

**APRIL 16, 2025**  
**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.

\*Virtual Attendance

Student Trustees D. Lakhanpal and F. Luo were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: S. Miller (Director of Education and Secretary), J. Fedosoff, A. Gaymes-San Vicente, N. Landry, and B. Lemon.

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

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson M. Radlein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

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

**That the agenda of the April 16, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Student Trustee F. Luo, along with other WRDSB secondary students, hosted a book drive raising well over one thousand books that day.

Trustee M. Ramsay and a number of other trustees attended an event with union partners yesterday.

Trustees S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein and K. Woodcock attended the ACE Spring Fling at Northlake Woods Public School.

Trustees C. Johnson, M. Radlein and K. Woodcock attended WRDSB's second Annual Sikh Heritage Day.

Trustees C. Johnson, S. Piatkowski and M. Radlein attended the Trans Day of Visibility event at Wilfrid Laurier University.

Trustees C. Johnson, S. Piatkowski and M. Radlein attended the Ontario Public School Boards' Association's regional meeting.

Chairperson M. Radlein attended the Working Centre's Mayor's Dinner and the United Way Spirit Awards. She also visited Williamsburg Public School and Laurel Heights Secondary School.

Trustees M. Radlein and K. Woodcock attended the Movie Music Concert at Lackner Woods Public School.

Trustee M. Ramsay made the following statement: "It has come to my attention that a Trustee and possibly members of the media speculated that my remarks at the March 17th Committee of the Whole meeting was in reference to confidential human resources matters. Had I not been interrupted when I was speaking, it would have emerged that I wasn't referring to any confidential human resources matters. I don't think anyone should interpret my remarks in that manner."

Chairperson M. Radlein shared that in February, Colin Harrington passed away. Colin was a teacher with the WRDSB from 1968 to 1995 and was elected as a Trustee on the Waterloo Region District School Board from 1998 to 2018, including two years as Chair. Trustee C. Watson provided further information on Colin's contributions to education.

#### **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

#### **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations scheduled.

#### **STAFF FOLLOW UP**

There was no Staff Follow Up scheduled.

#### **POLICY AND GOVERNANCE**

##### **REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 2006 - COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve replacing Board Policy 2006 - Consultation and Board Policy 3004 - Holding of Public Meetings with Board Policy 2006 Community Engagement as presented at the April 16, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting.**

-Carried-

##### **REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4005 - PROCUREMENT**

Trustees discussed the impact of the recent Procurement Restriction Policy regarding new contracts with US businesses.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board refer Board Policy 4005 - Procurement back to the Policy Working Group to confirm the policy is compliant with the recent Procurement Restriction Policy.**

-Carried-

4. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by C. Johnson:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4005 - Procurement as presented at the April 16, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Referred to the Policy Working Group-

#### **REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 4018 - FRAUD MANAGEMENT**

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 4018 - Fraud Management as presented at the April 16, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

#### **REVIEW OF BOARD POLICY 6008 - STUDENT DISCIPLINE**

Trustees asked questions regarding the supports in place for the students in kindergarten to grade two.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve Board Policy 6008 - Student Discipline as presented at the April 16, 2025, Committee of the Whole Meeting.**

-Carried-

#### **REPORTS**

##### **NAMING OF 670 THOMAS SLEE DRIVE, KITCHENER**

The Naming Committee for 670 Thomas Slee Dr. reviewed suggestions received through two rounds of public consultation and has shortlisted the following names:

- Willow River Public School
- Mapleview Public School
- Hummingbird Public School

The report provided background information on the school design. It also summarized the community involvement, committee information, and the board policy that was used in selecting the recommended name.

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the name, Willow River Public School, from the following shortlisted names for the naming of the elementary school at 670 Thomas Slee Dr., Kitchener, Ontario.**

- **Willow River Public School**
- **Mapleview Public School**
- **Hummingbird Public School**

-Carried-

## **BOARD REPORTS**

### **OPSBA 2025-2026 DIRECTOR AND VOTING DELEGATE**

Trustees confirmed or appointed trustees to positions within the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) for 2025-2026 and in preparation for the Association's Annual General Meeting (AGM) being held from June 13-14, 2024 in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario

#### **OPSBA Director**

Trustee C. Johnson nominated Trustee S. Piatkowski for the position of OPSBA Director for 2025-2026.

Trustee S. Piatkowski accepted the nomination.

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

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

-Carried-

Trustee S. Piatkowski was provided an opportunity to speak to the nomination.

There were no other candidates for the position and Trustee S. Piatkowski was acclaimed as OPSBA Director for 2025-2026.

#### **Voting Delegate**

Trustee K. Woodcock nominated Chairperson M. Radlein for the position of Voting Delegate for the 2025 OPSBA Annual General Meeting.

Chairperson M. Radlein declined the nomination.

Trustees discussed that the position should be held by someone attending the Annual General Meeting.

Trustee K. Woodcock nominated Trustee C. Johnson for the position of Voting Delegate for the 2025 OPSBA Annual General Meeting.

Trustee C. Johnson accepted the nomination.

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

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

-Carried-

Trustee C. Johnson was provided an opportunity to speak to the nomination

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

### **Alternate Voting Delegate**

Trustee J. Weson nominated Trustee S. Piatkowski for the position of Alternate Voting Delegate for the 2025 OPSBA Annual General Meeting.

Trustee S. Piatkowski accepted the nomination.

3. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by J. Meissner:

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

-Carried-

Trustee S. Piatkowski was provided an opportunity to speak to the nomination.

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

### **MOTION: CLASSROOM EVACUATIONS**

This Notice of Motion was served by Trustee C. Watson with support from Trustee B. Cody at the February 10, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting. Friendly amendments have been made to the language of the motion. Trustee C. Watson spoke to her motion and her reasoning for encouraging this motion to pass, gathering information to identify which schools need support.

A request was made to split the motion to vote on the final paragraph separately.

Trustees discussed the motion, asking questions about collective bargaining. A friendly amendment was added to include "That the classroom evacuation definition include severity categories." Trustees discussed concerns regarding sharing school level information and the

privacy implications. They also discussed when parents are informed of classroom evacuations, ensuring that the quarterly data also considers student privacy,

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

**That Trustees ask staff to work with our labour partners to develop a definition for classroom evacuations and a protocol for the circumstances under which they may be necessary; and**

**That the classroom evacuation definition include severity categories; and**

**That this work be concluded by the end of the 2024/2025 school year; and**

**That, starting in the 2025/2026 school year, Trustees direct staff to include “classroom evacuations” in the quarterly Report, "Student Behaviour Incidents Quarterly" to help trustees monitor the number of class room evacuations each quarter and whether classroom evacuations are increasing or decreasing.**

-Carried-

Further discussion occurred on privacy concerns.

9. Moved by S. Estoesta, seconded by C. Watson:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board postpone the motion “ That school councils be given statistics about the number of classroom evacuations at that school at each of their meetings.” until such time as legal counsel has reviewed the motion.**

-Carried-

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

**That school councils be given statistics about the number of classroom evacuations at that school at each of their meetings.**

-postponed-

### **QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee M. Ramsay asked if there was a mechanism to pass along information received from frontline staff at last night's union event. Director S. Miller shared that he would welcome any feedback noting the quarterly Staff Advisory meetings that occur. He asked that trustees send the information from their conversations to Manager S. Reidel to collate for Leadership Council.

### **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

There were no future agenda items.

**ADJOURNMENT**

11. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by C. Johnson:

**That the Committee of the Whole Meeting of April 16, 2025, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:10 p.m.