Committee of the Whole Meeting

A public meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held Monday, February 12, 2018 at Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre, Kitchener

Trustees Present:
Joyce Anderson, Bill Conway (Vice-Chair), Manuel da Silva, Amy Fee, *Jeanne Gravelle, *Wendy Price (Chair), Greg Reitzel, Brian Schmalz, Melanie Van Alphen
*via Skype

Student Trustees Present:
Kate Jamieson, Meghan Nemeth

Administrative Officials Present:
Loretta Notten, Gerry Clifford, Jason Connolly, John Klein, Shesh Maharaj, Judy Merkel, Richard Olson,

Special Resources For The Meeting:

Regrets:
Laura Shoemaker

Absent:

Recorder:
Alice Figueiredo, 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 Vice-chair called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials
The opening prayer was led by Student Trustee Nemeth.

1.2 Approval of Agenda

Move 8.1 before 6

2018-04 -- It was moved by Trustee da Silva and seconded by Trustee Fee:
THAT the agenda for Monday, February 12th, 2018 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 (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 January 15, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting

2018-05 -- It was moved by Trustee Reitzel seconded by Trustee Schmalz: THAT the Minutes of January 15, 2018 Committee of the Whole Meeting and the recommendations contained therein be now approved. --- Carried by consensus

4. Delegations

5. Advice From the CEO

5.1 Annual Report on Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region

Benoit Bourgault (General Manager, STSWR) presented the Annual Report on the Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region (STSWR). Mr. Bourgault discussed the key accomplishments and priorities of the past school year. Also discussed was the new pressures that STSWR has been facing including, managing a regional driver shortage, transience in bus drivers as they move between operators and to better paying jobs in other sectors, implementation of higher minimum wage and increased competition for drivers from neighbouring regions who have increased their driver’s wages.

Mr. Bourgault shared the new GPS technology which increased the accuracy of GPS tracking along with an alcohol detection for all school bus. The alcohol detection will be used as a safety precaution.

Special needs transportation continues to be a main objective as STSWR continues to review network for efficiency focusing on reducing ride time and reducing the use of taxis. In addition, talks continue in the Region to pursue the stop arm camera. Ottawa is currently under a pilot project and will share information once the process is complete.

5.2 Rate Increase – Bus Drivers

Shesh Maharaj (Executive Superintendent of Corporate Services) presented on the current status of bus driver shortage at WCDSB. Currently there are eight routes that do not have a permanent drivers and this creates disruption within our system as drivers are not familiar with routes or students. Wellington-Dufferin Student Transportation Services completed their competitive bidding process and has increased their minimum rate for their bus drivers at $17.50 per hour. Currently, bus drivers in Waterloo Region have a base rate of $14.50 per hour.

To help manage the issues being experienced in the Region, STSWR has engaged in discussions with bus operators. At this time, given the circumstances outlined above, a recommendation has been made that the minimum rate for drivers be increased to $17.50 per hour effective February 1, 2018 and to $18.00 per hour effective January 1, 2019. Based on budget projections within the transportation envelope as at February 1, 2018, this rate increase can be absorbed without affecting other services.

Information will be requested on a periodic basis from STSWR on driver attraction and retention and further updates will be brought to the Board of Trustees as required.

Dialogue took place between Trustees as perhaps this could be an issue that is brought forth to OCSTA to motion the Ministry.

5.3 Kindergarten Update

Julie Tonin (Early Learning, Literacy/Numeracy K-3) presented the Kindergarten update regarding the ongoing implementation of the Kindergarten program at the Waterloo Catholic District School Board. Ms. Tonin provided Trustees with WCDSB Kindergarten bags which will be presented to each student entering Kindergarten. Ms. Tonin requested the Trustees partner up and choose items to create a new game. This was an opportunity for the Trustees to play and have the same experience that a child would have. This exercise brought together the four frames of the Kindergarten program: Belonging and Contributing, Self Regulation and Well Being, Demonstrating Literacy and Mathematics Behaviours and Problem Solving and Innovating along with Global Competencies.
WCDSB is building supportive Community Partnerships with Region of Waterloo Public Health, Early Literacy Alliance of Waterloo, Region of Waterloo Community Services and lastly a newly launched imitative, Family Compass Waterloo Region.

Challenges were discussed including attraction and retention of ECE’s within our system. There is a continued need to have kindergarten planning time teacher voice in kindergarten learning sessions. We continue our partnership with Conestoga College, including an apprentice program for ECE’s.

5.4 Parent Engagement Update
Judy Merkel (Superintendent of Education) provided Board with an update on Parent Engagement and WCDSB continually focus on support partnerships between home and school to meet the various forms of parent engagement as presented in the Ontario Parent Engagement Policy by promoting and supporting:

- Catholic School Chairperson “Grassroots” knowledge and information sharing event
- Parent Reaching Grant applications, system and regional
- Celebration of our Catholic School Advisory Council Chairpersons through our WCDB annual commissioning ceremony.

The next steps include obtaining a list of various events that our Catholic School Councils have planned and sharing this information and WCDSB CPIC will obtain information from attendees at the “Grassroots” session to determine planning for the next meeting.

6. Ownership Linkage (Communication with the External Environment)
Trustees, in small groups, discussed items for Linkages and Pastoral Care

6.1 Linkages Activity
Currently there are 5 confirmed attendee for the Clergy dinner on March 1st (not including Trustees). Request that a reminder e-mail be sent immediately and Melanie will follow up with clergy via telephone. The flow of the night will start with a welcome, dinner and wrap up with a presentation from the Director regarding Home-Parish Relationships. Recommendation that the invitation be extended to our CPIC Chairs.

Invitation were sent to Audit Committee, CPIC and SEAC to attend a Committee of the Whole meeting. Currently SEAC and Audit have confirmed that they wish to attend on May 13th, 2018.

6.2 Pastoral Care Activity
Reminder that Soup Sisters will be taking place on February 27th, 2018.

Manuel is currently awaiting confirming from Our Lady of Fatima Church in Cambridge as a venue for Catholic Education Week.

The Student Trustees will be planning the escape room event; more details will be forthcoming.

7. Reports From Board Committees/Task Forces

8. Board Education (at the request of the Board)
8.1 OCSTA Communication

9. Policy Discussion

10. Assurance of Successful Board Performance

11. Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance
11.1 Monitoring Reports & Vote on Compliance
12. Potential Agenda Items

13. Announcements (all scheduled for the Catholic Education Centre unless otherwise indicated)

13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events (all scheduled for the Catholic Education Centre unless otherwise indicated):
- Feb 7: SEAC – cancelled due to inclement weather
- Feb 14: CPIC
- Feb 26: Board of Trustees
- Feb 27: Soup Sister
- Mar 1: Clergy Dinner

Director Notten read a thank you letter from Jim Erb for our participation in Rotary Club of Kitchener-Conestoga’s Turkey Drive and its success. Proceeds from the CEC Christmas lunch were donated to this cause.

14. Items for the Next Meeting Agenda/Pending Items

15. Adjournment – Confirm decisions made tonight. Closing Prayer
The Recording Secretary confirmed the meeting decisions.

16. Closing Prayer

17. Motion to Adjourn

2018-06-- It was moved by Trustee da Silva and seconded by Trustee Reitzel.
THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:57 p.m.

Vice-chair of the Board

Secretary