

**MAY 13, 2024**  
**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.

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), D. Ahluwalia, J. Albrecht, M. Armellini, B. Chatha, V. Collis, E. Dougan-McKenzie, J. Fedosoff, C. Hill, N. Landry, B. Lemon, S. Miller and G. Shantz.

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

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

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by S. Estoesta:

**That the agenda of the May 13, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairperson J. Weston congratulated Dr. Graham Shantz on his appointment to Director at Avon Maitland District School Board. Today will be his last meeting with the Board of Trustees. She shared information on his 26-year history at WRDSB.

Trustees M. Radlein, J. Weston and K. Woodcock attended Music Night at Waterloo Collegiate Institute.

Trustees M. Radlein and K. Woodcock attended Asian Heritage Day at Jacob Hespeler Secondary School.

Trustees S. Piatkowski and Trustee K. Woodcock attended the Ontario Public School Boards' Association's Labour Relations Symposium.

Trustee S. Piatkowski attended the May 1, 2024, South Kitchener Boundary Study Open House.

Trustee S. Piatkowski attended the Waterloo State of the City.

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Trustees S. Piatkowski and K. Woodcock attended the Woolwich State of the Township.

Trustee S. Piatkowski attended a parent council event at Sir Adam Beck Public School for all Wilmot schools.

Trustees M. Radlein visited Laurentian Senior Public School.

Trustees M. Radlein and J. Weston attended the Kodaly Choir on May 8, 2024.

**DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

Trustee C. Watson had a declaration of pecuniary interest in the previous in camera meeting.

Trustee S. Estoesta declared a pecuniary interest regarding the Extended Day Program Fee 2024-2025.

**DELEGATIONS**

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Dr. Hillary Pimlott - Bylaw Recommendations
- Carolyn Burjoski - Bylaw Recommendations
- David Todor - Bylaw Recommendations
- Cristina Fernandes - Bylaw Recommendations
- Geoff Horsman - Public Input
- Cait Glasson - Bylaw Recommendations
- Craig Sloss - Bylaw Recommendations

During the delegation from Dr. Hillary Pimlott, Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Order stating that she believes the delegate is continuing a negative dialogue about repeat delegates and it is not fair. Chairperson J. Weston indicated that the delegation is on track to her summary, not referencing anyone by name and that she is stating her opinion. Dr. Pimlott was allowed to continue.

During the delegation from Dr. Hillary Pimlott, Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Order at the references to past delegations referencing the Cass Report and WPATH. Chairperson J. Weston asked that Dr. Pimlott provide the counter research to the arguments from previous delegations.

During the delegation from Dr. Hillary Pimlott, Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Order that reference to the United States election is off topic. The delegation continued without further reference to this.

During the delegation from Dr. Hillary Pimlott, Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Order that this is a judgement of delegations and she doesn't think this is right. Chairperson J. Weston declined the Point of Order.

Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions of clarification after each delegation.

**POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

**REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 3007 - MEMBERSHIP IN ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION**

It was shared that the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) will no longer include an Alternate Director position for school boards.

2. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by M. Waseem:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend Board Policy 3007 - Membership in Ontario Public School Boards' Association to remove the words "and Alternate Director" from Section 3.1**

-Amendment Carried-

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 3007 as amended at the May 13, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting**

-Amended Motion Carried-

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board continue with membership in the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) for 2024-2025.**

-Carried-

**REPORTS**

**EXTENDED DAY PROGRAM FEE 2024-2025**

The Extended Day Program (EDP) fee is established annually in accordance with the guidelines set out by the Ministry of Education (Ministry) in Ontario Regulation 221/11. The underlying objective in establishing the fee is to ensure it bears a reasonable relationship to incremental operating costs incurred by the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), and that the program operates on a cost-recovery basis.

Trustees asked questions regarding subsidies provided by the Region of Waterloo, parent consultation and income tax receipts.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Extended Day Program fee of \$31.50 per day, per child, for the 2024-25 school year.**

-Carried-

Abstained: S. Estoesta

## **BOARD REPORTS**

### **AD HOC BYLAW REVIEW COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND FINAL REPORT**

The Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee was tasked with reviewing the WRDSB Bylaws with a focus on:

- Bylaw 13, Board Meetings;
- Bylaw 14, Delegation Procedures;
- Bylaw 24, Rules of Order; and
- Other bylaws requiring updates per changes in legislation and/or practice.

The committee has prepared recommended changes to the WRDSB Bylaws. As chair of the committee, Trustee M. Radlein reviewed the committee background, review process and recommended changes.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Draft WRDSB Bylaws (Appendix A) as presented at the May 13, 2024, Committee of the Whole, effective July 1, 2024; and**

**That the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee be disbanded upon the adoption of the updated bylaws.**

*-this motion was moved but not voted on prior to adjournment-*

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board suspend Bylaw 9.12 allowing trustees to speak without limit on the topic at hand.**

-Carried-

At the direction of Chairperson J. Weston, the Board of Trustees reviewed and discussed the bylaws one section at a time.

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board amend Section 2.1 to include a bullet that states “to promote staff well being”.**

-Amendment Carried-

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board amend Section 4.3.1.a. to state the following: “require the municipality to hold a by-election (which would be mandatory if a majority of the elected members do not remain in office and otherwise optional), or”**

-Amendment Carried-

Opposed:  
S. Estoesta  
J. Meissner  
K. Woodcock

A motion to amend 4.3.1.b. to state “appoint a qualified person to fill the vacancy (*which would be possible only* if a majority of the elected members remain in office).” was moved but was not seconded.

Trustees discussed an amendment to Section 4.3.4.b. Trustee K. Woodcock called a Point of Order when Trustee M. Ramsay stated that “this would eliminate this favoritism”. At the request of the Chair, Trustee M. Ramsay withdrew the use of the word favoritism.

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board amend Section 4.3.4.b. to strike “...priority will be given to candidates who ran for the position of trustee in the most recent election.” and replace it with the following: “...the person selected to fill the vacancy shall be the first runner up in the last regular school board election, provided that individual received a number of votes greater than 75% of the votes achieved by the elected trustee gaining the final seat in the municipality where the vacancy occurs.”**

-Amendment Defeated-

Opposed:  
S. Estoesta  
C. Johnson  
S. Piatkowski  
M. Radlein  
J. Meissner  
M. Waseem  
J. Weston

K. Woodcock

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the meeting an additional thirty minutes to 10:00 p.m.**

-Carried-

A motion to amend section 4.1.1 was withdrawn as the current language is directly from the Education Act.

It was noted that the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee discussed possible changes to Section 10.10 on chairperson and vice-chair term and tenure but following a committee vote, no changes were recommended.

11. Moved by S. Estoesta, seconded by M. Waseem:

**That the Waterloo District School Board amend Section 11.16 to also include the following statement: “Prohibition on visual demonstrations shall not be construed to prohibit expressions of identity related to characteristics protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code.”**

-Amendment Carried-

12. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by M. Ramsy:

**That the Waterloo District School Board amend Section 11.16 to strike our “applause”**

-Amendment Defeated-

Opposed:  
S. Estoesta  
C. Johnson  
S. Piatkowski  
M. Radlein  
J. Meissner  
M. Waseem  
J. Weston  
K. Woodcock  
\*A. Awan

\* 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))

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board amend Section 11.17 to state the following: “The Chair may expel or exclude from any meeting any person(s) who engage in *unauthorized* audio, video, or photographic recordings at any Board or Committee of the Whole meetings of the Waterloo Region District School Board. *Authorization for audio, video, or photographs will be at the discretion of the Chair.*”**

-Amendment Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board strike out Section 11.17.**

-Amendment Defeated-

Opposed:  
S. Estoesta  
C. Johnson  
S. Piatkowski  
M. Radlein  
J. Meissner  
M. Waseem  
J. Weston  
K. Woodcock  
\*A. Awan

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board amend Section 15.3 to also include the following statement: “The WRDSB will provide appropriate accommodations based on any of the human rights protected grounds to support delegations.”**

-Amendment Carried-

16. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by K. Woodcock:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the meeting an additional thirty minutes to 10:30 p.m.**

-Carried-

Trustees discussed a motion to postpone discussion of Section 15 - Delegation Procedures.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board call the question on the amendment.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board postpone discussion of Section 15 - Delegation Procedures for consultation from the Parent Involvement Committee, Special Education Advisory Committee, Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils and school councils; and**

**That the recommendations made by our various groups and parents be brought to the Committee of the Whole at a meeting in September 2024 as per WRDSB bylaw 1.2.1 which states that the Board is accountable to the public for its collective decisions of the WRDSB and for the delivery of quality educational services.**

-Postponement Defeated-

Opposed:  
S. Estoesta  
C. Johnson  
S. Piatkowski  
M. Radlein  
J. Meissner  
M. Waseem  
J. Weston  
K. Woodcock  
\*A. Awan

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the meeting an additional thirty minutes to 11:00 p.m.**

-Defeated-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

Chairperson J. Weston shared that the meeting will adjourn at 10:30 p.m. as there was not the unanimous approval to continue as required by the bylaws and that any unfinished business would be taken up at the next meeting as allowed in Robert's Rules of Order. She stated that on May 27, 2024, the Board will continue discussions on the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee Recommendations And Final Report at whatever section number it ends this evening.

Trustees discussed a motion to strike out Section 15.3.1

20. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by M. Waseem:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board call the question on the amendment.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board strike out Section 15.3.1.**

-Amendment Defeated-

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

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Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Information stating that she is concerned that trustees did not get a chance to ask legal counsel about their comments. Chairperson J. Weston indicated that it was not a Point of Information and would add Trustee C. Watson back to the speakers list.

Trustees discussed an amendment to 15.3.1.

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board postpone consideration of the amendment until legal advice is received on the matter.**

-Postponement Defeated-

Opposed:  
S. Estoesta  
C. Johnson  
M. Radlein  
J. Meissner  
M. Waseem  
J. Weston  
K. Woodcock  
\*A. Awan

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board amend Section 15.3.1 to state the following: “Delegation must be WRDSB students and their caregivers and families, Region of Waterloo residents who direct property taxes to support WRDSB and bona fide experts on a topic under consideration by the Board for information only.**

-Amendment Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board invite legal counsel to attend the Board Meeting on May 27, 2024.**

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-Defeated-

Opposed:  
S. Estoesta  
C. Johnson  
M. Radlein  
J. Meissner  
M. Waseem  
J. Weston  
K. Woodcock  
\*A. Awan

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**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 10:30 p.m. as the vote was not unanimous in favour of extending the meeting an additional thirty minutes, as required by the WRDSB Bylaws.