

**APRIL 24, 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, C. Watson and K. Woodcock*.

*Virtual Attendance

Trustee M. Waseem 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, J. Albrecht, J. Brown, B. Chatha, V. Collis, R. Dallan, E. Dougan-McKenzie, J. Fedosoff, C. Hill, H. Hughes, P. Kaur, B. Lemon, D. Liebermann, S. Miller and G. Shantz.

Other staff in attendance: D. Derman, S. Gunson, P. Janke, A. Lucas, M. Mayer, P. Peprah, S. Reidel, D. Sherifali, M. Suhadolc, C. Teny and C. Webster.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 7:17 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the April 24, 2024, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

2023-24 TIM WALKER MEMORIAL AWARD FOR ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

This report was provided for information.

Student Trustee C. Dong presented the awards. At a meeting on April 5, 2024, the selection committee reviewed the applications submitted by twelve schools for the 2023-24 Tim Walker Memorial Award for Environmental Stewardship. The Selection Committee was composed of Stephanie and Jim Walker, Trustee Joe Meissner and Student Trustee Abdullah Awan.

The following criteria were taken into consideration:

- Staff and student involvement (current and future) and environmental stewardship.
- Impact on student learning/fostering learning and engaging students.

- Environmental benefits: shading, greening, waste reduction, recycling, organized action/school environmental club, etc.

The following recipients were selected:

- Sheppard Public School - Companion Garden inspired by Haudenosaunee Three Sisters gardening
- Trillium Public School - Microforest and Learning Gardens Project
- Glenview Park Secondary School - The Community Coop
- U-Turn, Alternative Education, Cambridge - Composter

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENT

Chairperson J. Weston announced that Director j. chanicka was presented with the 2024 Day of Pink – Visibility Award at the International Day of Pink Gala in Toronto. He was nominated by a student who was moved by his speech at an event celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Transgender Pride Flag and who wanted to do something to applaud the work of WRDSB.

Trustee M. Radlein visited Wilson Avenue Public School.

Trustees C. Johnson and S. Piatkowski visited Blue Heron Public School.

Chairperson J. Weston welcomed newly appointed Superintendent B. Chatha.

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.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of April 24, 2024, 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 M. Radlein:

That the agenda of the April 24, 2024, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the April 24, 2024, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT, FACILITY SERVICES

C. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by S. Estoesta:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the appointment of Chris Sagar, Manager, Capital & Facilities Renewal Projects at Dufferin Peel Catholic District School Board, to the position of Superintendent, Facility Services, with a start date of May 13, 2024.

-Carried-

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WRDSB AND THE ELEMENTARY TEACHERS' FEDERATION OF ONTARIO (ETFO – TBU) ADDRESSING LOCAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Local Agreement, summarized in the report, dated April 24, 2024, with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Waterloo Region (ETFO - TBU) for the period September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2026.

-Carried-

TENTATIVE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE WRDSB AND THE ONTARIO SECONDARY SCHOOL TEACHERS' FEDERATION (OSSTF – D24 T/OTBU) ADDRESSING LOCAL COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Local Agreement, summarized in the report, dated April 24, 2024, with the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation (OSSTF – D24 T/OTBU) for the period September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2026.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

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

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.

REPORTS

BOARD IMPROVEMENT AND EQUITY PLAN UPDATE: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT, SOVEREIGNTY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND EQUITY

Associate Director S. Miller reviewed the timelines for the Board Improvement and Equity Plan. He reviewed the related BIEP indicators and strategies.

Superintendent C. Hill introduced System Administrator P. Janke and System Navigator P. Peprah. System Administrator P. Janke provided information on the branches of the Indigenous, Equity and Human Rights (IEHR) Department and the department's focus on the Ministry of Education and Government of Ontario goals. She shared supports for students such as student Affinity Groups, Unions and Associations and student affinity events and data on the impact for students. She also shared information on additional supports for students, including the Graduation Coach Program, and its impact on students. System Navigator P. Peprah shared information on the System Navigators with an African, Caribbean and Black identifying (ACBi) Focus and a Muslim Focus.

System Administrator P. Janke shared supports for staff including, but not limited to, the creation and delivery of professional learning, integration of Culturally Responsive and Relevant Pedagogy (CRRP) and embedding Human Rights within all aspects of education and schooling.

It was noted that IEHR provides a dedicated email address that all staff can access when they are in need of support from the Indigenous Education Branch or the Equity and Inclusion Branch. System Administrator P. Janke provided information on community partners engaged to ensure the most relevant and up-to-date information informs our practice and provides a range of opportunities for ALL of our students.

Trustees asked questions regarding staff support requests, tracking reports, affinity groups, advising on curriculum and barriers to the work.

Student Trustee C. Dong left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

AD HOC BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE - MOTION TO SCHEDULE FINAL REPORT

On May 8, 2023, the Waterloo Region District School Board approved the creation of an Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee. At this time, the committee is recommending that the Draft Bylaws be scheduled for discussion at the May 13, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting. This report satisfies the requirements of Section 1.3.1. of the current WRDSB Bylaws. Committee Chair - M. Radlein reviewed the meeting process the committee took for the review including the use of Google Docs which was available all times, between October 2023 and April 2024, for trustees on the committee to comment and see the comments of other trustees.

Trustees discussed a motion to postpone the scheduling of the report until after the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee has met again. It was noted by staff that the purpose of the remaining meeting is to write the report and presentation, not for further review of the bylaws.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board postpone the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee Recommendations and Final Report for scheduling until after the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee has met again.

-Defeated-

In Favour:

B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

Opposed:

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

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board schedule the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee Recommendations and Final Report for the May 13, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion.

-Carried-

Opposed:
B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Simcoe County District School Board to Federal Ministry of Finance
- Grand Erie District School Board SEAC to Ministry of Education
- Thames Valley District School Board to Ministry of Education
- Thames Valley District School Board to Ministry of Education
- Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to the Prime Minister
- Ottawa-Carleton District School Board to Ministry of Education
- Upper Grand District School Board to Federal Ministry of Finance
- Mental Health Branch, Ministry of Education to Waterloo Region District School Board

5. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by S. Estoesta:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter in support of letters from Thames Valley District School Board (folio 70) and Ottawa-Carleton District School Board (folio 73) regarding menstrual products in schools.

-Carried-

Opposed: M. Ramsay

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of April 24, 2024, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.