

**JUNE 26, 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, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

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

Student Trustees V. Raina and K. Soror were not 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, R. Dallan, E. Dougan-McKenzie, J. Fedosoff, E. Giannopoulos, C. Hill, P. Kaur, N. Landry, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, S. Miller, M. Newlands and G. Shantz.

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

Chairperson J. Weston welcomed the Oak Creek Public School Choirs. The students led the room in singing O Canada and followed with a musical performance.

Chairperson J. Weston called a short recess and resumed the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the June 26, 2023, Board Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of June 26, 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 C. Johnson, seconded by M. Radlein:

**That the agenda of the June 26, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.**

-Carried-

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**That the consent agenda of the June 26, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

**RISE AND REPORT**

A. 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**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES**

Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Trustee M. Waseem and Student Trustees V. Raina and K. Soror.

Trustees M. Radlein and K. Woodcock attended the Juneteenth celebration at Courtland Senior Public School.

Trustee M. Radlein will be attending the commencement at Eastwood Collegiate Institute.

Trustee C. Johnson provided greetings from the Board at the Jacob Hespeler Secondary School commencement ceremony.

Trustee C. Johnson congratulated the Drama and Art graduates at Eastwood Collegiate Institute.

Trustee S. Piatkowski will be providing greetings from the Board at the commencement ceremonies at Waterloo Collegiate Institute and Bluevale Collegiate Institute this week.

Trustee K. Woodcock will be bringing greetings from the Board of Trustees at the Laurel Heights Secondary School commencement tomorrow.

Chairperson J. Weston will be bringing greetings from the Board of Trustees at the Huron Heights Secondary School and Grand River Collegiate Institute commencements this week.

### **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.

A year in review video was also shared with highlights from the 2022-2023 school year.

### **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

### **REPORTS**

#### **ACCESSIBILITY PLAN UPDATE**

This report was provided for information.

The 2021 - 2026 Accessibility Plan Working Group met throughout the 2022-2023 school year to monitor staff's progress on the plan approved by the Board of Trustees on June 1, 2021. A summary of staff's work to meet the objectives was outlined in the plan.

Human Rights and Equity Advisor D. Ahluwalia introduced the presentation and provided background on the Accessibility Committee and shared the work done by staff to meet the accessibility objectives.

Human Rights Officer E. Wainaina provided background related to the Ontario Human Rights Code and the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act, which work together to promote equality and accessibility in Ontario and provide the basis for the board's accessibility plan, related policies and administrative procedures. She also referenced work done with neighbouring school boards and regional partners. She provided progress updates on various objectives in the

following categories: Customer Service, Employment, Communications & Information, Transportation and Systemic.

R. Dallan, Senior Manager of Capital Projects, shared highlights related to Physical Environment objectives. He highlighted the accessibility improvement projects at MacGregor Senior Public School, Preston High School, Margaret Avenue Senior Public School, Central Public School and King Edward Public School. These improvements included elevators, universal washrooms, barrier free washrooms, exterior ramps and wheelchair access push buttons. He shared a list of schools beginning the design phase for accessibility improvements. Senior Manager R. Dallan also shared where families can locate the accessibility status of schools on the WRDSB website.

Trustees asked questions regarding funding and cost of objectives, school accessibility status, feedback through the Special Education Advisory Committee and community input.

### **REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

#### **ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION (OPSBA) BOARD OF DIRECTORS - JUNE 8, 2023**

Trustee C. Johnson referenced the summary report on the OPSBA Board of Directors' Meeting of June 8, 2023. Trustee C. Johnson, Trustee K. Woodcock and Student Trustee K. Soror attended the recent OPSBA Annual General Meeting.

Trustee S. Piatkowski added that trustees received a survey from OPSBA regarding building a trustee profile and an invitation to attend the OPSBA Central West regional meeting hosted by the WRDSB at Oak Creek Public School in the fall.

### **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board received the following communications:

- Thames Valley District School Board to the Minister of Education
- Greater Essex County District School Board to the Minister of Education
- Halton District School Board to Minister of Education - Funding
- Halton District School Board to Minister of Education - Mental Health and Well-being

### **QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee C. Johnson asked about summer construction projects. Associate Director G. Shantz provided an overview of projects. He noted that through the school year child care additions were completed at both Saginaw Public School and Lackner Woods Public School. He referenced tenders for a new gymnasium at Manchester Public School and tenders for new school sites. He also noted a number of maintenance projects:

- Roofing at seven sites
- Paving at eight sites
- HVAC projects in thirty-five classrooms

- window projects
- interior finishes
- and other facility upgrades in offices and libraries.

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked for an update on summer registration and the Summer Learning Program (SLP). Superintendent J. Albrecht referenced the SLP update provided a few weeks ago serving 600 students and provided additional information on the other summer school programs:

- 650 Grade 6-8 students attending in-person summer school focusing on numeracy and literacy
- 450 Grade 9-12 students attending in-person summer school
- 2200 Grade 9-12 students attending e-learning courses over the summer
- 7 sections of summer co-op and 3 community partnership program summer schools.

The summer programs are supported by a number of staff including administrators, teachers, special education resource teachers, educational assistants, Designated Early Childhood Educators, various paraprofessionals and strong start volunteers.

Trustee M. Radlein noted the WRDSB's work to improve home/school communications and asked what student involvement will be in next year's communication plan and how the plan was shaped through student voice. Executive Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie highlighted the importance of student voice with the assistance of the Student Trustees. She shared that through the consultation in the strategic planning process last year, a student voice and agency strategy will be rolled out in the fall focusing on two-way communication. She also spoke to plans for a co-op program within the Communications department helping staff gain better access to student ideas and inputs. Staff are also working on a larger community and partner/caregiver engagement strategy overcoming past challenges. Director j. chanicka noted that a video reporting back to secondary students was also shared.

Trustee C. Watson asked who decides what books are culled from school libraries and based on what criteria. Associate Director G. Shantz noted that this question has been answered a number of times at the Board table and that trained library professionals make these decisions based on the guidelines posted on the WRDSB website. Director j. chanicka asked trustees, who receive questions from parents, to please forward them to staff so they can respond accordingly.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Board Meeting of June 26, 2023, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.