

**MAY 27, 2024**  
**BOARD MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Board Meeting this evening at 6:00 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 Trustees A. Awan and C. Dong were 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, V. Collis, E. Dougan-McKenzie, C. Hill, H. Hughes, B. Lemon, S. Miller, M. Newlands and C. Sagar.

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson J. Weston called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the May 27, 2024, Board Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES**

**PAST DIRECTORS' BURSARY**

This report was provided for information.

The Past Directors' Bursary provides funding for students who are pursuing a trade, through college or apprenticeship, and who have not already been selected to receive an award at their graduation ceremony. All 14 applicants have been selected to receive the 2023-24 Past Directors' Bursary.

**OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Trustee K. Woodcock shared information on Take your MPP to School Week where Trustee M. Radlein and MPP Clancy visited Lackner Woods Public School, Trustee S. Piatkowski and MPP Fife attended Mary Johnson Public School and Trustee K. Woodcock attended Janet Metcalfe Public School with MPP Harris.

**DELEGATIONS**

The following delegations spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Elaine Scharlach - Bylaw Recommendations
- David Alton - Bylaw Recommendations

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of May 27, 2024, and the actions contained therein, be approved (with the exception of Motions folios 37 through 40).**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B Cody  
M Ramsay

**Folios 37-40: Suspensions / Expulsions - March 2024 and Suspensions / Expulsions - April 2024**

Trustee C. Watson referenced recent media articles indicating that violent incidents are rising and asked about strategies to curb the incidents. Interim Associate Director B. Lemon referenced the work of staff and indicated that one contributing factor is the raising awareness around hate and biased occurrences. He reviewed the training pilot on active bystanders where a decline in incidents is occurring. Staff continue to monitor the issue and will be extending this training throughout the system. He also referenced the in school supports and work on social-emotional learning.

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

**That Folios 37-40, from the consent agenda of the May 27, 2024, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

Opposed: B. Cody  
Abstained: M. Ramsay

**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 K. Woodcock, seconded by J. Meissner:

**That the agenda of the May 27, 2024, 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 C. Johnson:

**That the consent agenda of the May 27, 2024, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

**RISE AND REPORT**

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

**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.

**REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

**OPSBA DIRECTOR AND VOTING DELEGATE ELECTIONS**

Trustees confirmed or appointed trustees to positions within the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) for 2024-2025 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 2024-2025.

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

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

-Carried-

Abstained: M. Ramsay

Trustee S. Piatkowski accepted the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Trustee S. Piatkowski was acclaimed as OPSBA Director for 2024-2025.

### **Voting Delegate**

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

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

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

-Carried-

Trustee M. Radlein accepted the nomination.

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

### **Alternate Voting Delegate**

Trustee K. Woodcock nominated Trustee S. Estoesta for the position of Alternate Voting Delegate for the 2024 OPSBA Annual General Meeting.

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

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

-Carried-

Trustee S. Estoesta accepted the nomination.

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

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

Trustees discussed a motion to move into a Special Committee of the Whole meeting.

A recorded vote was requested.

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

**That the Waterloo District School Board suspend Bylaw 13.14 and move into a Special Committee of the Whole meeting.**

-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

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

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

-Carried-

Opposed:

S. Estoesta  
C. Johnson  
M. Waseem

A recorded vote was requested on a motion to strike Section 15.4 a-c from the bylaws.

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

**That Section 15.4. a-c be stricken from the WRDSB Bylaws:**

-Defeated-

In Favour:

B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

Opposed:

S. Estoesta  
C. Johnson  
J. Meissner

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BOARD MEETING**

S. Piatkowski  
M. Radlein  
M. Waseem  
J. Weston  
K. Woodcock

It was suggested that the delegation form include a checklist to assist interested individuals in ensuring they have gone through the appropriate process prior to submitting a request.

Trustees discussed a motion to strike Section 15.4.2 from the bylaws speaking to possible biases during decision making as well as the resources available to assist a chairperson in making decisions.

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

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

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

A recorded vote was requested.

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

**That Section 15.4.2 be stricken from the WRDSB Bylaws:**

-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

Trustees discussed a motion to amend Section 15.4.3 to add “unless the delegation has new information” to the end of the statement. A motion was made to amend it further to include the word “substantial” to state “unless the delegation has substantial new information.” This amendment was discussed. During this discussion Trustee K. Woodcock called a point of order at

the use of the statement “creating a prison” by Trustee C. Watson. Chairperson J. Weston supported the Point of Order and Trustee C. Watson rephrased her statement.

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

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

-Carried

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
C. Watson

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

**That the amendment to Section 15.4.3 be amended to include the word “substantial” to read:**

**“A delegation can speak to the same topic, or one deemed substantially the same, only once within a 12-month period unless the delegation has substantial new information.”**

-Amendment Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

Abstained:  
S. Piatkowski

Discussion continued on the changes to Section 15.4.3.

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

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

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
C. Watson

15. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by B. Cody:

**That Section 15.4.3 be amended to read:**

**“A delegation can speak to the same topic, or one deemed substantially the same, only once within a 12-month period unless the delegation has substantial new information.”**

-Motion as Amended Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
S. Piatkowski  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

Trustees discussed a motion to further increase the number of delegations.

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

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

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

Abstained:  
J. Meissner

17. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by B. Cody:

**That the number of delegations allowed in section 15.8 be increased to 14 from 10.**

-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

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

**That the following statement be added to Section 15.11:**



**“Prohibition on visual demonstrations shall not be construed to prohibit expressions of identity related to characteristics protected under the Ontario Human Rights Code.”**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay

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

**That Section 20.1.2 be amended to read:**

**“The committee shall be comprised of the following: Board Chair; Board Vice-Chair; Past Chair; one trustee assigned on an alphabetical rotation; one trustee appointed for the period December to April; one trustee appointed for the period May to November; Director of Education and Secretary, and Manager of Corporate Services.”**

-Carried-

When asked about section 25.2.12, staff indicated that the additional details added by the Ad Hoc Bylaw Review Committee were in place to ensure that a motion to postpone indefinitely would not be used inappropriately.

Trustees discussed a motion to send the bylaws to legal counsel for further review.

A recorded vote was requested.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board send the Draft WRDSB Bylaws to legal counsel for a legal review to ensure alignment of all articles with the Charter of Rights and Freedoms; and**

**That it be reported back to Trustees by the Bylaws effective date of July 1, 2024.**

-Defeated-

In Favour:  
B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

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

A recorded vote was requested on approval of the Bylaws.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Draft WRDSB Bylaws 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.**

-Carried-

In Favour:

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

Opposed:

B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

**BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board received the following communications:

- Rainy River District School Board to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and Minister of Education
- Rainy River District School Board SEAC to Minister of Education
- Ministerial Correspondence Secretariat to Waterloo Region District School Board
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Finance and Deputy Prime Minister
- Waterloo Region District School Board SEAC to Minister of Education

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing and to the Minister of Education in support of Rainy River District School Boards letter dated May 10, 2024, regarding feedback on Bill 185.**

-Carried-

**QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee C. Watson asked why the enrolment numbers had not increased as high as projected. Director j. chanicka shared that enrolment has increased but that projections are complicated. He noted that the news article referenced about increases to the Catholic board's enrolment was also based on projections. There is no evidence to support that WRDSB students are leaving because they do not feel supported, and we do our best to connect with families and caregivers to better understand their challenges. Director j. chanicka shared that he has asked when trustees say they are hearing from families, to please forward concerns to us so we can support families. He noted, on this issue, he hasn't heard anything from Trustee C. Watson. Director j. chanicka shared that he is grateful to the families of the 65,000 students enrolled at WRDSB and that we continue to focus on serving those students. He shared examples of the work being done to increase transparency and accountability to the community noting that the WRDSB continues to be open and responsive to feedback received. It was noted that the Director of Education and Chair should be included in any emails Trustees forward on to Superintendents.

**FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Board Meeting of May 27, 2024, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.