

**JANUARY 29, 2024
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.

*Virtual Attendance

Student Trustees C. Dong was in attendance and Student Trustee A. Awan 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, J. Brown, V. Collis, 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: I. Bijl, B. Chatha, M. Gravel, M. Mayer, S. Reidel and J. Shortreed.

CALL TO ORDER

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

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the January 29, 2024, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Chairperson J. Weston recognized International Holocaust Remembrance Day and National Day of Remembrance of the Quebec City Mosque Attack and Action against Islamophobia.

Trustees C. Johnson, J. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Ramsay, J. Weston and K. Woodcock attended the Ontario Public School Boards' Association Public Education Symposium.

Chairperson J. Weston and Vice-Chair M. Radlein attended a community breakfast led by the Coalition of Muslim Women to address Islamophobia in the Region of Waterloo.

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.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of January 29, 2024, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folio 17.

-Carried-

Folio 17 - Community Report Card

Trustee C. Watson indicated that the minutes did not capture the context of her statement and moved a motion to amend the minutes. Trustees discussed the proposed amendment.

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

That Folio 17, from the consent agenda of the January 29, 2024, Board Meeting, be amended to state that “Trustee C. Watson was referencing the Strategic Plan communication within the Strategic Plan process”.

-Amendment Carried-

Opposed: C. Johnson

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

That Folio 17, from the consent agenda of the January 29, 2024, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the approved amendment.

-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. Estoesta, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the agenda of the January 29, 2024, 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 C. Johnson:

That the consent agenda of the January 29, 2024, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

C. Moved by C. Johnson, seconded by J. Meissner:

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.

STAFF FOLLOW UP

ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS

Superintendent N. Landry provided further clarification regarding the enrolment information provided as part of the Interim Financial Report and Forecast on January 22, 2024. He shared that the in-year enrolment is 361 students short of the projections but that year-over-year enrolment is up by 311 students. Trustees asked questions regarding the projection calculations.

REPORTS

BOARD IMPROVEMENT AND EQUITY PLAN UPDATE: STRUCTURED LITERACY PLAN

Associate Director S. Miller introduced the presentation by advising it is one of the progress updates for the Board Improvement and Equity Plan (BIEP), referencing the related achievement indicator. Superintendent C. Hill introduced the Learning Support Services staff presenting the report.

System Administrator B. Chatha referenced the Ontario Human Rights Commission's Right to Read Report and related curriculum focusing on language and literacy skills development and fostering a love for learning among students. She shared the shifts in practice at WRDSB and the alignment with WRDSB Conditions for Learning and Strategic Directions. A steering committee and sub committees were formed to guide our Structured Literacy Plan. She reviewed the WRDSB Structured Literacy Multi-Year Plan including the focus and specific skill development for each year of the plan noting that Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy (CRRP) is a core component of the curriculum, emphasizing the importance of recognizing and valuing students' diverse backgrounds and identities, while setting high standards for all. Finally, she reviewed the Tiered Support Model used.

I. Bijl, Learning Support Services Consultant, provided an overview of the central supports, school-based supports and resource supports including the universal screener that was chosen in response to both the recommendations of the Right to Read report and direction from the Ministry of Education's PPM 168. She reviewed the impact on educator learning, connection to the BIEP and reflections from classroom educators.

M. Gravel, Speech And Language Pathologist Lead, highlighted the work being done in collaboration with school administrators and community partners. To wrap up this presentation, a video was played sharing the many student successes and the lived experiences of the educators in schools who are working hard to provide the highest quality literacy education to all students, ensuring they possess the skills and knowledge to succeed in their academic and personal lives.

Trustees asked questions regarding students with learning disabilities, monitoring success, the communication plan, multilingual learners and training for staff.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

AD HOC BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE UPDATE

Trustee M. Radlein reviewed the committee's mandate and the work the committee accomplished during their December and January meetings. The committee's next steps will be to review the bylaws, for a second time, and to refine the recommended changes.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Superior-Greenstone District School Board to Minister of Education
- Bluewater District School Board to Prime Minister of Canada

5. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by C. Watson:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board send a letter to the Prime Minister in support of Bluewater District School Board's letter, dated January 16, 2024, regarding advertisements for gambling.

-Carried-

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of January 29, 2024, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.