



Parent Involvement Committee

Minutes - January 27, 2026

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) was held on Tuesday, January 27, 2026 in person at the Education Centre and virtually with the following members in attendance:

Trustee: J. Weston

Board Staff: P. Bender, V. Collis, A. Gaymes-San Vicente, L. Gil, B. Hughes, S. Miller, M. Delisle & R. Lam (IT Support)

Committee Members: M. Akram, A. Barreca, C. Bowman, C. Byrne, C. Fernandes, A. Hallman, S. Heroux, G. Horsman, M. Malatches, A. Mohammad, V. Qubrossi, K. Smith, P. Stephens

Regrets: S. Brickman, L. Farlow, A. Hebert, S. Pulikodan, A. Smith

Guests: A. Guselle, N. Landry

[PIC Slide Deck Presentation](#)

Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement - P. Stephens

- G. Horsman and C. Fernandes objected to the Land Acknowledgement.

Approval of Agenda - January 27, 2026

- A change to the agenda under New Business - discussion on classroom evacuation report is not available at this time. Will have discussion regarding outdoor education instead.
- P. Stephens motioned to approve the January 27, 2026 agenda, moved by A. Hallman, seconded by C. Byrne, no objections, motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes - November 25, 2025

- P. Stephens motioned to approve the November 25, 2025 minutes, moved by A. Hallman, seconded A. Barreca, motion carried.



- C. Fernandes objected to the November 25, 2025 minutes regarding procedural and record-keeping concerns arising from the PIC meeting.

Trustee Report - Trustee Weston

- [Trustee Report - January 2026](#)
- C. Fernandes requested that Motions being made by the Trustees at Board meetings, be shared as part of the Trustee Report to PIC.
- Trustee Weston agreed that this will be part of her report going forward.

WRDSB Leadership Update - Members of Senior Team

- Director Miller congratulates V. Collis on her retirement and years with the WRDSB in various roles. Thanked her for her time and commitment to PIC.
- P. Bender is the new Superintendent starting February 1st, 2026 and will have oversight of PIC.
- Update on Math Achievement Action Plan - A. Gaymes-San Vicente
 - On January 28th there is a Ministry MAAP Strategic Planning meeting with a presentation on the work we are doing with the facilitators.
 - We have been able to support other elementary schools other than the priority schools. We are supporting all secondary schools with the Math Instructional Support Teacher Coaches, 4 positions working with 4 schools each.

Presentation/Discussion on Strategic Planning - P. Stephens

- [PIC Slide Deck Presentation](#) (slides 6-24)
 - S. Miller - The WRDSB Board Improvement and Equity Plan complies with the expectations from the Ministry as outlined in the Student Achievement Plan. The consultation process has been specific to the WRDSB Strategic Plan which was directed by the Trustee motion.

WRAPSC Update - S. Heroux

- [PIC Slide Deck Presentation](#) (slide 25)
 - There will be exceptions to submit reports late for the PRO grant after the June 1st, 2026 deadline.
 - Requesting communication to be sent to schools earlier in the year regarding the expectations for end of year celebrations and transition events.

Treasurer Report - A. Hallman

- [PIC Slide Deck Presentation](#) (slides 26-29)

PIC Subcommittee Updates

- Governance - A. Mohammad (slide 30-34)
 - Calendar Committee - First day of school will be Sept 8, 2026
 - Magnets - Schools have them for distribution
 - Ministry Meeting - [High School Volunteer Hours](#)
 - Civics Crash Course - V. Collis presented and has received positive feedback. Would like more information about the role of the Trustee. Suggesting a future workshop for parents to understand what their child is learning as it can be intimidating for parents to talk to teachers.
 - Robert's Rules - Recommended to be part of the orientation process for new members of PIC. S. Reidel presented to subcommittee chairs and the presentation can be shared with all members.
 - Recommendation to have a secretary role on the committee to assist with the meetings.

- Membership - V. Qubrossi
 - No updates

- Communications - A. Barreca (slide 36)
 - Any communications posts for the PIC news website can be sent to P. Bender for review and approval for posting by the Communications Department
 - Suggesting for PIC meetings to add a meeting link on the website instead of requesting by email for the link.

- Parent Information Night - A. Barreca (slide 37)

- PRO Grant - P. Stephens (slide 38)
 - Additional funds available and subcommittee is looking at how they will use the funds

- Safe, Caring, Inclusive Schools - A. Mohammad (slides 39-43)

- Environmental Health, Sustainability & Climate Change - A. Mohammad (slides 44-45)
 - Councils are always looking for ways to get more money for gardens and other incentives. If anyone on WRAPSC wants to join the subcommittee, they can, you do not have to be a PIC member to be part of the subcommittee.

Old Business - P. Stephens

- Responses to prior recommendations (slides 46-47)
 - All matters have been responded to and only EQAO is outstanding. Qualitative and quantitative data will be brought back to PIC.
 - Lighthouse, Let Grow - the board has 7 schools that are piloting it and we are trying to understand what the partnership will look like. At this time we are not prepared to commit, further review needs to be done.

New Business - P. Stephens

- Discussion on Classroom Evacuation Report - no data available at this time (slide 48)
- New item added to agenda - Outdoor Education - A. Mohammad
 - At the January 19, 2026 SAWB Standing Committee meeting there was a delegation from an Outdoor Education retired employee.
 - Discussion on revising the outdoor education program
 - How can we advocate to the ministry to allocate additional funds to allow for greater number of students to participate. ?
 - Motion to bring back to the board for further discussion. The Policy & Governance Committee will also be reviewing outdoor education.
 - We have been able to access resources and programs with other partners including indigenous education. Will bring a report to Trustees and then share with PIC.

Date of Next Meeting

The next PIC meeting date is March 24, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Closing and Adjournment - P. Stephens

Moved by P. Stephens, seconded by A. Hallman:

That the Parent Involvement Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.