



## **Board of Trustees' Board Meeting**

A public meeting of the Board of Trustees was held on Monday, October 25, 2021, at Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre, Kitchener

**Trustees Present:**

Bill Conway, Manuel da Silva, Jeanne Gravelle, Shannon Nash, Wendy Price, Hans Roach (via Teams), Brian Schmalz, Melanie Van Alphen (Chair), Tracey Weiler

**Student Trustees Present:**

Sarah Simoes, Sarah Wilson

**Administrative Officials Present:**

Loretta Notten, Jason Connolly, Gerald Foran, John Klein, Shesh Maharaj, Judy Merkel, Jennifer Ritsma, Annalisa Varano

**Special Resources for The Meeting:**

**Regrets:**

**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 Chair of the Board called the meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

#### **1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials**

The meeting opened with prayer by Trustee da Silva.

#### **1.2 Territorial Acknowledgment**

The Territorial Acknowledgement was declared by Chair Van Alphen.

#### **1.3 Approval of Agenda**

Trustee Conway asked for clarification on whether 12.2 was for discussion or information. Chair Van Alphen confirmed it was for information and possible discussion.

**2021-132-- It was moved by Trustee da Silva seconded by Trustee Price:**

**THAT the agenda for Monday, October 25, 2021, be now approved. --- Carried by *consensus*.**

#### **1.4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

1.3.1 From the current meeting – NIL

1.3.2 From a previous public or in-camera meeting – NIL

## 1.5 Items for Action:

**2021-133-- It was moved by Trustee Conway and seconded by Trustee Gravelle:  
That the In-camera meeting of October 25, 2021, regarding Human Resource Matters be now approved.  
--- Carried by consensus**

## **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)**

#### **Approval of Minutes of Regular and Special Meetings**

3.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular and Special Meetings:

3.1.1 Sept. 27, 2021, Board of Trustee's Minutes

3.2 Sept. 8, 2021, SEAC Minutes

3.3 May 25, 2021, CPIC Minutes

3.4 June 16, 2021, Audit Minutes

3.5 Update on Trustee Budget

3.6 October 18, 2021, Governance Minutes

Chair Van Alphen requested approval of Governance Minutes from the Governance Committee.

**2021-134- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Schmalz:**

**THAT the Governance Minutes of October 18, 2021, be now approved.**

**--- Carried by consensus**

Chair Van Alphen requested approval of the Consent Agenda.

**2021-135- It was moved by Trustee Price and seconded by Trustee Weiler:**

**THAT the Consent Agenda Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein be now approved.**

**--- Carried by consensus**

## **4 Delegations**

### **5 Advice from the CEO**

#### **5.1 Director's Report**

Director Notten provided an update on events and meetings attending both locally and provincially for the month of October.

#### **5.2 Learning Commons Update**

Superintendent Maharaj introduced Shelley Wood, Library Support Services Supervisor. Ms. Wood shared a presentation on the Learning Commons Renovation Update throughout the Board. Trustees provide feedback and thanked Ms. Wood for a good news story.

#### **5.3 Secondary French Immersion Site Selection**

Superintendent Klein introduced the Secondary French Immersion Site Selection report and welcomed Jennifer Passy, Manager of Planning who presented to Trustees. Presentation included background and site selection data. Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

#### **5.4 Update on Major Construction Projects**

Superintendent Maharaj provided Trustees with construction updates to Huron Brigadoon and St. Agnes. Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

#### **5.5 Well-Being Plan**

Superintendent Merkel presented on the Mental Health Strategy and goals for each strategy including Healthy Schools, Safe & Inclusive Schools, Equity & Inclusive Education, Positive Mental Health and Spiritual Wellness. Trustee asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

## **5.6 Student Equity Advisory Committee Update**

Director Notten introduced Lynn Garrioch, Equity Officer who presented on the Student Equity Advisory Committee. Presentation included data, student engagement model and recommendations. Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

## **5.7 Update on School Re-Opening and WCDSB Pandemic Management Education Models**

Director Notten provided a summary of the School Re-Opening and WCDSB Pandemic Management Education Models. Trustees asked clarifying questions on Rapid Antigen Tests and expressed concerns with the Ministry's lack of support. Trustees discussed advocating to the Ministry on the importance of this tool and motioned for a letter.

**2021-136- It was moved by Trustee Price and seconded by Trustee Schmalz:**

**That the Board of Trustees direct the Chair of the Board to write the Ministry of Education to support the use of Antigen testing for Athletes of WCDSB born after 2009. --- Carried by consensus**

## **6. Board Education (at the request of the Board)**

### **7. Reports From Board Committees/Task Forces**

#### **7.1 Student Trustee Update**

Student Trustees' Simoes and Wilson provided an update on events in the school community along with Student Trustee Role update for the month of October.

## **8. Board Education (at the request of the Board)**

### **8.1 Chair's Update**

Chair Van Alphen provided an update on events and meetings attended during the month of October.

### **8.2 OCSTA/CCSTA Communications**

Trustees discussed OCSTA communications. Trustee Price commented on the excellent letter from Sudbury Catholic in support of unfreezing Executive Compensation and motioned for Trustees to write a letter to the Minister of Education advocating same.

**2021-137- It was moved by Trustee Price and seconded by Trustee da Silva:**

**That the board of trustees direct the chair to write a letter to the Ministry of Education to have them end the freeze on Executive Compensation so School Boards are able to negotiate with their senior teams.**

**--- Carried by consensus**

## **9 Policy Discussion**

### **9.1 Policy Review and Recommendations (Governance)**

Trustee Gravelle presented the report and recommendations from Governance. Trustees were also invited to review terms of reference and bylaws at upcoming Governance Committee meetings.

**2021-138- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee Conway:**

**That the Terms of Reference for Governance be updated to reflect the 2021-2022 school year.**

**--- Carried by consensus**

## **10 Assurance of Successful Board Performance**

### **10.1 Board Policy II 003 Board Job Description**

Trustee Weiler confirmed review of Board Policy II 003 Board Job Description and moved that the Board was complying.

**2021-139 -- It was moved by Trustee Weiler and seconded by Trustee da Silva:**

**THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy II 003 Board Job Description and find that the Board is in compliance. --- Carried by consensus**

It was confirmed that there was no need to review the above policy.

## **11 Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance**

## **12 Potential Agenda Items**

### **12.1 Broadcasting Board Meeting**

Trustee Conway brought forth a motion to discuss broadcasting of board meeting and presented recommendations. Trustee Weiler seconded the motion and the motion was opened for discussion. Trustees discussed concerns of privacy, retention policy and a pros and cons list of broadcasting live.

**2021-140 -- It was moved by Trustee Conway and seconded by Trustee Weiler:**

**That the board of trustees instructs the Director of Education to provide a report on broadcasting board meetings at the November 22, 2021 board meeting with the following information:**

- **Required infrastructure needed in the Board room to broadcast Board meeting**
- **Staff support needed to broadcast board meeting**
- **Yearly cost to the board for broadcasting Board meeting**
- **When broadcasting of board meeting could begin**
- **Policy for retaining the recording of Board meeting**
- **Staff recommendation to the Board of Trustees on the broadcasting of Board meetings**

**--- Carried by consensus**

### **12.2 Use of Respirators for School Staff**

Chair Van Alphen confirmed the motion being sought by Trustee Nash and Trustee Roach. Trustees to motion whether there is consensus to discuss the motion.

Trustee Conway noted that a motion to extend time was required.

**2021-141 -- It was moved by Trustee Conway and seconded by Trustee Schmalz:**

**That the meeting be extended by 9:00 p.m.**

**--- Carried by consensus**

Chair Van Alphen asked for a motion to open discussion with respect to the use of respirators for school staff.

**2021-142 -- It was moved by Trustee Nash and seconded by Trustee Roach (via email):**

**To open the discussion with respect to Use of Respirators for School Staff.**

**--- Carried by consensus**

Trustees requested Director Notten to comment on the Board's view. Director Notten confirmed that the Board relies on and takes direction from experts, evidence and mandates from the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health. Noted that if superior respirators were to be provided by the Board, it would be an additional cost which is not currently funded. Also, it would be an additional burden on school administrators to ensure that the PPE is appropriate and worn correctly. PPE requires training when being provided to staff and if worn incorrectly could be ineffective. Director Notten confirmed that there is an accommodation process in place for such requests and that current data, as well as current trends suggest that health measures in place are keeping staff and students safe.

Trustees noted that staff have not approached them with this issue but noted activity on social media. Teachers have come forward to Trustees to discuss concerns with quad-mester in secondary. Trustees discussed option to allow staff to provide superior masks at their own cost. Trustees agreed that this was a board operational issue and not a Board decision. Chair Van Alpen read the first motion being sought, which was moved by Trustee Nash and seconded by Trustee Roach.

**2021-143 -- It was moved by Trustee Nash and seconded by Trustee Roach:**

**A. That education staff be permitted to obtain their own superior respirator (greater than level 2, e.g. N95, KN95, CAN99) selected from a pre-approved list informed by Health Canada. If this option is taken by staff and a respirator requires fitting, they must follow application and removal guidelines stipulated by the Canadian Centre for Occupational Health and Safety (CCOHS). Education staff who elect to wear the Ministry-provided medical masks will continue to have masks provided to them.**

Carried by majority with 7 in favour, 1 opposed, 1 abstained

Chair Van Alphen read the second motion being sought:

*That the WCDSB of Trustees directs the Chair of the Board to write a letter to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Labour requesting that the Minister provide and fund Health Canada approved respirators for COVID protection for daily PPE use to all education staff.*

Motion defeated.

**13 Announcements**

**13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events**

Trustees discussed upcoming events.

**13.2 Pending Items: N/A**

**13.3 Pending Items for OCSTA Consideration: N/A**

**14 Items for the Next Meeting Agenda**

Trustees discussed upcoming items.

**15 Adjournment – Confirm decisions made tonight.**

15.1 The Recording Secretary confirmed the meeting decisions.

**16 Closing Prayer**

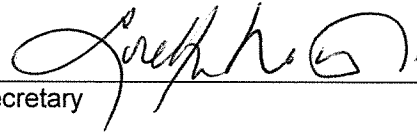
**17 Motion to Adjourn**

2021-144-- It was moved by Trustee da Silva and seconded by Trustee Gravelle:

THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:45 p.m.



Chair of the Board



Secretary