

JUNE 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: B. Cody, S. Estoesta, C. Johnson*, J. Meissner, M. Radlein, M. Ramsay, M. Waseem, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

*Virtual Attendance

Trustees S. Piatkowski and J. Weston were unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustee 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, M. Armellini, J. Brown, V. Collis, R. Dallan, E. Dougan-McKenzie, C. Hill, H. Hughes, P. Kaur, N. Landry, B. Lemon, S. Miller and M. Newlands.

Other staff in attendance: C. Gingerich, R. Hewer, M. Mayer, S. Reidel and J. Shortreed.

CALL TO ORDER

Vice-Chairperson M. Radlein called the meeting to order at 7:16 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the June 24, 2024, Board Meeting be approved with an amendment to move the Year End Wrap Up Video following Future Agenda Items.

-Carried-

Trustee M Waseem joined the meeting at 7:19 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Trustees M. Radlein and K. Woodcock attended the Superpower Celebration at Winston Churchill Public School in support of KidsAbility.

Trustee M. Waseem provided greetings from the Board at Forest Heights Collegiate Institute's commencement ceremony.

Trustee C. Johnson provided greetings from the Board at Preston High School's commencement ceremony.

Trustee C. Johnson attended the Superpower Celebration at Blue Heron Public School in support of KidsAbility.

Trustee M. Radlein visited Sandhills Public School.

Trustee M. Radlein provided greetings from the Board at Eastwood Collegiate Institute's commencement ceremony.

Vice-Chairperson M. Radleinn shared regrets from Trustee S. Piatkowski and Chairperson J. Weston.

MUSICAL RECORDING: DRY YOUR TEARS, AFRIKA - WATERLOO COLLEGIATE INSTITUTE

A video from Waterloo Collegiate Institute's Music Night was shared.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Senior Manager H. Hughes introduced the Communications Good News Update video sharing highlights from May and June and items of traditional media and social media interest.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of June 24, 2024, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of folio 18 and folio 46.

-Carried-

Opposed:
B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

Folio 18 - May 27, 2024 Board Meeting - Question Period

Trustee C. Watson made a note that she will continue to send concerns from families to Superintendents and will not be copying the Director.

Folio 46 - Reported Student Behaviour Quarterly Data

When asked about the impact of staffing challenges and the use of volunteers, Associate Director S. Miller shared information on volunteer qualifications and necessary requirements.

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

That Folio 18 and 46, from the consent agenda of the June 24, 2024, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Opposed:
B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

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 J. Meissner:

That the agenda of the June 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 S. Estoesta:

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

-Carried-

Motions related to items of an ongoing confidential matter were not included.

F. Moved by S. Estoesta, 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

Trustee M. Ramsay declared a conflict of interest at the previous in camera meeting.

REPORTS

BOARD IMPROVEMENT AND EQUITY PLAN: MATH ACHIEVEMENT ACTION PLAN

Superintendent C. Hill introduced the Learning Support Services Staff responsible for implementing the Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP).

System Administrator J. Shortreed introduced the 2023-2024 MAAP Final Report. She shared the Ministry of Education (Ministry) Priority Actions and Key Performance Indicators. She shared parameters to utilize feedback from all levels, partners and stakeholders. She reviewed the staff involved for the Primary and Junior, Intermediate, and Secondary Math Intervention Projects. She referenced the close alignment to the WRDSB North Star and Board Improvement and Equity Plan.

Consultant C. Gingerich reviewed the work achieved through the three-pronged approach and the focus on two groups of students, those who require more time on grade-level material and those who entered a grade with missed learning opportunities from the previous year. She reviewed the essential key concepts which were focussed on and the importance of reconsidering IEP modifications. She referenced the Ministry resource High Impact Instructional Practices in Mathematics and shared information on the practices. She shared an example school year for math facilitators but also noted the emphasis on Collective Responsibility ensures that math facilitators work alongside classroom teachers, administrators and Special Education Resource teachers to layer on the range of additional supports that a student may need to be successful.

System Administrator J. Shortreed provided an overview of the data collected this year from various stakeholders. Consultant R. Hewer reviewed next steps for phase 2 of the math achievement action plan including each of the priority areas and the associated key performance indicators.

Trustees asked questions regarding staff growth and professional development, survey questions, continuing the work on student confidence between grades 3 and 6 and modified IEPs.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance to Waterloo Region District School Board
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - Menstrual Products
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - Congratulations

- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - Air Quality
- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education - Funding

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson asked what the plan was to continue to air condition schools. Superintendent N. Landry noted that there were previously one-time initiatives approved to add air conditioning to schools, however, given the current fiscal climate, we are unable to budget for similar initiatives but he advised that air conditioning is part of the work being done with capital renewal funding received each year. He offered to look into how many classrooms remain without air conditioning. Associate Director S. Miller confirmed that there would be some air conditioning work occurring this summer.

Trustee S. Estoesta asked staff if they have any advice or suggestions for her as a Trustee who has completed her first year at the WRDSB. Director j. chanicka thanked all trustees for their work on the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and encouraged trustees to continue their strategic focus and advocacy for staff well-being given the complex public education environment.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

OTHER BUSINESS

YEAR END WRAP UP VIDEO

A short video commemorating the activities and successes of the WRDSB 2023-2024 school year was played.

ADJOURNMENT

4. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by J. Meissner:

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

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.