

DECEMBER 9, 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: 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 in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: S. Miller (Interim Director of Education and Secretary), L. Agar, D. Ahluwalia, J. Albrecht, V. Collis, E. Dougan-McKenzie, J. Fedosoff, A. Gaymes-San Vicente, N. Landry and C. Sagar.

Other staff in attendance: E. Bumbaco, M. Mayer, S. Reidel and S. West.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson M. Radlein called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

Chairperson M. Radlein welcomed Interim Director S. Miller to the meeting.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the December 9, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustee S. Piatkowski attended the Soup Lunch at Centennial Public School and CBC's Make the Season Kind event at the Museum which included a performance from Eastwood Collegiate Institute's "Combo No. 5".

Trustee C. Johnson attended Grand View Public School's Erick Traplin concert.

Chairperson M. Radlein attended Centennial Public School's Do No Harm Initiative. She also visited J W Gerth Public School and Literacy Night at Alpine Public School.

Student Trustee Luo shared information on the most recent Student Roundtable hosted by the Student Trustees.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Trustee M. Waseem joined the meeting at 7:20 p.m.

DELEGATIONS

The following delegation spoke at this evening's meeting:

- Matthew O'Neil - Gifted Learners

Trustees asked questions of clarification.

POLICY AND GOVERNANCE

Trustee C. Johnson left the meeting at 7:31 p.m.

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4008 - SEGREGATION OF DUTIES

Trustees received clarification on the proposed changes which are guided by the Broader Public Sector Procurement Directive.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4008 - Segregation of Duties as presented at the December 9, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 1005 - SAFE ARRIVAL

Trustees discussed the proposed changes.

3. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by S. Estoesta:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 1005 - Safe Arrival as presented at the December 9, 2024, Committee of the Whole Meeting.

-Carried-

Opposed:
B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

Trustee C. Johnson re-joined the meeting at 7:36 p.m.

REPORTS

NEW SOUTH KITCHENER ELEMENTARY SCHOOL BOUNDARY REVIEW

The Boundary Review Committee for the New South Kitchener Elementary School has completed the boundary review process and recommends implementing the boundaries and recommendations consistent with Scenario 3. Scenario 3 recommends boundary changes to

Brigadoon, Doon, and Groh Public Schools. It also recommends dissolving the Doon South II, III, VI and VII Development Areas (currently assigned to Pioneer Park Public School) and forming an attendance boundary for the new South Kitchener elementary school under construction at 670 Thomas Slee Drive, Kitchener.

Trustees asked questions regarding daycare options for families, supports for students during transitions, and french immersion.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the elementary school boundaries and recommendations consistent with Scenario 3 described within Appendix A (Final Report – New South Kitchener Elementary School Boundary Review).

-Carried-

DEVELOPMENT AREAS ANNUAL REPORT 2024-2025

The Annual Development Area Report summarizes recommendations for consideration and decision by the Board of Trustees.

Trustees asked questions regarding supports for students during transitions, the communication process, other development areas in Breslau and areas of the region rezoned to residential.

5. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the new Development Area(s), attached as Appendix A to the report titled “Development Areas Annual Report 2024-2025,” presented at the December 9, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting, effective January 1, 2025; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve amendments to existing Development Areas, attached as Appendix A to the report titled “Development Areas Annual Report 2024-2025,” presented at the December 9, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting, effective for the 2025-2026 school year; and

That Grade 6 students residing in the Riverland Development Area as of June 30, 2025, and registered at Crestview Public School may attend Stanley Park Public School or Breslau Public School until the end of Grade 8 (June 30, 2027); and

That Grade 7 students residing in the Riverland Development Area as of June 30, 2025, and registered at Stanley Park Public School may remain at Stanley Park Public School until the end of Grade 8 (June 30, 2026); and

That transportation be provided to Stanley Park Public School for those students in the Riverland Development Area, in accordance with Section 12 (Legacy Provision) of Administrative Procedure 4260 - Student Transportation, for a period not to exceed June 30, 2027; and

That Grade 8 students currently residing in the Doon South II and Doon South V Development Area be directed to Huron Heights Secondary School for September 2025; and

That those students currently residing in the Doon South II and Doon South V Development Areas and enrolled at Forest Heights Collegiate Institute as of June 30, 2025, be provided with an exception to remain at that school with transportation in accordance with Section 12 (Legacy Provision) of Administrative Procedure 4260 - Student Transportation, for a period not to exceed June 30, 2028; and

That Grade 8 students residing in the Rosenberg II Development Area will be directed to Forest Heights Collegiate Institute for September 2025; and

That those students currently residing in the Rosenberg II Development Area and enrolled at Southwood Secondary School as of June 30, 2025, be provided with an exception to remain at that school with transportation in accordance with Section 12 (Legacy Provision) of Administrative Procedure 4260 - Student Transportation, for a period not to exceed June 30, 2028.

-Carried-

HUMAN RIGHTS BRANCH ANNUAL REPORT

This report is provided for information.

The Human Rights Branch (HRB) Annual Report will be posted publicly on the corporate website on December 10, 2024, which is Human Rights Day.

The report includes:

- Case Management - the number and nature of complaints
- Human Rights Education - presentations, workshops and trainings developed, facilitated and hosted by the HRB
- Strategic Leadership - evidence of HRB leadership in the WRDSB
- Accessibility Portfolio - efforts to advance accessibility and anti-ableism in the WRDSB

Student Trustee D. Lakhanpal left the meeting.

BOARD REPORTS

MOTION: GIFTED LEARNERS

This Notice of Motion was served at the June 10, 2024, Committee of the Whole meeting by Trustee C. Watson with support from Trustee M. Ramsay. Trustee C. Watson introduced the motion stating the importance of parent consultation and indicating that the report would assist trustees in gathering information on gifted students. She requested that the motion be split into two parts and that a recorded vote occur on both.

Trustees discussed the motion; some expressed concern regarding staff time involved in the report indicating that they feel enough information was provided last week for trustees to feel informed and knowing staff are already reviewing the site location as well as the use of a screener in the future. Others felt the information would not be difficult for staff to gather. Staff provided information on the referral process for gifted learning.

Trustees discussed an amendment to the motion that may provide more flexibility for staff.

6. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend the motion by removing “in Kitchener” so that it reads:

“That the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) ensure that parents/guardians be consulted as part of the process that will help identify a central location for the grade 5/6 gifted class.”

-Amendment Carried-

Discussion continued on the main motions as amended.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) ensure that parents/guardians be consulted as part of the process that will help identify a central location for the grade 5/6 gifted class.

-Amended Motion Carried-

In Favour

B. Cody
S. Estoesta
C. Johnson
J. Meissner
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Ramsay
M. Waseem
C. Watson
J. Weston
K. Woodcock
*F. Luo

* 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)).

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

That the WRDSB trustees request that staff bring forward a written report on the effectiveness of the current approach to giftedness identification including a breakdown of the number of children referred to special education staff for giftedness by school, and the number of students identified as gifted by school, and the number of students receiving Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3 giftedness support by school; and

That this report be presented to trustees for the first Committee of the Whole in March 2025.

-Defeated-

In Favour

B. Cody
S. Piatkowski
M. Ramsay
M. Waseem
C. Watson

Opposed:

S. Estoesta
C. Johnson
J. Meissner
M. Radlein
J. Weston
K. Woodcock
*F. Luo

* 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)).

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee J. Weston asked staff about the timeline of events and communications from the Smithson Public School evacuation on Friday. Associate Director A. Gaymes-San Vicente shared the details of the day’s events. Superintendent C. Sagar shared some additional information and confirmed all appropriate safety measures were taken. Associate Director A. Gaymes-San Vicente noted that staff work to provide timely communications.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

9. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by S. Estoesta:

That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of December 9, 2024, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.