1. **Preamble**

   1.1. The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) has pursued cooperative projects and alternatives to proposed accommodation since the commencement of its last by-law and has found that few options are capable of accommodating new growth related students and/or reducing Education Development Charges due to one or more of the following:

   1.1.1. Required accommodation is in area of “greenfield” development where there are few existing alternatives in the form of renovating or leasing built accommodation;
   1.1.2. Proponents of new development have not been receptive, as partners, to alternatives to the WRDSB’s current form of school accommodation;
   1.1.3. Timing is such that partnerships have not been able to match financing and construction constraints;
   1.1.4. Possible multi-use partnerships for new student accommodation have not proven to be cost-effective for the WRDSB over the construction of free-standing facilities.
   1.1.5. Arrangements of a cooperative nature generally do not provide classroom accommodation (tend to be site facilities, change rooms, libraries, etc.)

   1.2. Of the successful arrangements with municipal and other partners, a more efficient development of the property or improved physical facilities is generally the result. For example, several elementary schools have been constructed with childcare centres; secondary schools have accommodated transit, multi-use sports fields, and internal community rooms (including change facilities). These are typically achieved with shared use of school-park campus sites and have not resulted in a reduction in or the sharing of land purchase costs.

2. **Policy Direction**

   2.1. It is the policy of the WRDSB to consider possible arrangements with municipalities, school boards, or other persons or bodies in the public or private sector, including arrangements of a long-term or cooperative nature, which would provide accommodation for the new elementary school pupils and new secondary school pupils who are resident pupils of the WRDSB, subject to the following:
2.1.1. The arrangement must be proven to be cost effective and advantageous for the WRDSB compared to other possible arrangements including acquisition of a school site and the construction of a free-standing structure;

2.1.2. The arrangement shall comply with any guidelines issued by the Ministry of Education;

2.1.3. The WRDSB shall secure appropriate covenants and/or retain sufficient governance authority over the use of the facility to ensure that it is able to deliver the appropriate educational program to its students.

2.2. While the WRDSB will consider possible alternative accommodation arrangements, this is not a commitment of the WRDSB to any specific project(s).

3. Expiry Date

3.1 This policy expires on June 1, 2021.