A meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held on Monday, January 18, 2010 at the Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre.

Trustees Present:
Denise Blum; Wayne Buchholtz; Manuel da Silva; Louise Ervin; Judy Nairn; Greg Reitzel; Marion Thomson Howell (Chair)

Student Trustees Present:
Nicole Bigelow; Thomas Slabon

Administrative Officials Present:
Roger Lawler; Rick Boisvert; Gerry Clifford; Heather Cullen; Manny Figueiredo; Shesh Maharaj; Bruce Rodrigues; Paul Tratnyek

Special Resources For The Meeting:

Regrets:
Joseph Gowing; Fr. Robert Hétu

Recording Secretary:
Barb Pilsner, Executive Administrative Assistant

NOTE ON VOTING: Under Board by-law 5.7 all Board decisions made by consensus are deemed the equivalent of a unanimous vote. A consensus decision is therefore deemed to be a vote of 9-0. Under Board by-law 5.11 every Trustee “shall vote on all questions on which the Trustee is entitled to vote” and abstentions are not permitted.

1. Call to Order:

The Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.1 -- Opening Prayer & Memorials
The opening prayer was led by the T. Slabon, Pastoral Care Team. Intentions were offered for: R. Boisvert’s uncle and grandmother who passed away, L. Ervin’s cousin who passed away, and keep J. Nairn’s nephew, Doug Farwell and the people in Haiti in our prayers.

1.2 -- Approval of Agenda
Add Item 6.1 Consultation Committee Discussion and 6.2 Advocacy Task Force
2010-17 -- It was moved by M. da Silva and seconded by D. Blum:
THAT the agenda for January 18, 2010 as amended be now approved. -- Carried by consensus.

1.3 -- Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
1.3.1 From the current meeting – NIL
1.3.2 From a previous public or in-camera meeting – NIL

2. Consent Agenda: Director of Education

3. Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees

3.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular and Special Meetings
3.1.1 Minutes of meeting of November 23, 2009
3.1.2 Items for Action from Previous Meeting
3.1.3 Minutes of Task Force on …

2010-18 -- It was moved by G. Reitzel and seconded by L. Ervin:
THAT the Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein be now approved. -- Carried by consensus.

4. Delegations/Presentations

5. Ownership Linkage

5.1 Storm Water Management

The Chair provided trustees with an update on the Storm Water Management issue. She reported letters were written to the mayors of Kitchener and Waterloo, Minister Kathleen Wynne and MPP John Milloy. The original storm water management fee of approximately $100,000 for our Board has been changed to a flat fee of approximately $1,000. There is a concern this is a tax, we are tax exempt and feels by accepting this change it would set a precedent. We have received legal opinion reporting ambiguity between the Municipal Act and the Education Act which may have to be sorted out by the courts.

The Trustees discussed plans for the next steps and are in agreement both boards should obtain a joint legal opinion, set up a meeting for further discussion with the mayors and directed the Chair to proceed.

6. Reports From Board Committees/Task Forces

6.1 Consultation Committee

W. Buchholtz presented the following draft definition for meaningful consultation from the committee meetings:
• Need for active listening
• Consult to learn
• Feedback component
• Involvement of appropriate groups to provide informed consultation
• Importance of timing in seeking input

 Trustees were asked to consider the following questions in their discussions:
1. Are there values to those being included?
2. Are there problems with those being included?
3. Are there other components we need to add?

W. Buchholtz will take comments/feedback to the next Consultation committee meeting and bring back to the Committee of the Whole in March.

6.2 Advocacy Task Force

J. Nairn presented a proposed alternative schedule of meetings for consideration.

Trustees in agreement to have R. Lawler add to Committee of the Whole agenda discussion to determine information/issues for the various groups prior to arranging meetings.

7. Board Education

7.1 Grants for Student Needs Consultation

Trustees discussed the Minister of Education letter regarding the annual Grants for Students Needs consultation beginning January inviting boards to submit their views and suggestions by February 15, 2010.

Trustees felt the complexity of the funding model and tighter provincial controls over revenues are two issues to address and directed the Chair to reply to the Ministry.
8. Policy Discussion (Based on Annual Plan of Board Work)

9. Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance

10. Board Self-Assessment Against Board Means Policies

10.1 Monitoring Reports & Votes on Compliance

10.2 Advice from the CEO

10.2.1 Early Learning Implementation
R. Boisvert provided an overview of the update on the Early Learning Program offered in eight schools beginning September 2010. Focus is now on the implementation – developing core and extended day programs, communication for parents, and roles and responsibilities for staff supporting the programs.

11. Potential Agenda Items

12. Announcements

12.1 – The following reports are posted on the Board web page: www.wcdsb.ca
a) Minutes of SEAC Meetings
b) Minutes of Parent Involvement Committee Meeting

12.2 – Upcoming Meetings/Events: (all scheduled for the Catholic Education Centre unless otherwise indicated)

13. Items For Next Meeting Agenda

14. Adjournment – confirm decisions made tonight

The recording secretary reviewed the decisions made tonight.

15. Motion to Adjourn

2010-19-- It was moved by M. da Silva and seconded by G. Reitzel:

THAT the meeting be now adjourned.

The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:58 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Secretary