

NOVEMBER 20, 2023
INAUGURAL 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, C. Johnson, J. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Ramsay, M. Waseem, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Student Trustees A. Awan and C. Dong 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, M. Armellini, J. Brown, V. Collis, R. Dallan, E. Dougan-McKenzie, J. Fedosoff, E. Giannopoulos, C. Hill, H. Hughes, P. Kaur, N. Landry, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, S. Miller, M. Newlands and G. Shantz.

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Pro Tem j. chanicka called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Director of Education and Secretary j. chanicka announced to trustees that he would be serving as Chairperson Pro Tem (temporary), in accordance with Board Bylaws, and that he would serve in that capacity until completion of the election of the Board Chairperson.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND O CANADA

Superintendent V. Collis provided the Territorial Acknowledgement followed by the playing of the national anthem.

MUSIC

This year's musical selection is "Changing My Clothes" from Eastwood Collegiate's Grade 10 Music Today class selected by Eastwood's Head of Music, Matt Drysdale.

GUEST SPEAKER - CLARENCE CACHAGEE, FOUNDER, CROW SHIELD LODGE

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Clarence Cachagee was unable to attend the meeting.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON/VICE-CHAIRPERSON

APPOINT SCRUTINEERS

Chairperson Pro Tem j. chanicka named Associate Director Scott Miller and Associate Director Graham Shantz to fulfill the role of scrutineer for the election of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Pro-Tem j. chanicka provided trustees with a reminder of the procedure for nominations.

Trustee M. Waseem nominated Trustee J. Weston for the role of Board Chairperson.

Trustee C. Watson nominated Trustee M. Ramsay for the role of Board Chairperson.

There were no other nominations at this time.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

2. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by J. Meissner:

That the nominations for the position of Board Chairperson now be closed.

-Carried-

Trustee J. Weston accepted the nomination.

Trustee M. Ramsay accepted the nomination.

Both nominees were provided 2 minutes to speak to their nomination.

Following the vote, Director j. chanicka announced that Trustee J. Weston had been elected to the position of Board Chairperson for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson J. Weston assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Trustee K. Woodcock nominated Trustee M. Radlein for the role of Board Vice-Chairperson.

Trustee B. Cody nominated Trustee C. Watson for the role of Board Vice-Chairperson.

There were no further nominations at this time.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

3. Moved by S. Estoesta, seconded by C. Johnson:

That nominations for the position of Board Vice-Chairperson now be closed.

-Carried-

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Trustee M. Radlein accepted the nomination.
Trustee C. Watson accepted the nomination.

Both nominees were provided 2 minutes to speak to their nomination.

Following the vote, Chairperson J. Weston announced that Trustee M. Radlein was elected as Vice-Chairperson for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

MOTION TO DESTROY BALLOTS

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

That any ballots cast in the election for the positions of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Waterloo Region District School Board be destroyed.

-Carried-

BOARD VICE-CHAIRPERSON INAUGURAL REMARKS

At this time, Board Vice-Chairperson M. Radlein presented the following remarks:

Thank you. I am aware of the privilege as well as the responsibility that I have taken on and that you have chosen to give to me. I will take it seriously. I will carry out my role to the best of my ability.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON INAUGURAL REMARKS

At this time, Board Chairperson J. Weston presented the following remarks:

Thank you Trustee Waseem for nominating me and to my colleagues for your confidence in me to represent the WRDSB as Chairperson. I look forward to working with Vice-Chair Radlein and all of you in the year ahead.

I want to thank Trustee Woodcock for her support and advice as Vice-Chair this past year. I appreciated our conversations and working together on several committees.

I want to recognize and thank Director Chanicka, the senior team and every employee of the WRDSB for their ongoing work to help our students be successful in learning and in life. And thank you to the many community organizations for their partnerships to support the children and youth in Waterloo Region.

Students, you are the reason why each of us is here at this table. We have the unifying goal to support your achievement and well-being and to ensure you get the best education and caring learning environment possible to help you succeed. How we do this might be the subject of respectful and constructive debate at this table, but I know that each of us is here with the goal of

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centering and improving student achievement and well-being, as well as supporting staff well-being.

This Board of Trustees will also continue to advocate for a strong public education system in Ontario and ensure that the policies that guide this school board are equitable, inclusive and focused on supporting students and staff. Our strategic plan will continue to guide all of our work.

I look forward to the year ahead and doing this important work with Vice-Chair Radlein, my trustee colleagues, Student Trustees Awan and Dong, Director Chanicka, staff and the community.

Thank you

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Inaugural Board Meeting of November 20, 2023, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 7:53 p.m.