

SEPTEMBER 27, 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, S. Estoesta, J. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Ramsay*, M. Waseem*, C. Watson* and K. Woodcock.

* Virtual Attendees

Trustee C. Johnson was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees A. Awan and C. Dong were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: j. chanicka (Director of Education and Secretary), L. Agar, D. Ahluwalia, M. Armellini, J. Brown, V. Collis, R. Dallan, E. Dougan-McKenzie, J. Fedosoff, E. Giannopoulos, H. Hughes, P. Kaur, N. Landry, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, I. MacIsaac, S. Miller, M. Newlands and G. Shantz.

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

CALL TO ORDER

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

Statement re:

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the September 27, 2023, Board Meeting be approved with the addition of one delegation and moving Delegations prior to the Consent Agenda.

-Carried-

DELEGATIONS

The following delegation spoke at the Board meeting:

- Amanda Abdo - Reported Student Behaviour Incidents

Trustees discussed a motion to refer the delegation to staff. It was noted that staff have responded to a number of the questions at previous public meetings and through direct communication with the delegate.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer the delegation to staff to respond to the delegate.

-Defeated-

Opposed:
S. Estoesta
J. Meissner
M. Radlein
J. Weston
K. Woodcock

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of September 27, 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 S. Piatkowski, seconded by B. Cody:

That the agenda of the September 27, 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. Estoesta:

That the consent agenda of the September 27, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folio 8.

-Carried-

Opposed:
M. Ramsay

C. Watson

C. Moved by J. Meissner, seconded by B. Cody:

That Folio 8, from the consent agenda of the September 27, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Opposed: M. Ramsay

FACILITIES STAFFING UPDATE

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board reappoint the role of Controller, Facility Services into the position of Superintendent of Facility Services.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

E. Moved by J. Meissner, 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 C. Watson declared a conflict of interest at the previous in camera meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Trustee C. Johnson.

Chairperson J. Weston took a moment to recognize the upcoming National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day on September 30, 2023.

Trustees J. Meissner, S. Piatkowski and M. Radlein attended the GIMI Think Tank Innovation Speaker Series, at which Director j. chanicka was the speaker, championing the innovative and collaborative work of WRDSB staff.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Executive Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie introduced a new hire, Senior Manager of Communication, Heather Hughes.

Senior Manager H. Hughes introduced the Communications Good News Update video sharing highlights from the month and items of traditional media and social media interest.

GROH GLOBAL GALA

Associate Director S. Miller introduced this agenda item and school superintendent Jay Fedosoff.

Superintendent J. Fedosoff shared highlights from this student-led event with a purpose of helping newcomers feel more welcome in the school and community. The Groh Global Gala was one of a few projects students successfully received funding from Smart Waterloo Region Innovation Lab (SWIRL). Other projects included a picture book, commissioned graffiti art in a school and Cultures Unboxed podcast.

A video from the Groh Global Gala was shared.

Director j. chanicka noted that this work continues through the leadership of teachers at Groh Public School, and several secondary schools, and shared that students are trying to target challenges in their local communities while reaching curriculum targets with increased engagement.

Trustees asked questions regarding curriculum and shared appreciation for this innovative approach to skill development.

STAFF FOLLOW UP

CONSIDERATIONS FOR GUEST SPEAKERS

Associate Director S. Miller informed the Board that topics being presented by guest speakers are linked to content in the curriculum, a provincial Regulation, or may be in alignment with Board Policy 1008 - Equity and Inclusion, especially sections 2.1.3. and 2.1.4. The topic may also promote mental health and well-being for students as outlined on the Ministry of Education Curriculum Resource Site. He shared that guest speakers may provide opportunities for students to learn about diverse perspectives and see themselves reflected in the curriculum, learning and school communities.

Trustees asked questions regarding screening processes and communication to families.

REPORTS

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT THROUGH SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

This report was provided for information.

Associate Director S. Miller reviewed the Organizational chart for WRDSB as well as the Strategic Directions and Board Improvement and Equity Plan Areas. He thanked staff for their engagement and work over the summer.

Trustee M. Ramsay left the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

System Administrator K. Moore provided an overview of the number of students who participated in summer learning opportunities and highlighted the supports provided. She shared educator feedback on both their personal and student learning from the Summer Learning Program. She also shared family and caregiver feedback and overall feedback statistics. System Administrator K. Moore provided a number of highlights, staff feedback, student feedback and samples of staff professional development regarding Summer School for grades six through eight and nine through twelve. An overview, highlights and feedback regarding the Dual Credit and Education and Community Partnerships programs was also shared.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Simcoe County District School Board to Minister of Education
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - School Board Funding
- Avon Maitland District School Board to Minister of Education
- Upper Grand District School Board to Minister of Education
- Thames Valley District School Board to Minister of Education - GSN Insufficiencies
- Thames Valley District School Board to Minister of Education - Special Education Shortfalls
- Thames Valley District School Board SEAC to Minister of Education
- Ministry of Education to Waterloo District School Board - School Board Funding Response

QUESTION PERIOD

There were no questions.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by M. Radlein, seconded by M. Waseem:

That the Board Meeting of September 27, 2023, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.