



Parent Involvement Committee

Minutes - November 25, 2025

A meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) was held on Thursday, November 25, 2025 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 & Richmond Lam (IT Support)

Committee Members: M. Akram, A. Barreca, C. Bowman, S. Brickman, C. Byrne, L. Farlow, C. Fernandes, A. Hallman, A. Hebert, S. Heroux, G. Horsman, M. Malatches, N. Martins, A. Mohammad, C. Plant, S. Pulikodan, V. Qubrossi, A. Smith, K. Smith, P. Stephens

Guests: S. Benn, M. Meech, M. Bennet

Regrets: M. Radlein

[PIC Slide Deck Presentation](#)

Welcome & Territorial Acknowledgement - P. Stephens

- C. Fernandes objected to the Land Acknowledgement.

Approval of Agenda - November 25, 2025

- P. Stephens would like to add to the agenda to welcome our new members.
- G. Horsman requested the Draft PIC Bylaws be moved under New Business instead of Old Business.
- P. Stephens motioned to approve the November 25, 2025 agenda with the additions, seconded by A. Hebert, no objections, motion carried.

Approval of Previous Minutes - September 25, 2025

- P. Stephens shared that objections to the Territorial Acknowledgement will continue to be recorded in the minutes.



- P. Stephens motioned to approve the September 25, 2025 minutes as amended, seconded by A. Hallman, objections received by C. Fernandes & G. Horsman, no further objections, motion carried.

Trustee Report - Trustee Weston

- [Trustee Report](#)
 - Trustee Weston will be the new Trustee representative for PIC this school year. Trustee M. Radlein will be the alternate.

WRDSB Leadership Update - V. Collis

- There are two opportunities for PIC members to provide feedback to board initiatives:
 1. [Strategic Plan Community Consultation Survey](#). Visit the [website](#) for more details. Overlap Associates would like to present to PIC before the January 27, 2026 meeting at 5 pm. Once details are finalized, they will be shared. Continue to share with your networks to attend the town hall meetings and complete the survey in order for us to have a comprehensive consultation.
 2. The AI Board Committee would like to present at PIC regarding AI in Education Consultation. Will provide more details when confirmed.
- The Board Improvement & Equity Plan Presentation at the Board meeting on October 27, 2025 focused on the Math Achievement & Action Plan. The Board meeting on November 24, 2025 focused on Structured Literacy. More information can be found on the website.
- EQAO testing will identify which are the priority schools. This year the Ministry has asked to keep the same schools as last year. Educators should have the capacity to support all student levels. Math facilitators are allocated to schools and the board provides professional development to support teacher instruction.
- The Ministry has launched a new student and family support program. The program will start at the five supervised school boards. Currently we are not a board under supervision. All other school boards will be required to submit a report by March 31, 2026. There will be one Superintendent that will have oversight. Visit the Ministry [website](#) for more information.

Bill 33 Discussion - A. Mohammad

- [What is Bill 33 Presentation](#)
 - At this time boards have been placed under supervision for misuse of funds or mismanagement.
 - Before Bill 33 the Ministry always had the ability to take over a school board
 - Hiring and supervision of the Director is currently done by the Trustees and they receive feedback from families.

- WRAPSC has a subcommittee for advocacy and has been actively working on sharing the information.
- Bill 33 was passed quickly with no opportunity to provide feedback.
- PIC members can share the presentation with their school councils and reach out to your MPPs.
- Currently we do not have a school resource officer program in our schools but if the Ministry provides direction otherwise under Bill 33, we would have to comply.
- Under Bill 33 school naming and renaming will now have to be approved by the Ministry.
- Question asked if any of the WRDSB schools are looking at closure
 - Currently Elizabeth Ziegler is going through renovations and is scheduled to reopen in September 2027, there are no WRDSB Schools scheduled for closure.

WRAPSC Update - S. Heroux

- Presentation
 - PRO grant committee, thanks for getting the application out early. Requesting for next year to provide an additional 1-2 weeks as some councils will not have met until the end of November.
 - Dr. Alison Yeung, family physician, came and spoke about smartphones, social media and mental health at the November meeting.
 - Received the list of school council members and have an upcoming executive meeting.
 - Working with members on Bill 33 and will share tonight's presentation. Collecting responses to a survey and will share information. Next steps will be reaching out to all elected officials.
 - January meeting agenda items TBD, February meeting will be discussing AI.
 - Question asked about what the difference is between PIC and WRAPSC. PIC is regulated by the Ministry of Education and WRAPSC is not. Not all school boards have both committees.

Treasurer Report - A. Hallman

- The role of treasurer is a two year term. Suggested to have someone shadow if they want to take on this role next year. [PIC Slide Deck Presentation](#) (slides 13-16)

PIC Subcommittee Updates

- Governance - P. Stephens (slides 17)
- Membership - V. Qubrossi (slide 19)

- Looking for new members in secondary and townships when they did the most recent recruitment.
 - Will be connecting with new members to assign to a subcommittee group.
 - We have 3 vacancies for parents and will do a full recruitment in the spring for the 2026-2027 school year.
 - Need to be more specific about applying for school council as opposed to PIC.
- Communications - A. Barreca (slide 20)
 - Parent Information Night - G. Horsman (slide 21)
 - PRO Grant - S. Pulikodan (slide 22-23)
 - A. Hallman requested a list of schools that haven't applied by November 28, 2025 and WRAPSC will follow-up
 - Feedback to send the application message out later or allow more time to complete. Also proactively reaching out to schools to start to plan before the end of the school year.
 - Safe, Caring, Inclusive Schools - A. Mohammad (slide 25-28)
 - Environmental Health, Sustainability & Climate Change - S. Brickman (slide 29-30)

Old Business - P. Stephens

- [Board Policy 6001 Code of Conduct](#)
 - [Draft PIC Code of Conduct](#)
 - The PIC Code of Conduct is necessary to function as a group with purpose and follows the Board Code of Conduct.
 - A. Barreca motioned to approve and adapt the PIC Code of Conduct, seconded by A. Hallman. Objection by G. Horsman and C. Fernandes, no further objections. Motion carried.
- Update on PIC's September 25, 2025 Recommendations - S. Miller
 - All matters have been responded to by V. Collis and no items are outstanding.

New Business - P. Stephens

- [Draft PIC Bylaws](#)
 - G. Horsman motioned to remove "with permission from the Chair(s)" to section 3.2 Board Personnel/Staff e) Board staff may provide a response to the request directly or through the Director of Education with permission from the Chair(s),

- seconded by C. Fernandes. All opposed, G. Horsman and C. Fernandes in favour. Motion denied.
- A. Mohammad motioned to approve and adapt the PIC Bylaws, seconded by A. Barreca. Objection by G. Horsman and C. Fernandes, no further objections. Motion carried.
-
- Halton PIC Conference - A. Barreca (slide 34)

 - Parent Information Night Subcommittee - P. Stephens
 - Members of the subcommittee have concerns about G. Horsman as Chair of the subcommittee.
 - P. Stephens motion to remove G. Horsman as Chair of the Parent Information Night Subcommittee, seconded by A. Hallman. Objection by G. Horsman and C. Fernandes, no further objections. Motion carried.
 - P. Stephens motioned to have A. Barreca named as Chair of the Parent Information Night Subcommittee. All in favor, motion carried.

Date of Next Meeting

The next PIC meeting date is January 27, 2026 at 6:30 p.m.

Closing and Adjournment - P. Stephens

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

That the Parent Involvement Committee meeting be adjourned.

- Carried -

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.