Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting

A public meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held Monday, October 6, 2014 at Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre, Kitchener

Trustees Present:
Joyce Anderson; Wayne Buchholtz; Manuel da Silva (Chair); Frank Johnson; Peter Reitmeier; Greg Reitzel

Student Trustees Present:
Karen Hakim, Maria Paz Rodriguez

Administrative Officials Present:
Michael Schmitt; Gerry Clifford; David DeSantis; Derek Haime; Maria Ivankovic; Shesh Maharaj; Laura Shoemaker

Special Resources For The Meeting:

Regrets:
Janek Jagiellowicz; Anthony Piscitelli; Wendy Price; John Shewchuk

Absent:

Recorder:
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 called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials
The opening prayer was led by F. Johnson, Pastoral Team Committee. Intentions were offered for a former neighbour of F. Johnson who passed away, the father of a neighbour of P. Reitmeier who passed away, and a colleague of M. da Silva who is ill.

1.2 Approval of Agenda
2014-161 -- It was moved by W. Buchholtz and seconded by J. Anderson:
THAT the agenda for October 6, 2014 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 (e.g. day-to-day operational matters from the Ministry of Education that the board is required to do)

3. Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees (Minutes of meetings)
3.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular and Special Meetings
3.1.1 Minutes of meeting of September 8, 2014
3.1.2 Items for Action from previous In-camera meeting October 6, 2014
2014-162 -- It was moved by F. Johnson and seconded by W. Buchholtz:
THAT the Consent Agenda Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein be now approved. ---
Carried by consensus

4 Delegations
4.1 Pathways
D. DeSantis introduced Judy Carley, Pathways & Placement Officer, to speak about the Pathways Planner. This is a
culmination of the Pathways subcommittee who looked at where the gaps were between elementary and secondary.
The planner informs parents about what pathways are available for students entering secondary school.

Committee Mandate:
- Engage parents/teacher to support students in their learning and pathway planning
- Highlight our Waterloo Catholic District School Board programs that enhance student learning and student
success
- Deepen and strengthen Pathways knowledge
- Increase retention of students to our Secondary schools

Focus
- Transitioning
- Defining the 5 Pathways to success
- The changing world of work/careers/schools
- Resources and support available
- Highlight our exceptional experiential learning programs

J. Carley advised five pathways were created tailored to each family of schools. At each family of schools the focus is
on parents as the primary source of support/influence for career planning. Each parent will receive an Entering
Secondary School booklet. Success for students is the combination of acquired knowledge, skills and abilities as well
as being well educated.

The Five Pathways to success are apprenticeship, college, community living, university, and work. Pathway planning
activities are created for all students in grades 7 to 12 in Career Cruising answering the questions – Who am I? What
are my opportunities? What do I want to become? What is my plan? Career Cruising is a web-based interactive
program used by students, parents and teachers to facilitate career exploration, pathways planning, post-secondary
research and portfolio development.

Experiential programs available:
- Cooperative education
- College co-op
- University co-op
- Apprenticeships
- OYAP dual credits
- Specialist High Skills Major
- Community home build
- E-learning and blended learning

4.2 Elephant in the Room – introduction to a board wide anti-stigma campaign regarding mental health
L. Shoemaker introduced Amanda Warne, Mental Health Lead, and a graduate of our board.

A. Warne spoke about the mental health strategy (a three year plan) and the Elephant in the Room campaign.

What has been done thus far?
- Community Partners (Ray of Hope, Lutherwood, Front Door, Carizon, Interfaith Counselling, Waterloo
Regional Police, Public Health, Grand River Hospital, Cambridge Memorial Hospital, Mood Disorders
Association of Canada, Waterloo Region Suicide Prevention Council, CCAC - MHAN
- Protocols – prevention and postvention as well as reviewing protocols already in place i.e. Suicide Protocol
- Child and Youth services Planning Council
- How do we utilize student trustees
- Hospital programing
- Prevention programming
- Align with clinical pulse (Social Worker team)
- Anti-stigma

The Elephant in the Room Campaign is to address anti-stigma. The goal is for students to be able to go to staff who are really comfortable with the issue of mental health. The campaign will be presented to Administrators on Oct 15th.

4.3 Parent Reaching Out Grants
D. Haime reported this year we will be receiving 49 Parents Reaching Out Grants which is up from 19 grants last year. He congratulated the Parent Involvement Committee for the support they provided to school council to apply for these grants.

5. Ownership Linkage (Communication with the External Environment)

6. Actions From Board Committees/Task Forces
6.1 Rural West Waterloo ARC Motion – clarification – deferred to later in the meeting

7. Board Education (at the request of the Board)

8. Policy Discussion

9. Assurance of Successful Board Performance

10. Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance
10.1 Monitoring Reports & Vote on Compliance

10.2 Advice from the CEO
10.2.1 St. Louis C Enrolment
G. Clifford reported trustees requested information on enrolment numbers for the St. Louis programs in Cambridge. The Beverly street site was closed due to the condition of the building and programs were offered in the annex at St. Benedict, St. Paul Lutheran church in Galt and the Kitchener campus.

P. Cox provided a verbal report that numbers were similar to last year for the programs offered. Enrolment numbers will be provided to the trustees.

10.2.2 Beacons of Hope Recognition Program
M. Schmitt advised trustees supported the VIP recognition. He suggested renaming it “Beacons of Hope” as our mission statement is to educate and nurture hope in all learners. Students, parents, principals, parish priests and trustees would be invited to celebrate together by family of schools and St. Louis.

10.2.3 Diocesan Mass on October 1, 2015
M. Schmitt advised the Waterloo Catholic District School Board will host the Diocesan mass on October 1, 2015.

10.2.4 ‘The Year of the Consecrated Life’ from Advent 2014 – February 2, 2016
M. Schmitt said the Bishop announced it is the Year of Consecrated Life beginning in Advent. Further information will be provided as announced.

10.2.5 Dr. Bette Stephenson Recognition of Achievement Nov 19, 2014
M. Schmitt reported St. Mary’s High School was identified for their progress in student achievement by EQAO. He and M. da Silva have been invited to the recognition ceremony on November 19th. St. Mary’s staff will join with the other schools the following day in a learning forum.
10.2.6 Executive Council/Trustee Social
Trustees agreed to have a social with Executive Council on November 28th. M. da Silva will look at venues and report back to M. Schmitt and the trustees.

The meeting recessed at 7:08 pm
The meeting resumed at 7:13 pm

10.2.7 Rural West Waterloo ARC Motion – clarification
M. da Silva advised M. Schmitt asked for clarification on wording in the Rural West Waterloo ARC motion passed at the June board meeting. He advised parents also had questions. The motion will come back to the board meeting for clarification/revised wording and then communicated to the families. S. Maharaj will bring information relative to transportation for grandfathering students.

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 Meetings

13. Items for the Next Meeting Agenda/Pending Items

13.1 Items for the Next Meeting Agenda

13.2 Pending Items:


   The Recording Secretary confirmed the meeting decisions.

15. Motion to Adjourn

   2014-163-- It was moved by F. Johnson:
   THAT the meeting be now adjourned.
   The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:38 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Secretary