



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

A public meeting of the Board of Trustees was held Monday, December 13, 2021, at Waterloo Region Catholic Education Centre, Kitchener

### **Trustees Present:**

Bill Conway, Manuel da Silva, Jeanne Gravelle (Chair), Shannon Nash, Wendy Price, Hans Roach, Brian Schmalz, Melanie Van Alphen, 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 6:06 p.m.

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

The meeting opened with prayer by Resurrection CSS students.

### **1.2 Territorial Acknowledgment**

The Territorial Acknowledgment was declared by Resurrection CSS students.

### **1.3 Approval of Agenda**

**2021-155-- It was moved by Trustee Price seconded by Trustee Weiler:**

**THAT the agenda for Monday, December 13, 2021, be now approved. --- Carried by *consensus*.**

Trustee Conway requested clarification on whether 12.1 was for information or discussion. It was confirmed that it was for information at the time the information was provided.

### **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: N/A**

## **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**

- 3.1.1 November 22nd, 2021, Board of Trustee's Minutes
- 3.1.2 December 6, 2021, Inaugural Board of Trustee's Minutes
- 3.2 SEAC Minutes of November 3, 2021
- 3.3 CPIC Minutes of September 28, 2021

**2021-156- It was moved by Trustee Conway and seconded by Trustee da Silva:  
THAT the Consent Agenda Board of Trustees and the recommendations, contained therein, be now approved. ---  
Carried by consensus**

Trustee Weiler requested point of clarification in the SEAC minutes with respect to the OCSTA resolution. It was clarified that SEAC will be writing a letter to advocate for funding, once the letter is received by Trustees, that can be reviewed and discussed.

## **4 Delegations**

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

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

Director Notten provided an update on various meetings and events attended locally and provincially.

#### **5.2 Well-Being Plan – Equity Action Plan**

Superintendent Ritsma, Jennifer Staats, K-12 Indigenous and Equity Consultant and Lynn Garrioch Equity Officer provided Trustees with an update on the Equity Action Plan. The Equity teams was introduced, key performance indicators, alignment to MYSP, school and classroom data and ongoing work were discussed.

Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

#### **5.3 Revised Estimates – Impacts on Approved Budget**

Superintendent Maharaj provided Trustees with an update on revised estimates.

#### **5.4 Annual Report on Accumulated Surpluses**

Superintendent Maharaj presented the annual report on accumulated surpluses to Trustees with recommendation for approval.

Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

**2021-157- It was moved by Trustee Price and seconded by Trustee Conway:  
That the CEO be given permission to use up to \$343,389 from the WSIB surplus to service  
WSIB related costs.  
--- Carried by consensus**

**2021-158- It was moved by Trustee da Silva and seconded by Trustee Roach:  
That the CEO be given permission to use up to \$241,870 from the Student Support Fund  
surplus to offset related costs.**

**--- Carried by consensus**

### **5.5 Broadcasting Update**

In response to the motion of October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Director Notten provided a detailed report on the required infrastructure, personnel and training and support process with respect to broadcasting Board meetings. Round table discussion took place amongst Trustees. Pros and cons were discussed and debated. Chair Gravelle read the motion being sought for approval "*That the board of trustees instructs the Director of Education to proceed with purchasing the necessary equipment and assign necessary staff to broadcast live only committee of whole, regular and special board meetings beginning with the March 28, 2022 board meeting and continuing onwards*". Chair Gravelle requested a mover and seconder. It was moved by Trustee Conway and seconded by Trustee Roach. Chair Gravelle asked if there was consensus and any discussion.

Trustees continued discussion on live recordings, retention policy and broadcasting without recording. It was noted that we cannot stop others from recording and sharing. Trustees discussed transparency, risks and shared opinions.

Once discussion ended, Chair Gravelle asked for a show of hands for Trustees in favour of the motion presented. Trustee Conway requested a recorded vote with names.

Trustees in favour of motion:

Bill Conway

Hans Roach

Melanie Van Alphen

Tracey Weiler

Trustees not in favour of the motion:

Jeanne Gravelle

Brian Schmalz

Manuel da Silva

Wendy Price

Shannon Nash.

Chair Gravelle confirmed that the motion will not move forward.

### **5.6 Update on WCDSB Pandemic Management**

Director Notten updated the Trustees on WCDSB Pandemic Management including vaccination/staff testing, vaccination for students 5-11, case/contact management, masking, screening, testing and ventilation.

Trustees asked clarifying questions and provided feedback.

### **5.7 Director's Annual Report**

Director Notten presented the Director's Annual Report and requested approval of recommendations.

**2021-159- It was moved by Trustee da Silva and seconded by Trustee Conway:  
That the Board accept this report indicating compliance with our obligations under Section  
282(3) of The Education Act.  
--- 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 December.

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

#### **8.1 OCSTA/CCSTA Communications**

OCSTA communications briefly discussed.

## **9 Policy Discussion**

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

#### **10.1 Board Policy I 001 Ends - Broad Policy Provision**

Trustees confirmed review of Board Policy I 001 Ends. Chair Gravelle requested a mover and seconder.

**2021-160 -- It was moved by Trustee Price and seconded by Trustee Conway:**

**THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy I 001 Ends - Broad Policy Provision and find that the Board is in compliance.**

**--- Carried by consensus.**

Chair Gravelle asked if there is a need to review the policy. Trustees confirmed this policy is already on the agenda to be reviewed at the upcoming Governance meeting on January 17th.

#### **10.2 Board Policy II 005 Consultation**

Trustee Schmalz confirmed review of Board Policy II 005 Consultation and moved for compliance.

**2021-161 -- It was moved by Trustee Schmalz and seconded by Trustee Roach:**

**THAT the Board of Trustees reviewed Board Policy II 005 Consultation and find that the Board is in compliance. ----- Carried by consensus.**

Chair Gravelle asked if there is a need to review the policy, Trustees confirmed there was no need to review the policy.

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

### **12 Potential Agenda Items**

#### **12.1 Access to Rapid Antigen Testing**

Chair Gravelle confirmed that Trustee Nash brought forth a motion, to be discussed and approved at the January Board meeting. Trustees Nash requested to bring forth a motion to be assessed this evening if it was the will of the Board.

**2021-162 -- It was moved by Trustee Nash and seconded by Trustee Roach:**

**That the matter of Access to Rapid Antigen Testing be discussed this evening.**

**--- Carried by consensus.**

Trustee Nash introduced her motion to write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting funding and expansion of access to rapid antigen tests to students and their families. Trustee Nash read the motion put forward "That the WCDSB of Trustees directs the Chair of the Board to write a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting that the Ministry fund and expand access to rapid antigen tests to make them widely available for students and their families and education workers through a clear strategy that opens access to rapid testing as it has in workplaces and other high-risk settings".

Chair Gravelle confirmed with Trustees that in this point they were only discussing the motion and asked for a seconder.

**2021-163 -- It was moved by Trustee Nash and seconded by Trustee Weiler:**

That the WCDSB of Trustees directs the Chair of the Board to write a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting that the Ministry fund and expand access to rapid antigen tests to make them widely available for students and their families and education workers through a clear strategy that opens access to rapid testing as it has in workplaces and other high-risk settings".

Chair Gravelle opened the floor for discussion. Trustee Conway fully supported the motion. Trustee Price suggested that the motion be amended to include "and education workers" to include all staff. Chair Gravelle confirmed the amendment brought forth by Trustee Price and asked if there was a seconder.

**2021-164 -- It was moved by Trustee Price and seconded by Trustee Weiler:**

That the WCDSB of Trustees directs the Chair of the Board to write a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting that the Ministry fund and expand access to rapid antigen tests to make them widely available for students and their families and education workers through a clear strategy that opens access to rapid testing as it has in workplaces and other high-risk settings.

Trustee Gravelle asked if there was further discussion. Trustee da Silva and Weiler noted their support of the motion. Director Notten appreciated the sentiment of the motion but wanted to point out that vaccination is the primary strategy to protect staff and students and that this could be a difficult task for schools to undertake. Trustee Nash noted testing should be used in combination and both be emphasized. Trustee da Silva noted that this may be something OCSTA helps us advocate. Chair Gravelle noted her concerns of test disturbed through schools and feels it should be distributed through community. Trustee Nash noted that this is an open-ended motion as a baseline to put the request in.

Chair Gravelle noted there was no more comments and that there was a motion and seconder and asked for consensus. Chair Gravelle was directed to draft a letter and confirmed that consensus was carried.

**12.2 Request the Ministry of Education to amend the Education Act to give Student Trustees the right to move and second motions.**

Trustee Conway introduced the motion to allow Student Trustees to move and second motion. This initiative was introduced by OSTA-AECO. Student Trustee Wilson and Simoes discussed compelling reasons and feel this would make them feel more heard and the current models does not hear their voice.

Chair Gravelle opened the motion for discussion. Director Notten noted that she reached out to OCSTA for advice and noted they were not necessarily in favour and noted their reasons. Trustee da Silva disagreed with OCSTA stance.

Trustee Van Alphen asked for clarification as to whether Student Trustees will bring forward motions for Trustees to discuss but not to pass a vote. Student Trustees confirmed this was correct.

Trustee Conway read the motion being sought. Chair Gravelle asked for a seconder. There was no further discussion.

**2021-165 -- It was moved by Trustee Conway and seconded by Trustee Weiler:  
That the Chair of the Board send a letter to the Ministry of Education on behalf of the Waterloo Catholic District School board with copies to all local MPPs, OCSTA, OSTA-AECO, requesting the Ministry of Education make changes to the Education Act that student trustees be allowed to independently move and second motions during board meetings.  
--- Carried by consensus**

### **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**

14. Chair noted items for upcoming agenda.

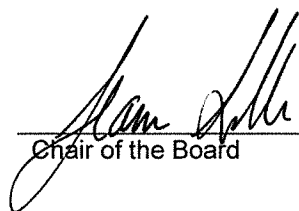
### **15 Adjournment – Confirm decisions made tonight.**

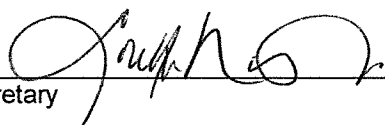
15.1 The Recording Secretary confirmed the meeting decisions.

### **16 Closing Prayer**

### **17 Motion to Adjourn**

**2021-166-- It was moved by Trustee Conway and seconded by Trustee da Silva:  
THAT the meeting be now adjourned. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 8:55 p.m.**

  
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Chair of the Board

  
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Secretary