

**OCTOBER 28, 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 and C. Watson.

*Virtual Attendance

Trustee K. Woodcock was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustee D. Lakhanpal was in attendance and Student Trustee F. Luo was not in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: j. chanicka (Director of Education and Secretary), L. Agar, D. Ahluwalia, B. Chatha, V. Collis, C. Dey, E. Dougan-McKenzie, J. Fedosoff, A. Gaymes-San Vicente, H. Hughes, P. Kaur, D. Lane, B. Lemon, S. Miller and M. Newlands.

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

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 October 28, 2024, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Chairperson J. Weston shared regrets from Trustee K. Woodcock and Student Trustee F. Luo.

Chairperson J. Weston welcomed new Associate Director Alison Gaymes-San Vicente.

Trustee M. Radlein attended the groundbreaking for the Cambridge Recreation Complex.

Trustee M. Radlein attended Conestoga College's TradeUcation event for secondary school guidance counsellors, educators and administrators to gain a better understanding of skilled trades and apprenticeship pathways to support secondary students with questions about possible career opportunities.

Trustee S. Piatkowski attended the New South Kitchener Elementary School Boundary Review Public Information Session at J W Gerth Public School.

Chairperson J. Weston attended the Nutrition For Learning Donor Open House.

Trustee C. Johnson made note of a recent open house for the converted apartments at the former Dixon Public School.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Senior Manager H. Hughes announced that Ross Howey and the Communications Team were the recipients of the Communications Project - Award of Distinction for their work on the Transforming Education campaign from the Canadian Association of Communicators in Education. Ross Howey and WRDSB student Kyo Lee also received the Coup de Coeur award for their work on the story about Karina, a Grade 12 student and filmmaker who received international acclaim for her 3D animated film, Nix's Symphony.

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.

Trustees asked questions about the timing of the next Safe, Caring and Inclusive Schools Survey.

DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations scheduled.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of October 28, 2024, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Abstained:
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 October 28, 2024, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

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

That the consent agenda of the October 28, 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.

REPORTS

BOARD IMPROVEMENT AND EQUITY PLAN: 2023-24 YEAR END REPORT

This report was provided for information.

The report provided Trustees with a year-end update on staff's implementation of the Board Improvement and Equity Plan for the 2023-2024 school year ending August 31, 2024. The 2023-2024 Board Improvement and Equity Plan was created based on the expectations from the Ministry Of Education that were made available in the Fall 2022 and WRDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan.

Highlights of key achievements and outcomes included in the 2023-2024 Board Improvement Plan included:

- Reading in Grade 2
- EQAO Grade 6
- EQAO Grade 9 Math
- Achievement Grade 9 Destreamed Math
- Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)
- Credit Accumulation - 16 credits by the end of Grade 10
- Graduation Rates

Trustees asked questions regarding measuring success, sharing successful strategies, declines in areas, the Human Rights complaint investigations and pathways and transitions.

BOARD IMPROVEMENT AND EQUITY PLAN: 2024-25 MATH ACHIEVEMENT ACTION PLAN

Superintendent B. Lemon introduced the presentation and Superintendent B. Chatha shared that the Math Achievement and Action Plan (MAAP) focuses on improving math achievement through three main priorities: ensuring fidelity to the curriculum, strengthening educators' math content knowledge, and using data-driven insights to address the unique needs of every learner.

System Administrator S. Watters shared the alignment to Ministry of Education (Ministry) priorities, as well as WRDSB vision and strategic directions. She also shared the WRDSB Math Learners vision statements. She reflected on data showing that Ministry-identified schools improved at better rates compared to non-identified schools, confirming that the focused efforts are having the desired impact. Lily, a student, shared her experience of the supports students at Ministry-identified schools experienced. System Administrator S. Watters also provided information on resources developed by math facilitators for use in Ministry identified schools which were integrated into the revision of the elementary long-range mathematics plans.

Learning Support Services Consultant C. Gingerich presented the three Priority Action areas identified by the Ministry in 2023 in the Taking Action in Mathematics framework and the related board, school and classroom strategies. She also reviewed the Ministry funding provided for school math facilitators, licensing for digital math tools to be used across the system and subsidizing educators taking additional math qualification courses.

Learning Support Services Consultant R. Hewer reviewed key components of the MAAP focusing on the ministry-funded math facilitator role and the supports they provide educators. She reviewed the tiered approach to teaching, noting one of the most significant outcomes is the progress of students who, at the start of the year, required Tier 3 withdrawal support but by the end of the year were performing at a Level 3 on the EQAO assessments.

System Administrator S. Watters concluded the presentation with information on measuring the impact of improved educator confidence and knowledge into practices and their direct impact on student achievement. She shared that in addition to EQAO results, report card achievement, and attendance data, staff will also be incorporating diagnostic skill testing, and conducting repeated surveys with students, staff, administrators, and parents to gather a comprehensive view of progress.

Trustees asked questions regarding supports for families, the new strategies, trustee visits to classrooms, student resources, funding for school math facilitators, professional development, alternative approach to modified IEPs, Ministry of Education reporting and data collection from use of resources at home.

INCLEMENT WEATHER ANNUAL PRESENTATION

Superintendent J. Fedosoff started his presentation by sharing the WRDSB infographic for Severe Weather Bus Cancellations and School Closures. He then shared information on the streets traveled by school buses and the municipalities' snow clearing process. He reviewed the decision making process for closures and cancellations noting that every effort is made to make a decision before 6 am alongside the Waterloo Catholic District School Board. He reviewed the

different closure and cancellation situations that may occur. Superintendent J. Fedosoff also reviewed the communication protocol and concluded the presentation with historical data on school closures for severe weather days.

Trustees asked questions about the decision making process.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Waterloo Region District School Board to Minister of Education

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Executive Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie provided Trustees with an update on recent engagement with the community including events and partnerships. This monthly update serves to highlight support for numerous WRDSB Strategic Directions by showcasing several new partnerships with local community organizations. This month collaboration with 50 community partners directly supported approximately 1000 students.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Johnson requested a fulsome explanation as to the status of waste bins in classrooms. Associate Director S. Miller informed Trustees that, in line with the WRDSB Sustainability Steering Committee's commitments and student voice, an announcement was released to schools to remove waste bins from classrooms. Some schools will be actioning immediately while others will be consulted further to address concerns.

Trustee C. Watson asked why the facility dogs were removed from Sheppard Public School. Superintendent J. Fedosoff referenced Board Policy 1016 - Use of Service Animals by Students and Administrative Procedure 2020 - Use Of Service Animals, Guide Dogs And Service Dogs By Students which adhere to PPM163 - School Board Policies on Service Animals from the Ministry of Education. These policies and procedures do not speak to facility animals and an application and connection to a specific student is required for approved service animals. A facility dog requires additional resources at the school. The dogs in the school started as a pilot project and no data was received for evaluation. The use of service animals is still supported.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of October 28, 2024, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:07 p.m.