### Committee of the Whole Meeting

**Date:** Monday, January 8, 2024.

**Time:** 6:00 p.m. to follow Special Board meeting

*Committee of the Whole In Camera, if necessary, will precede or follow the Board Meeting, as appropriate.*

**Location:** 1st floor Board Room, Catholic Education Centre, 35 Weber Street, Kitchener

#### Attendees:
- **Board of Trustees:** Linda Cuff (Vice-chair), Kathy Doherty-Masters, Winston Francis, David Guerin, Renee Kraft, Marisa Phillips, Robert Sikora (Chair), Conrad Stanley, Tracey Weiler
- **Student Representatives:** Bryanna Donoghue, Xavier Petrie
- **Senior Administration:** Tyrone Dowling, Gerald Foran, Shesh Maharaj, Paul Mendonça, Judy Merkel, Kerry Pomfret, Jennifer Ritsma, Annalisa Varano
- **Special Resource:** Recording Secretary: Stephanie Medeiros, Executive Administrative Assistant

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**2. Consent Agenda: Director of Education**

(e.g.: operational matters from the Ministry of Education that the Board is required to do; update on the system)
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**CLOSING PRAYER**

O Risen Lord, you have entrusted us with the responsibility to help form a new generation of disciples and apostles through the gift of our Catholic schools.

As disciples of Christ, may we educate and nurture hope in all learners to realize their full potential to transform God’s world.

May our Catholic schools truly be at the heart of the community, fostering success for each by providing a place for all.

May we and all whom we lead be discerning believers formed in the Catholic faith community; effective communicators; reflective and creative thinkers; self-directed, responsible, life-long learners; collaborative contributors; caring family members; and responsible citizens.

Grant us the wisdom of your Spirit so that we might always be faithful to our responsibilities. We make this prayer through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Rev. Charlie Fedy, CR and the Board of Trustees, 2010
Minutes

Committee of the Whole Meeting

A public meeting of the Committee of the Whole was held Monday, November 13, 2023, 1st floor Board Room, Catholic Education Centre, 35 Weber Street, Kitchener.

Trustees Present:
Linda Cuff, Kathy Doherty-Masters (Vice-chair), Winston Francis, David Guerin, Renee Kraft, Marisa Phillips, Robert Sikora, Conrad Stanley, Tracey Weiler (Chair)

Student Trustees Present:
Bryanna Donoghue, Xavier Petrie

Administrative Officials Present:
Tyrone Dowling, Gerald Foran, Shesh Maharaj, Paul Mendonca, Judy Merkel, Kerry Pomfret, Jennifer Ritsma, Annalisa Varano

Special Resources For The Meeting:

Regrets:

Absent:

Recorder:
Stephanie Medeiros, Executive Administrative Assistant

NOTE ON VOTING: Under Board by-law 4.7 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 4.11 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 6:07 p.m.

1.1 Opening Prayer & Memorials
Trustee Guerin led prayer.

1.2 Territorial Acknowledgement
Territorial Acknowledgment declared by Chair Weiler.

1.3 Approval of Agenda
Chair Weiler motioned for approval of the agenda with the following amendments:
- Amendment to add 8.3 Trustee Workplan - November and December review.

2023-22 -- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Cuff: THAT the agenda for Monday, November 13, 2023, be now approved, as amended, --- Carried by consensus.

1.4 Declaration of Pecuniary Interest
1.4.1 From the current meeting
1.4.2 From a previous public or in-camera meeting – NIL
Consent Agenda: Director of Education (e.g., day-to-day operational matters from the Ministry of Equity, Diversity and Inclusion)

3 Consent Agenda: Board of Trustees (Minutes of meetings)

3.1 Approval of Minutes of Regular and Special Meetings
3.1.1 Committee of the Whole Minutes – October 2, 2023
Chair Weiler motioned for approval of the consent agenda.
- Amendments remove Julie Molenaar from attendees.

2023-23 -- It was moved by Trustee Doherty-Masters and seconded by Trustee Phillips: THAT the Consent Agenda of Board of Trustees and the recommendations contained therein be now approved. --- Carried by consensus.

4 Delegations

5 Advice From the CEO

5.1 STSWR Annual Update
Superintendent Maharaj introduced Benoit Bourgault, General Manager of Student Transportation Services of Waterloo Region to present the STSWR Annual Update. Mr. Bourgault reviewed safety initiatives, compliance and performance commitments and steps to improve safety. Superintendent Maharaj introduced Leslie Maxwell, School Travel Planning Supervisor at STSWR to present the School Travel Planning Update. Ms. Maxwell reviewed the school participation in school travel programs such as bussing, walking, and biking to school as well as highlighted financials, goals and achievements reached. Chair Weiler opened the floor for questions. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.2 EQAO
Superintendent Varano introduced Petra LeDuc, Board Math Lead, and Student Achievement Consultants, Kim DeGasperis, Sarah Gonzalez-Day, Amy Heely to present the EQAO report. They reviewed the results of the 2022-2023 assessment of reading, writing, and mathematics statistics in grades 3, 6 and 9 while highlighting the breakdown of levels achieved. The Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) results from 2022-2023 were reviewed as well as next steps. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

5.3 Math Action Plan (Math Lead Update)

5.4 French Immersion Update
Superintendent Maharaj presented the French Immersion Update. Suggestion request to delay French Immersion program at St. Josephine Bakhita school due to staffing shortages and accommodation challenges. Approval will be brought back into the consent agenda at the November 27th Board of Trustees meeting. St. Anne Kitchener is actively offering French Immersion. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

6. Ownership Linkage (Communication with the External Environment)
Chair Weiler made suggestion to defer items 6.1 Linkages Activity and 6.2 Pastoral Care Activity to the next Committee of Whole Board meeting with respect to time and move on to item 8.2. Committee Chairs to share updates with Trustees via email.

6.1 Linkages Activity – Deferred to January 8, 2024

6.2 Pastoral Care Activity – Deferred to January 8, 2024

7. Reports From Board Committees/Task Forces

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

8.1 OCSTA/CCSTA Communications
Chair Weiler briefly discussed OCSTA/CCSTA Communications
8.2 OCSTA Presentation – Bill 98
Chair Weiler introduced presenters Patrick Daly, President, and Nick Milanetti, Executive Director, of OCSTA to present roles and responsibilities of a Trustee and Bill 98 highlighting guiding principles. Stephanie to send out OCSTA presentation to Trustees. Chair Weiler opened the floor for questions. Trustees asked clarifying questions.

Chair Weiler made a motion to extend the meeting passed approximately 9:10 p.m.

2023-24 -- It was moved by Trustee Phillips and seconded by Trustee Sikora:
THAT the meeting of Monday, November 13th, 2023, be extended passed 9:00 p.m.
-- Carried by Consensus

8.3 Trustee Work Plan – November and December review
Chair Weiler advised that Trustees review the events forthcoming in November and December in the Trustee Work Plan.

9. Policy Discussion

10. Assurance of Successful Board Performance

11. Assurance of Successful Director of Education Performance

12. Potential Agenda Items

13. Announcements (all scheduled for the Catholic Education Centre unless otherwise indicated)
13.1 Upcoming Meetings/Events
Trustees discussed upcoming events.

14. Items for the Next Meeting Agenda/Pending Items
Trustees discussed upcoming items on agenda.

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

16. Closing Prayer

17. Motion to Adjourn

2023-25 -- It was moved by Trustee Kraft and seconded by Trustee Guerin:
THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 9:06 p.m.

Chair of the Board

Secretary
Date: January 8, 2024
To: Board of Trustees
From: Director of Education
Subject: International Education Update

Type of Report: ☐ Decision-Making
☐ Monitoring
☒ Incidental Information concerning day-to-day operations

Type of Information: ☐ Information for Board of Trustees Decision-Making
☐ Monitoring Information of Board Policy XX XXX
☒ Information only of day-to-day operational matters delegated to the CEO

Origin: (cite Education Act and/or Board Policy or other legislation)
Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGE, 2011): [Institute for Catholic Education]

Policy Statement and/or Education Act/other Legislation citation:

Alignment to the MYSP:

☐ Awaken to Belong
☒ Every student can see themselves reflected in their learning.
☒ Staff experiences a positive, healthy, and inclusive workplace.
☐ Are aware of and/or use the available resources to assist in navigation of the school system.

☐ Ignite to Believe
☒ Every student experiences the Ontario Catholic School Graduate Expectations (OCSGEs) and the WCDSB pastoral plan within their learning environments.
☒ Staff are welcomed and invited to continue to be a partner in their adult faith formation journey.
☐ The relationship between home, parish and school is strengthened.

☐ Strengthen to Become
☒ Every student reaches their full potential.
☒ Staff see their impact on student achievement.
☐ Are engaged as active partners in our students' Catholic education journey.
Background/Comments:

Waterloo Catholic District School Board has been operating an International Education Program for more than 15 years. Since 2015 the program has been guided by “Ontario’s Strategy for K-12 International Education, 2015” (OS K-12, 2015).


“Ontario’s Strategy for K–12 International Education will expand and enrich the learning environment for all students and educators, providing opportunities to embrace diversity and achieve excellence through learning about and from other cultures and education systems.

The benefits of this strategy extend beyond the classroom and into our communities, building social, cultural, and economic opportunities now and for the future. Students studying in Ontario contribute over $4 billion to our economy each year and generate over 30,000 jobs.” (OS K-12, p. 1)

This document is a blueprint for WCDSB’s International Education Strategy facilitated jointly through the Research Development Office (RDO) and International Education Services of the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB). The RDO and International Education Services are a revenue generating, self-funding branch of the WCDSB. The revenue generated through International Programs fully covers the cost of all operations and international related programs, in addition to funding other resources within the board, and supporting our local economy through a growing homestay network and engaging many local businesses in our programs.

More importantly as a Catholic School

The Four Goals of Ontario’s Strategy for K-12 International Education are:

1. Future-oriented learning for Ontario students
2. High-quality programs and services for K-12 international students studying in Ontario
3. Opportunities for sharing and developing Ontario education expertise
4. Pathways to postsecondary education, work, and living in Ontario

More importantly, our Catholic Schools serve as a welcoming community for our international students, who bring a diverse range of cultures. As a Catholic faith community, our classrooms serve as a safe space for open and respectful rich discussions around our diverse cultures, which deepen to the faith formation of our students and support the realization of our Catholic Graduate Expectations. Through these international experiences, we are better preparing our students to put their faith in action on a global scale with a better understanding of the world they live in.

1. Future-oriented learning for Ontario students

The international strategy looks to provide increased opportunities for students to develop global competencies through international experiences both locally and through international travel. These are facilitated through a range of strategies.

International Certificate Program

- Through the International Certificate Program high school students become informed, engaged, and active global citizens, by putting into practice the Catholic social justice teachings including peace, justice and equity for all.
- Students in any grade may join and earn the certificate by completing three components, plus a final summative Portfolio and presentation. Components include:
  - Studying an International Language
  - Taking Internationally focused courses
  - Demonstrating an understanding of global issues to further transform the world
  - Participating in internationally focused projects of their choice
  - Developing global competencies and citizenship
- https://international.wcdsb.ca/programs/international-certificate-program/
• Supported by an International Certificate Advisor who oversees the program and works to build connections by facilitating shared experiences between our local students and our international students both full-time and short-term.

Global Leadership Programs
• A packaging of courses in the Humanities, Social Sciences and Business Studies with a global context designed to develop transferable academic and practical skills for post-secondary preparation, study in the Humanities, and potential careers in Public Policy, Social Services and International Governance.
• [https://international.wcdsb.ca/our-programs/global-leadership-program/](https://international.wcdsb.ca/our-programs/global-leadership-program/)

International Exchange Opportunities
• Intercultural competence, including intercultural awareness and understanding key aspects of global citizenship are part of the revised international languages curriculum. International exchange opportunities provide an immersive experience in other cultures.
  - Spanish Exchange
    o Offered every year to students in Grade 8.
    o Facilitated by Ken’s Education, Spanish agency, based in Teruel and Zaragoza, Spain.
    o WCDSB students host a Spanish student for 5 weeks in September-October, and then have an immersive experience in Spain for approximately 4 weeks with their Spanish partner in February-March.
  - Japan Exchange
    o Offered every other year to Highschool students.
    o In partnership with Yamate Gakuin High School in Yokohama, Japan.
    o WCDSB students host two Japanese students for 2 weeks in April and then have an immersive experience in a Japanese partnered with another WCDSB.

Model United Nations League
• Four Model UN league events throughout the year involving our 5 high schools.
• Hosted at St. Jerome’s University.
• First event of the year had approximately 175 students participating from our 5 high schools.
• International event in May hosted at St. Jerome’s University involving our students and open to teams from other countries – May 2023 hosted Colegio Marymount from Bogota, Colombia.
• [https://international.wcdsb.ca/our-programs/international-model-un-event/](https://international.wcdsb.ca/our-programs/international-model-un-event/)
• First ever WCDSB International Team will be participating in a Model UN event at Colegio Marymount in February 2024 – 9 day Model UN event plus cultural experiences.
• [https://marymountbogota.edu.co/actividades/modelo-de-naciones-unidas-mun/](https://marymountbogota.edu.co/actividades/modelo-de-naciones-unidas-mun/)
• Goal to send two teams abroad annually to represent WCDSB in international events.

Medellin Challenge
• International collaboration of students analyzing real challenges in communities of a developing city, and empowering youth to cocreate and prototype sustainable solutions for a better future in a global ecosystem.
• Hosted by Colegio San Jose de Las Vegas, Medellin, Colombia.
• [https://www.sanjosevegas.edu.co/medchallenge/](https://www.sanjosevegas.edu.co/medchallenge/)
• Teams of 3 students and a teacher coach participating from St. Mary’s High School and St. David Catholic Secondary School.
• Virtual collaboration January to April culminating in on-site prototyping of solutions April 14 to 18 in Medellin.

2. High-quality programs and services for K-12 international students studying in Ontario

“The strategy recognizes that intercultural diversity is not achieved automatically through the enrolment and presence of international students but requires a commitment on the part of boards and schools to promote successful integration. Academic, cultural, and social supports are necessary to ensure that international students have a safe, welcoming environment in which to live and study.” (OS K-12, p. 11)
Full-Time International Students

- WCDSB welcomes individual international students both elementary and secondary coming for the purpose of:
  - studying multiple years with the goal of earning an Ontario diploma
  - a cultural and English language immersion experience for a full-year, semester or partial semester
  - Current projected full-time student enrolment 205 students – 165 Secondary – 40 Elementary

- Supported by a 5-day orientation program for students beginning their studies in September and a 3-day orientation for those beginning studies in February.

- Monthly weekend social and cultural experiences facilitated by the International Education Services department which integrate our international students with local students in our International Certificate Program
  - Excursions – Wonderland, Niagara Falls, Toronto
  - Local fun nights – Kitchener Rangers game, Bowling, tubing
  - Volunteer – Senior’s Friday Night Fish Fry, Tree planting

- Secondary international students supported by our in-school support team comprised of the International Certificate Advisor, a dedicated International Guidance Counselor, in-school ESL Team, Administrator with the international portfolio.

Short-Term International Programs

- WCDSB offers a diverse range of short-term programming for both elementary and secondary international students. These programs typically range from 2 to 8 weeks in length and are offered from September through July. These students bring a unique cultural diversity to our classrooms while contributing significantly to the revenues of the board.

- Short-Term Program Enrolment for 2022-2023 exceeded 650 students across all programs. Our primary source market was Colombia followed by Japan, China and then Korea.

- Homestay Immersion Program is offered September through to April. In addition to a classroom immersion experience, this program typically includes two facilitated weeknight activities and a weekend excursion per week. These are school groups, typically supported by one teacher chaperone from their homeschool for every 10 students participating.

- Spring Residential Program is offered through May into the first week of June. Typically 4-week programs for elementary school groups hosted at vacant university residences affiliated with the University of Waterloo. Students are bussed from the residences to our schools each day for a classroom immersion experience. All school groups are supported by teacher chaperones from their homeschool as well as International Ambassadors facilitating evening activities and weekend excursions. This program includes two weeknight activities outside of the residence as well as one weekend excursion per week.

- Summer STEAM Camp is a 4-week program offered in the month of July. The program is facilitated at Ron Edit Village residences on the University of Waterloo Campus. The planned program for July 2024 will include four classroom foci including Robotics, Microbits Coding, Makerspace Design Challenges and a Thinking Classroom focus. Students have 3 STEAM Instructional days per week and 3 full-day excursions per week.

- Summer ESL Camp is typically a 2-week program with a mix of instructional days, local excursions and full-day excursions to Niagara Falls, Canada’s Wonderland and Toronto exhibits.

- Exploring Engineering Summer Credit Course is a reach ahead summer credit opportunity for our domestic grade 8 students entering grade 9 which is also supported by international enrolments. The financial contributions of international enrolments in this program are making it financially viable as a summer register program while providing an amazing introduction to the Engineering Certificate Program outlined in below in section 4.

- Exploring Engineering Summer Credit Course Video

3. Opportunities for sharing and developing Ontario education expertise

“Experiential learning is not limited to students; Ontario educators also benefit from opportunities to travel and work abroad, and return with valuable new perspectives and strategies and a wider understanding of global issues to share with students and staff. They also gain insights into the lives of their international students in their...
home countries, and the kinds of social and cultural challenges they may face as they adjust to life and school in Ontario. These activities can give rise to new international academic partnerships, projects, and research initiatives. They can also lead to increased collaboration between educational and research institutes in Canada and abroad, at the K–12 and postsecondary levels.” (OS K-12, p. 12)

In addition to our educator involvement through our short-term programs and immersion experiences, as well as International Model UN and Medellin Challenge, the WCDSB offers a range of international opportunities for our educators:

- **China Teacher ESL Summer Camp** is a 18-day teaching and cultural experience fully funded by our partner, the Shijiazhuang Foreign Language School. This program welcomes approximately 30 educators from our district each year to provide a morning of ESL learning through English, STEM and Physical Education classes. The afternoons and weekends are dedicated to providing teachers with cultural experiences, including tours of exhibits and landmarks such as the Great Wall and the Forbidden City.

- Our summer experience in China for teachers and the related Professional Development offered, are fully funded by our partner in China, including air-fare, meals, accommodations and a wide range of cultural experiences as compensation for the services provided by our teachers.

- **Thinking Classroom Professional Development** is being offered to key international partner schools in Colombia and China. The professional development opportunities we share with our partner schools in Colombia, in addition to addressing Goal #3, also serves as a powerful marketing strategy that deepens the relationships with our existing partners and has significantly strengthened our brand in attracting new partners as we differentiate our programs and services from other districts.

We continually seek to build new meaningful relationships with partners from other regions of the world that align with our Mission and Vision. This past year we have expanded out partnerships as follows:

- We have initiated a relationship with the network of ACOIDESI, Jesuit Schools in Colombia, to explore opportunities for student exchange and pedagogical development.

- We are in the process of developing an MOU with the Suwon Diocese of Korea to explore different opportunities for collaboration. The Suwon Diocese operates the Korean parish in Waterloo Region which celebrates Sunday Mass at 5 p.m. out of St. Anthony Daniel Church. This will also include working with Catholic Schools in Korea. Our International program hosts more than 30 Korean full-time students annually in our schools in addition to short-term groups, the vast majority of which are Catholic.

These international opportunities for our teachers are also excellent growth opportunities from a cultural, pedagogical and leadership development perspective. We always come away with new learning that enriches and informs our practice.

## 4. Pathways to postsecondary education, work, and living in Ontario

“To meet the challenge of increasing global competition in the field of international education, Ontario requires an integrated, coordinated strategy to link the entire continuum of learning, from K–12 schooling, to postsecondary education and training, to living and working in Ontario.”

Provinces like British Colombia have developed a strong and coherent international brand, achieving exactly the above stated objective. While the provincial government has done little to move this goal forward. At a district level, we have taken concrete steps to develop an international brand that offers concrete pathways to post-secondary education opportunities. While the work we have done around branding specialty programs, has been to increase the marketability of these programs internationally, it has also served to provide greater exposure and clarity for these highly valued pathways to our local students.

These specialty programs include:

- The **Engineering Certificate Program** at St. Benedict Catholic Secondary School. This program is designed to enhance the learning experiences for students on an Engineering or Mechanically related pathway. In addition to the required Mathematics and Science courses, students are required to take 4 Technology
courses as well as log 200 experiential hours on the Electric Car Team or First Robotics Team. Through these applied experiences, students deepen their learning and are better prepared for success in any of these related pathways.

- https://international.wcdsb.ca/our-programs/engineering-certificate-program/
- Engineering Certificate Program Video
- Global Leadership Program described earlier, is another specialty program designed as a University preparation type program, developed and being marketed internationally that is benefiting our domestic students.

International Education Services of WCDSB continues to explore ways enrich the learning experiences of our international and domestic students as well as those of our educators, within a safe, caring and nurturing environment.

Recommendation:
This is for the information of the Board.

Prepared/Reviewed By: Tyrone Dowling
Director of Education

Dan Witt
Senior Manager, RDO & International Education Services

*4.2 DIRECTOR Monitoring Reports: Where the Board receives from the CEO a monitoring report that flows from a responsibility delegated to the Director under Board Policy – except where approval is required by the Board on a matter delegated by policy to the Board – the minutes of the Meeting at which the Report is received shall expressly provide that the Board has received and approved of the Report as an action consistent with the authority delegated to the CEO, subject in all instances to what otherwise actually occurred.