

**DECEMBER 11, 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), B. Cody, S. Estoesta, C. Johnson, J. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Ramsay, M. Waseem\*, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

\*Virtual Attendee

Student Trustee A. Awan was in attendance and Student Trustee C. Dong was not in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: D. Ahluwalia, E. Dougan-McKenzie, C. Hill, N. Landry, S. Miller and G. Shantz (as the director's designate).

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

Chairperson J. Weston noted that Associate Director G. Shantz will be acting as the Director's designate for the Committee of the Whole meeting.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by S. Estoesta:

**That the agenda of the December 11, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved. with the addition of a delegation from Julia Malott on Motion: Letter Concerning Parent Rights.**

-Carried-

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Director j. chanicka.

Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Student Trustee C. Dong.

Trustee M. Radlein visited J F Carmichael Public School, attended the WRDSB Black Brilliance Day at the University of Waterloo and a holiday party at Southwood Secondary school for ACE students from a variety of schools.

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Trustee K. Woodcock visited Janet Metcalfe Public School and dropped the puck at the Laurier Golden Hawks School Day Game.

Trustee M. Waseem spoke to the Leadership Council at Queensmount Public School and attended Somali Canadian Association of Waterloo Region's Pathways to Post Secondary Information Night for students where David Pope, WRDSB Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) Coordinator, spoke to intermediate and secondary students and their families.

Trustee C. Johnson attended The Saidat Show at Coronation Public School.

**DELEGATIONS**

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Cristina Fernandes - Motion: Letter Concerning Parent Rights
- Julia Malott - Motion: Letter Concerning Parent Rights

Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions of clarification.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

Trustee K. Woodcock introduced the policy updates and revisions on behalf of the Policy Working Group noting the consultation processes undertaken.

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1006 - PREVALENT MEDICAL CONDITIONS**

Trustees discussed the revisions to policies where the language was updated to families and caregivers. Staff confirmed that this language has been used for a while and the change to inclusive language would not create conflict or concern for the day to day operations of the WRDSB. It was noted that the Policy Working Group is working on a lexicon of definitions for policy language and parents will be included in the definition of families and caregivers. Some trustees were against the inclusive language. Trustees also discussed adding a Responsibility reference to the top of other policies.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1006 - Prevalent Medical Conditions as presented at the December 11, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 2001 - COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 2001 - Communications to include “Responsibility: Executive Officer - Corporate Services” before Legal References.**

-Amendment Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

Trustees asked questions regarding the scope of the policy.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2001 - Communications as amended at the December 11, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 2012 - NETWORK ACCESS AND MONITORING**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 2012 - Network Access and Monitoring to include “Responsibility: Associate Director” before Legal References.**

-Amendment Carried-

6. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by S. Estoesta:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 2012 - Network Access and Monitoring as amended at the December 11, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4014 - EXTREME TEMPERATURES**

7. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by S. Estoesta:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 4014 - Extreme Temperatures to include “Responsibility: Associate Director” before Legal References.**

-Amendment Carried-

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4014 - Extreme Temperatures as amended at the December 11, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4016 - WHISTLEBLOWER**

9. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by S. Estoesta:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 4016 - Whistleblower to include “Responsibility: Superintendent of Business Services and Treasurer” before Legal References.**

-Amendment Carried-

Opposed:  
C. Watson

Trustees asked questions about the change in title and newly added Vexatious and Malicious Complaints section.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4016 - Whistleblower as amended at the December 11, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody

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M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4017 - FUNDRAISING**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 4017 - Fundraising to include “Responsibility: Superintendent of Business Services and Treasurer” before Legal References.**

-Amendment Carried-

Opposed:  
C. Watson

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4017 - Fundraising as amended at the December 11, 2023, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

**REPORTS**

**COALITION FOR HEALTHY SCHOOL FOOD ENDORSEMENT**

Executive Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie shared that adding WRDSB support will help position the need for the Government of Ontario to increase their investment in Student Nutrition Programs (SNP). At the national level, adding the WRDSB to the Coalition for Healthy School Food network will add to the collective call for a national, universal cost-shared school food program that over time would see all K-12 students in Canada having daily access to nutritious food at school.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board endorse the Coalition for Healthy School Food as outlined in the letter from the Coalition for Healthy School Food dated November 2023.**

-Carried-

## **HUMAN RIGHTS BRANCH 2022-2023 ANNUAL REPORT**

This report was provided for information.

D. Ahluwalia, Human Rights and Equity Advisor, shared the new Human Rights Branch Annual Report. She noted that the report will be available publicly on the WRDSB website tomorrow. The 2022-23 Human Rights Branch (HRB) Annual Report outlines the work of the department in building a culture of human rights at the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) and addressing human rights complaints.

### **BOARD REPORTS**

#### **MOTION: LETTER CONCERNING PARENT RIGHTS**

This Notice of Motion was served at the October 30, 2023, Board meeting by Trustee C. Watson with support from Trustee M. Ramsay. Trustee C. Watson spoke to her motion, referring to the 1 Million March 4 Children, parent concerns she has received and wanting parent rights to be enshrined in legislation. A recorded vote was requested.

Trustees discussed the motion, including the ways WRDSB consults and engages parents, children's rights, other trustees not hearing these concerns from parents and some families not choosing public education.

*At the December 18, 2023, Board Meeting , Trustees re-voted on the below motion.*

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting that the minister initiate a province-wide public consultation process that will allow parents, interested individuals and groups to present detailed proposals to the Ministry concerning parent rights; and**

**That the letter also requests that the Minister of Education follow through with the 2018 promise to develop a Parents Bill of Rights for parents/guardians in Ontario.**

-Defeated-

In Favour:

B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

Opposed:

S. Estoesta  
C. Johnson  
J. Meissner  
S. Piatkowski  
M. Radlein  
M. Waseem  
J. Weston  
K. Woodcock

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**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING**

\*A. Awan  
\*C. Dong\*\*

\* 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))

\*\*Present at the December 18, 2023, Board Meeting.

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee C. Watson asked if we have a fire safety plan for the room. Associate Director G. Shantz reminded trustees of the recent reconfiguration of the Boardroom and that since then, staff have assessed the room and related information can be found just outside the doors to the Boardroom.

Trustee M. Ramsay asked about the work being done to deal with the rise of antisemitism. Executive Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie shared that resources and training materials are being created to help staff speak to students and to assist in the identification of hate language. She also noted roundtable meetings with the Jewish community are occurring to ensure the WRDSB is using the correct language in resources and to determine what is actually happening in schools. Chairperson J. Weston agreed to ask the Agenda Development Committee to review the request for a fulsome report on the supports being put in place.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 11, 2023, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:59 p.m.