



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

A public meeting of the Board of Trustees was held Monday, November 22, 2021, at Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre, Kitchener

**Trustees Present:**

Bill Conway, Manuel da Silva, Jeanne Gravelle, Shannon Nash, Wendy Price, Hans Roach, 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.

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### **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 meeting opened with prayer by Monsignor Doyle CSS students and Chaplain, Janet Goncz.

#### **1.2 Territorial Acknowledgment**

The Territorial Acknowledgement was declared by Monsignor Doyle CSS students.

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

**2021-145-- It was moved by Trustee Schmalz seconded by Trustee Conway:**

**THAT the agenda for Monday, November 22, 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:

2021-146-- It was moved by Trustee da Silva and seconded by Trustee Price:

That the Motion from November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Committee of the Whole meeting be now approved as follows:

2021-32 -- It was moved by Trustee da Silva and seconded by Trustee Nash:

That Chair and Director investigate a professional development session on governance for the Board of Trustees. --- Carried by consensus

--- 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:

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3.1.1 October 25, 2021, Board of Trustee's Minutes

3.2 SEAC Minutes – October 6, 2021

3.3 Audit Committee Minutes – September 29, 2021

3.4 Approval of 2020-2021 Financial Statements

Chair Van Alphen reviewed consent agenda and noted amendments to the Minutes of October 25, 2021, to reflect motions. Page 7 sentence "Trustees did not reach consensus; motion went to vote, and 6 Trustees were in favour and 3 trustees opposed" to be replaced with "Carried by majority with 7 in favour, 1 opposed, 1 abstained". Page 8 sentence "Trustee Nash in favour, Trustee Roach was not able to respond, and the remaining Trustees opposed the motion. The motion was defeated" will be replaced with "motion defeated".

2021-147- It was moved by Trustee Gravelle and seconded by Trustee Weiler:

THAT the Consent Agenda Board of Trustees and the recommendations, contained therein, as amended, 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 attended both locally and provincially for the month of November.

Trustee Nash requested information on feedback received from teachers/staff and what steps the Board has taken to obtain feedback. Director Notten confirmed that OECTA did distribute a survey to their members and noted that not all responses were positive in tone. In response to the survey Director Notten set up meeting with secondary staff to talk about concerns and has been visiting elementary schools, which she noted were more positive. Trustee Nash asked the Board to investigate methods that staff can submit feedback, questions, and ideas to senior staff, which could be anonymous. Director Notten noted that she will take under advisement.

#### 5.2 ESL

Superintendent Klein introduced Carrie Mage and Barbara McCourt, Student Achievement Consultants for Multilingual Learners who presented to the Board of Trustees. The presentation provided an overview of current data and trends regarding ESL/ELD programs and services. Binogi program was also introduced.

Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

### **5.3 Special Education Update**

Superintendent Foran along with Erin Lemak Principal of Student Services & Education and Tee Battistella, Senior Manager of Special Education provided the Board of Trustees with a detailed report focused on the far-reaching work of the following key staff teams:

- Certified Behaviour Analysts (BCBAs)
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA) Facilitators
- Communicative Disorders Assistants (CDA)
- Speech-Language Pathologists (SLP)
- Psychoeducational Consultants
- Vision Services Team
- Special Education Teachers
- Special Education Liaisons
- Educational Assistants
- Assistive Technology Resource Teacher

Guided by the WCDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan, the specific goals of these teams are:

1. Provide Equitable Access to Learning Opportunities
2. Improve Secondary Literacy Achievement
3. Improve Numeracy Achievement

Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

### **5.4 Well Being – Mental Health Update**

Superintendent Merkel along with Erin Schreiter, Lead Social Worker and Andrea Snyder, Mental Health Lead provided Trustees with a presentation on the Mental Health Update. Items presented include key activities for the Mental Health Lead for 2020-2021, 3 Year Mental Health & Wellbeing Strategy, resources, and School Mental Health Action Plan.

Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

### **5.5 SRO Update**

Superintendent Merkel provided Board of Trustees with an interim staff report on the status of actions taken to date with respect to the School Resource Officer Program. Next steps in the process include:

- WCDSB is in the process of developing structures to track suspension and Violent Threat Risk Assessment data as it relates to racialized students.
- The Waterloo Regional Police Service has committed to having all 14 Community Engagement and Wellbeing Branch officers trained in the Violent Threat Risk Assessment program by spring 2022.
- Meetings with the Waterloo Regional Police Service will continue over the next 8 weeks (about 2 months) as we solidify our program and delivery support model. The student census data set will be used to determine any required focus for action at a board and program design level.
- Senior team members as well as our Chief Social Worker, Mental Health Lead, and school social workers will be attaining a formal certification on Combatting Anti-Black Racism through York University. WRPS Officers will also be invited to participate in this certification.
- Administrators will be introduced to the "Check Your Bias" checklist which will challenge all to consider how they are working through progressive discipline issues.

Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

### **5.6 Broadcasting Board Meeting**

Director Notten summarized the Broadcasting Board Meetings Report and provided background information including staffing, costs, pros and cons of broadcasting live meetings.

Trustees had round table discussion. Discussion included whether broadcasting live without recording is a possibility, retention of video, whether it creates a record, privacy concerns, inclusivity of reaching out to more community members, taking statements out of context, positive of use infrastructure and making technology available to all.

Suggestion included using video recap to summarize meetings instead of broadcasting live meeting. Trustees also discussed concerns of individuals who may not engage in conversation with live broadcasting and on other hand it could encourage individuals to be more vocal in front of the camera.

Trustee Conway put forth a motion to the Board:

That the board of trustees instructs the Director of Education to proceed with purchasing the necessary equipment and assign necessary staff to broadcast committee of whole, regular and special board meetings beginning with the March 28, 2022 board meeting and continuing onwards.

Trustee Weiler seconded the motion, and it was opened for discussion. Trustees felt they required clarification on whether the Board can broadcast live without recording and whether broadcasting live creates a record that needs to be managed. The Director of Education will follow up with our Privacy officer and provide a response at the December 13<sup>th</sup>, 2021 Board meeting.

### **5.7 Update on WCDSB Pandemic Management**

Director Notten provided an update on WCDSB Pandemic Management. Update included information on vaccination and staff testing, vaccination for students age 5-11, case management, masking, PCR and Rapid Antigen Tests, sports and ventilation.

Trustees asked clarifying questions on Rapid Test rollout for Christmas break, Secondary School returning to four semesters vs. two semesters. Trustee Weiler pointed out that many students who started high school may feel anxious about four courses and asked whether the Board will help transition students. Director Notten noted it was an excellent point and the Board will be mindful.

Director Notten offered Trustee Nash clarification on how the Board developed its shortlist of alternative masks and noted that employees have not come forward to date to seek accommodation for a superior mask.

## **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 November.

## **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 November and confirmed that this will be her last meeting as Chair of the Board.

Trustee Schmalz noted point of order, and motioned to extend the meeting past 9:00 p.m.

**2021-148- It was moved by Trustee Schmalz and seconded by Trustee da Silva:  
THAT the Board meeting be extended past 9:00 pm. --- Carried by consensus**

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

Trustees discussed OCSTA communications.

## **9 Policy Discussion**

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

#### **10.1 Board Policy II 004 Advocacy and Advertising**

Trustee Schmalz confirmed review of Board Policy II 004 Advocacy and Advertising and moved that the Board was complying.

2021-149 -- It was moved by Trustee Schmalz and seconded by Trustee Price:  
THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy II 004 Advocacy and Advertising and find that the Board is in compliance. --- Carried by consensus

### 11 Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance

### 12 Potential Agenda Items

12.1 Request the Ministry of Education to amend the Education Act to give Student Trustees the right to Move and Second Motions

Chair Van Alphen noted the attached Notion of Motion was for information this evening and it will return to the agenda on December 13th for discussion.

### 13 Announcements

#### 13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events

Chair Van Alphen confirmed that the Governance training will take place on January 13 instead of January 11<sup>th</sup>.

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.

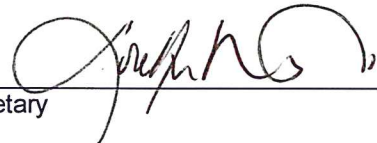
### 16 Closing Prayer

### 17 Motion to Adjourn

2021-150-- It was moved by Trustee da Silva and seconded by Trustee Nash:  
THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:05 p.m.



Chair of the Board



Secretary