting, with an update to 6.4 to change "demonstrate

compliance with Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights legislation" to "demonstrates compliance with human rights legislation."

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4007 - CONDUCTING RESEARCH WITH WRDSB

Trustees asked questions regarding consent for research projects. Chairperson J. Weston directed questions about consent for other activities be asked in Question Period as they do not relate to this policy.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4007 - Conducting Research with WRDSB as presented at the June 19, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

Opposed: M. Ramsay

REPORTS

2023-2024 BUDGET RECOMMENDATION

Superintendent N. Landry shared that the Board of Trustees have received presentations related to the budget at various meetings throughout the month of June and that there are no outstanding trustee questions.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board (Board) approve the budget as presented—with revenues of \$855,718,565 and expenses of \$848,363,645 with the difference of \$7,354,920 attributed as follows:

Excess of Revenues over Expenditures \$7,354,920

LESS:

As required by Ministry of Education (Ministry) budget compliance regulations, this budget includes the following appropriations from accumulated surplus:

Increase/ (Decrease) in Unavailable for Compliance - Accumulated Surplus

• PSAB Adjustment for Interest Accrual	\$111,481
• Sinking Fund Interest Earned	(\$24,045)

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• Unsupported Capital Projects Adjustment	(\$322,939)
• Revenues Recognized for Land	\$17,475,000
• Asset Retirement Obligation (ARO)	(\$3,111,258)
In-Year Adjustment to Revenues	(\$14,128,239)
SUB-TOTAL – (Deficit) for Compliance before additional appropriations	(\$6,773,319)
PLUS:	
Transfer from Unappropriated to Internally Appropriated Accumulated Surplus	
• In-Year Committed Capital Projects	\$326,913
TOTAL – Deficit for Compliance	(\$6,446,406)
• In-Year draw from Unappropriated Accumulated Surplus	\$6,446,406
Difference	\$0

-Carried Unanimously-

Staff were thanked for the long hours and hard work developing the budget.

Trustees decided that they would move into a Special Board Meeting, at the conclusion of the Committee of the Whole meeting, to ratify the budget recommendation.

BOARD REPORTS

TRUSTEE SELF-EVALUATION PROCESS UPDATE

Trustees S. Piatkowski and M. Waseem met with Senior Manager Dr. D. Liebermann to review last year’s survey process. The survey will be distributed this week with a deadline of June 30, 2023. The results will be presented to the Board of Trustees in September. The committee will be seeking a new member in the fall.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson asked who makes decisions about Grade 8 year-end celebrations and how they are communicated. Associate Director S. Miller shared that grade 8 celebrations are not cancelled and decisions are made through consultation with the school council and the school community including students and staff. Staff have worked with parents who have stepped forward with concerns. He asked that specific concerns be sent to staff to address.

Student Trustee K. Soror asked if staff are able to provide extensions to students where International Baccalaureate (IB) and DELF certification exams conflict and asked about

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increased communications for students. Superintendent C. Hill shared that staff do not have the ability to provide extensions for DELF as it is not run by the WRDSB. She did indicate that the communication process will be reviewed for improvements.

Trustee M. Ramsay asked if school communities wanting a traditional Grade 8 celebration would be allowed to do so. Associate Director S. Miller shared that conversations with school communities have already occurred and that the decisions have been made for this year. Chairperson J. Weston reminded trustees to forward specific concerns to staff to address.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board of Trustees rise and report to a Special Board Meeting.

-Carried-

Trustees rose at 8:12 p.m. to report to the Special Board Meeting.