

**NOVEMBER 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*, C. Johnson, J. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Ramsay, M. Waseem* and C. Watson.

* Virtual Attendees

Trustee K. Woodcock was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustee A. Awan was in attendance and Student Trustee C. Dong 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, M. Armellini, J. Brown, V. Collis, R. Dallon, E. Dougan-McKenzie, J. Fedosoff, E. Giannopoulos, C. Hill, 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 and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the November 27, 2023, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by M. Radlein, seconded by J. Meissner:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of November 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 C. Johnson, seconded by J. Meissner:

That the agenda of the November 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 S. Piatkowski, seconded by M. Radlein:

That the consent agenda of the November 27, 2023, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

C. Moved by M. Ramsay, seconded by M. Waseem:

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustees C. Watson and M. Ramsay declared a pecuniary interest at the previous in camera meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Trustee K. Woodcock.

Trustee S. Piatkowski attended the OPSBA Board Meeting and OPSBA Advocacy Day at Queen's Park. He met with MPP Rudy Cuzzetto of Mississauga-Lakeshore and attended Question Period. He also had lunch with MPP Catherine Fife, Trustee K. Woodcock in her role as OPSBA Vice-President, and other OPSBA staff. Over 50 Ontario trustees were present and over 40 meetings took place with MPPs on Advocacy Day.

Trustees C. Johnson and M. Radlein attended the Aurora Gala at Eastwood Collegiate Institute.

Trustee M. Radlein visited Southwood Secondary School and Westvale Public School.

On November 16 and 17, the following Trustees completed their four-day Human Rights Training: C. Johnson, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Waseem, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

Chairperson J. Weston welcomed Minister of Education Stephen Lecce and MPP Mike Harris to Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School where they toured the Specialist High Skills Major agriculture and nutrition programs.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

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.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations scheduled.

REPORTS

2022-2023 ANNUAL SUSPENSION/EXPULSION REPORT

This report was provided for information.

This report provided suspension, expulsion and violent incident data for the 2022-23 school year. Suspension and expulsion data is helpful in supporting schools to identify and adjust their approach to strategic directions and school improvement plans as needed.

The report outlined the suspension/expulsion data is by:

- Percentage of Students Suspended by Enrollment
- Number of Students Expelled
- Violent Incident Reports
- Suspension Analysis by Gender
- Suspension Analysis by Grade
- Analysis by Length of Suspension
- Suspension/Expulsion Analysis by Category
- Suspension Analysis by Location

Trustees asked questions regarding case-by-case factors resulting in expulsion, students in junior kindergarten to grade 3, multilingual learners and the reporting platform.

2022-2023 EQAO ASSESSMENT RESULTS

This report was provided for information.

**NOVEMBER 27, 2023
BOARD MEETING**

This report shared the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results of the Primary and Junior Assessments of Reading, Writing, and Mathematics, Grade 9 Assessment of Mathematics, and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT), completed during the 2022-2023 school year. The WRDSB utilizes EQAO results as indicators for the Board Improvement and Equity Plan in the area of Achievement. There were a number of changes to the EQAO assessments since the pause during the COVID-19 pandemic. These changes necessitated that new baselines be established for EQAO assessment results, meaning that new starting points in trend lines were set in 2021–2022. The WRDSB results were shared.

Trustees asked questions regarding allocating resources to lower performing schools, the assessment delivery and accommodations for students.

WRDSB ANNUAL REPORT

This report was provided for information.

H. Hughes, Senior Manager, Communications, provided trustees with instructions for navigating the 2023 Annual Report on the WRDSB website. The 2023 Annual Report provides a snapshot of student and staff achievements. Awards, good news stories and advancements in learning, equity and well-being are highlighted in the report.

Trustees asked about the reporting timeline as the report was completed earlier this year.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

On November 23, 2023, the Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Past Chair, along with the Manager of Corporate Services, met to review the responses to the Trustee Committee Preference Survey and provide the recommendations as attached to the report in Appendix A. Most trustees have been selected for the committee they indicated as their first choice with one exception where two trustees selected the same position as their first choice.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approves the 2023/2024 Board Committee Membership as outlined in Appendix A titled “2023/2024 - Board Committee Membership Structure” dated November 27, 2023.

-Carried-

Opposed: C. Watson

OPSBA DIRECTOR & VOTING DELEGATE

Trustees nominated and acclaimed trustees to positions within the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) for the 2024 year and in preparation for the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) being held from July 2-5, 2024 in Toronto, Ontario.

OPSBA Director

Trustee C. Johnson nominated Trustee S. Piatkowski for the position of OPSBA Director for 2024.

4. Moved by M. Radlein, seconded by J. Meissner:

That nominations for the position of OPSBA Director be closed.

-Carried-

Abstained:

M. Ramsay
C. Watson

Trustee S. Piatkowski accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Trustee S. Piatkowski was acclaimed as OPSBA Director for 2024.

Voting Delegate

Trustee S. Piatkowski nominated C. Johnson for the position of Voting Delegate for the 2024 OPSBA Annual General Meeting.

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

That nominations for the position of OPSBA Voting Delegate be closed.

-Carried-

Abstained:

M. Ramsay
C. Watson

Trustee C. Johnson accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Trustee C. Johnson was acclaimed as the Voting Delegate.

OPSBA Alternate Director

Trustee S. Piatkowski nominated Trustee C. Johnson for the position of OPSBA Alternate Director for 2024.

6. Moved by J. Meissner, seconded by M. Radlein:

That nominations for the position of OPSBA Alternate Director be closed.

-Carried-

Abstained:

M. Ramsay

C. Watson

Trustee C. Johnson accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Trustee C. Johnson was acclaimed as OPSBA Alternate Director for 2024.

Alternate Voting Delegate

Trustee C. Johnson nominated Trustee S. Piatkowski for the position of Alternate Voting Delegate for the 2024 OPSBA Annual General Meeting.

7. Moved by M. Radein, seconded by J. Meissner:

That nominations for the position of OPSBA Alternate Voting Delegate be closed.

-Carried-

Abstained:

M. Ramsay

C. Watson

Trustee S. Piatkowski accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Trustee S. Piatkowski was acclaimed as the Alternate Voting Delegate.

AD HOC BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE

This report was provided for information.

Trustee M. Radelin shared that the Bylaw Review Ad Hoc Committee's third meeting is scheduled for December 6, 2023. At the November 2, 2023 meeting, the updated Terms of

Reference were reviewed. Updates included an extension to the deadline for completion and the addition of a monthly report to the Board Meeting agenda.

The focus of the November 2 meeting was “Other Bylaws” that require updates. Bylaws from comparator boards and the OPSBA’s Good Governance Guide are being used as resources. Through discussion, it became clear that some terms in the bylaws require clarification as they are open to different interpretations. The next meeting will focus on “updates per changes in legislation and/or practice”.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Thames Valley District School Board to Minister of Education - Ministry Timelines
- Lambton Kent District School Board to Minister of Education
- Thames Valley District School Board to Minister of Education - Mental Health Supports

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board write letters to the Minister of Education in support of the letters received from Thames Valley District School Board as presented on Folios 61 and 64 in the November 27, 2023, Board Meeting agenda package.

-Carried-

Abstained: C. Watson

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C Watson left the meeting at 8:42 p.m.

Trustee C. Johnson asked how regular maintenance is scheduled for the Aspen system and if it possible that scheduled maintenance be kept outside of the critical weeks before report card deadlines. Associate Director G. Shantz shared that Aspen system updates are managed by the vendor and that these maintenance updates may be scheduled in advance, but may also be done with little notice, in order to address critical issues. The WRDSB is part of a user group that can bring suggestions and concerns to the vendor but the decision is ultimately up to the vendor.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

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

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.