




CONSULTATION

Legal References:	<i>Education Act, s.302 & 303.3</i>
Related References:	<i>Board Governance Policy G300 - Policy Development and Reviews Engagement Audit, 2013</i>
Effective Date:	<i>October 30, 2006</i>
Revisions:	<i>December 8, 2014, November 16, 2015</i>
Reviewed:	<i>February 13, 2017, November 19, 2018</i>

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- 1.1 The Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) is committed to being an engaging organization that values community consultation and provides opportunities for effective involvement in decision-making processes for the public, which encompasses the full-range of stakeholders both internal and external, who may be interested in education-related issues as they support student learning and achievement.
- 1.2 The guiding principles for effective consultation are as follows:
 - 1.2.1 The WRDSB recognizes the vital role of consultation and the importance of interactive two-way communication.
 - 1.2.2 The WRDSB is committed to providing the public with meaningful opportunities to offer input and to influence Board decision-making. The level of input will be well communicated throughout this process.
 - 1.2.3 The WRDSB will ensure that its consultation efforts are purposeful, accountable and respectful of all who participate, recognizing mutual goals and priorities.
 - 1.2.4 The WRDSB recognizes that consultation is sometimes not possible (time constraints in which a decision needs to be made) or appropriate (personnel, union, legal matters, regulations) in certain situations.
 - 1.2.5 The WRDSB will strive to create a cooperative and productive consultation environment that demonstrates respect for due process, appreciates the legitimacy of different opinions and that recognizes the value of diversity and dialogue.
 - 1.2.6 The WRDSB will use the Engagement Continuum in decision-making. (Appendix A)
- 1.3 To maximize the effectiveness of its consultation efforts, the WRDSB will engage in outreach activities using a variety of measureable consultation/engagement techniques to inform the public about key issues and promote input opportunities while respecting the contributions of all participants.

Engagement Continuum



INFORM	CONSULT	COLLABORATE
Goal: To provide the participants with balanced, objective information to assist them in understanding the project/process/issue. To provide possible opportunities and solutions to participants.	Goal: To obtain participant feedback on project/process/issue, alternatives and decisions.	Goal: To work directly with the participant throughout the process/project/issue to ensure stakeholder concerns and aspirations are consistently understood and considered where possible.
Participant Role: The participants will be kept informed and be clear on the communication strategy.	Participant Role: The participants will be listened to, kept informed and concerns will be acknowledged as appropriate. The participants' feedback will be shared and may influence the final decision. The opportunity and process for providing input (and when) will be clear.	Participant Role: The participants will have their concerns and aspirations directly reflected in the solutions where possible.
How: FAQs, open houses, roundtable meetings, WRDSB website, school website, school/system communications	How: Public presentations, smaller focus groups, surveys, public meetings, social media	How: Focus groups, workshops, pilot projects, participant working groups

