

NOVEMBER 18, 2024
ORGANIZATIONAL BOARD MEETING

DraftThe Waterloo Region District School Board held an Organizational Board Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Boardroom, with the following members in attendance: M. Radlein (Chairperson), B. Cody, S. Estoesta, C. Johnson, J. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, M. Waseem, C. Watson, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

Student Trustees D. Lakhanpal and F. Luo were not in attendance.

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

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

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Pro Tem j. chanicka called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.

Director of Education and Secretary j. chanicka announced to trustees that he would be serving as Chairperson Pro Tem (temporary), in accordance with Board Bylaws, and that he would serve in that capacity until completion of the election of the Board Chairperson.

Director j. chanicka shared regrets from Student Trustee D. Lakhanpal.

TERRITORIAL ACKNOWLEDGEMENT AND O CANADA

Superintendent P. Kaur provided the Territorial Acknowledgement followed by the playing of the national anthem.

ELECTION OF BOARD CHAIRPERSON/VICE-CHAIRPERSON

APPOINT SCRUTINEERS

Chairperson Pro Tem j. chanicka names Associate Director Alison Gaymes-San Vicente and Executive Officer Euis Dougan-McKenzie to fulfill the role of scrutineer for the election of Chairperson and Vice-Chair.

NOMINATIONS FOR BOARD CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson Pro-Tem j. chanicka provided trustees with a reminder of the procedure for nominations.

Trustee M. Waseem nominated Trustee M. Radlein for the role of Board Chairperson. Trustee M. Radlein accepted the nomination.

Trustee M. Ramsay nominated Trustee C. Watson for the role of Board Chairperson. Trustee C. Watson accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations at this time.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

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

That the nominations for the position of Board Chairperson now be closed.

-Carried-

Both nominees were provided 2 minutes to speak to their nomination.

Trustees voted by ballot.

Following the vote, Director j. chanicka announced that Trustee M. Radlein had been elected to the position of Board Chairperson for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

NOMINATIONS FOR VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Chairperson M. Radlein assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Trustee K. Woodcock nominated Trustee J. Weston for the role of Board Vice-Chairperson. Trustee J. Weston accepted the nomination.

Trustee C. Watson nominated Trustee M. Ramsay for the role of Board Vice-Chairperson. Trustee M. Ramsay declined the nomination.

There were no further nominations at this time.

CLOSE NOMINATIONS

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

That nominations for the position of Board Vice-Chairperson now be closed.

-Carried-

Chairperson M. Radlein announced that Trustee J. Weston was acclaimed as Vice-Chairperson for the Waterloo Region District School Board.

MOTION TO DESTROY BALLOTS

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

That any ballots cast in the election for the positions of Chairperson of the Waterloo Region District School Board be destroyed.

-Carried-

BOARD VICE-CHAIRPERSON REMARKS

At this time, Board Vice-Chairperson J. Weston presented the following remarks:

I am honored to be the Vice-Chair of the Waterloo Region District School Board.

I am committed to ensuring that every student receives the support they need to thrive academically and personally, and staff and families are supported as they support students.

As Vice-Chair, I will continue to work tirelessly to help create an environment of transparency and partnership, ensuring that we continue to advocate for our students' needs while respecting our fiscal responsibilities.

Thank you Trustee Woodcock for nominating me.

I look forward to working with Chair Radlein, the Board and staff to accomplish these goals.

BOARD CHAIRPERSON REMARKS

At this time, Board Chairperson M. Radlein presented the following remarks:

I would like to express my appreciation to all trustees for the confidence they've expressed in my ability to optimize student achievement and well-being by supporting the inclusive environments that lead to quality public education. I look forward to working with all trustees, staff, families, students and community to build relationships and trust; to build confidence in the WRDSB; to build understanding and appreciation of the work done every day our educators; to build the partnerships with families and community which will enable us to build the hope and the future that every student who comes through our doors aspires to.

Public Education is under attack and we must find a way that embraces civil discourse and different perspectives.

The pursuit of excellence requires self-evaluation and a growth mind-set. It requires hard questions and an openness to learning and new ideas. I look forward to working with the Board of Trustees, WRDSB students, staff, families & community to get us to excellent. Thank you!

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Organizational Board Meeting of November 18, 2024, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 p.m.