

**NOVEMBER 25, 2024
BOARD MEETING**

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Board Meeting this evening at 7:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Boardroom, with the following members in attendance: M. Radlein (Chairperson), B. Cody, S. Estoesta, C. Johnson, J. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, M. Waseem, C. Watson, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

Student Trustees F. Luo and D. Lakhanpal were not in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: j. chanicka (Director of Education and Secretary), L. Agar, D. Ahluwalia, J. Albrecht, M. Armellini, J. Brown, V. Collis, C. Dey, E. Dougan-McKenzie, J. Fedosoff, A. Gaymes-San Vicente, H. Hughes, P. Kaur, D. Lane, B. Lemon and C. Sagar.

Other staff in attendance: S. McCrae, M. Mayer, S. Plante and S. Reidel.

CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson M. Radlein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by C. Johnson, seconded by M. Waseem:

That the agenda of the November 25, 2024, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Trustee C. Johnson acknowledged and thanked schools who participated in Unsilent Night including Moffat Creek Public School and Blair Road Public School.

Trustees S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein and J. Weston joined the Vista Hills Public School percussion ensemble at the Santa Claus Parade.

Chairperson M. Radlein visited Elmira District Secondary School, Doon Public School and Sheppard Public School

Chairperson M. Radlein attended Build a Dream Kitchener-Waterloo. This career pathway exhibition connects young women and their parents to careers that they may not have previously considered.

Chairperson M. Radlein attended Eastwood Collegiate Institute's Integrated Arts Gala Event.

Chairperson M. Radlein shared regrets from Student Trustees D. Lakhanpal and F. Luo.

Chairperson M. Radlein presented a gavel plaque to outgoing Chairperson J. Weston commemorating her time as Chairperson and thanked her for her two terms of service.

COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE

Senior Manager H. Hughes introduced the Communications Good News Update video sharing highlights from November and items of traditional media and social media interest.

DELEGATIONS

The delegation for this evening was rescheduled.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of November 25, 2024, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folios 15-16.

-Carried-

FOLIOS 15-16 - NOVEMBER 11, 2024, COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE MEETING - DELEGATIONS

It was asked if parents have been contacted yet, and it was noted that the minutes have to be ratified this evening and staff are working to follow up as requested.

3. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by S. Estoesta:

That Folio 15-16, from the consent agenda of the November 25, 2024, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

MOTIONS FROM IN CAMERA MEETING

Note: The following motions were approved in the In Camera session held earlier this evening.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by J. Meissner:

That the agenda of the November 25, 2024, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

B. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by C. Johnson:

That the consent agenda of the November 25, 2024, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folio 3 & 6.

-Carried-

FOLIO 3 AUDIT MINUTES OTHER BUSINESS

C. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by J. Weston:

That Folio 3, from the consent agenda of the November 25, 2024, In Camera Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

FOLIO 6

D. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by M. Ramsay:

That Folio 6, from the consent agenda of the November 25, 2024, In Camera Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

E. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by J. Weston:

That we rise and report in public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

REPORTS

2023-24 ANNUAL SUSPENSION AND EXPULSION REPORT

This report was provided for information.

The annual report provides the Waterloo Region District School Board with information concerning suspension, expulsion and violent incident data for the 2023-24 school year. Suspension/expulsion data has been analysed by:

- Percentage of Students Suspended by Enrollment
- Number of Students Expelled

- Violent Incident Reports
- Suspension Analysis by Gender
- Suspension Analysis by Grade
- Analysis by Length of Suspension
- Suspension/Expulsion Analysis by Category
- Suspension Analysis by Location

Superintendent B. Lemon shared that staff are pleased to report a modest decrease in the total number of suspensions and suspension days. He provided some specifics regarding trends in the violent incidents and expulsions and supports implemented to support students.

Trustees asked questions regarding school based intervention teams, provincial trends and new supports and strategies. Questions regarding collecting data on healthy strategies, sending home students when it is not a suspension and Suspensions Pending Expulsion were also clarified.

BOARD IMPROVEMENT AND EQUITY PLAN (BIEP) UPDATE: STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT AND WELL-BEING

This report was provided for information.

Associate Director A. Gaymes-San Vicente introduced the presentation and Superintendent J. Albrecht introduced System Administrator S. McCrae and Special Education Consultant S. Plante.

Trustee C. Watson called a Point of Order indicating that she was assured that this presentation would occur on the same evening as the delegation and her motion on Congregated Gifted Classrooms. It was noted that the delegation was given the option and chose to attend when her motion comes forward. Director j. chanicka shared that this BIEP Update is separate from her motion, but supports building understanding. Chairperson M. Radlein ruled that tonight's presentation should continue at the Board meeting as scheduled.

System Administrator S. McCrae reviewed the WRDSB Vision for Learning and Conditions for Learning. He also shared an overview of the tiered instruction model. He reviewed characteristics of giftedness and the Student Learning Profile. System Administrator S. McCrae and Special Education Consultant S. Plante reviewed Tier 1, Itinerant Special Education Teacher Support, including the referral process, educator drop-in sessions, enrichment newsletter and enrichment blog. They reviewed Tier 2, Area Enrichment Class, including the instructional approach taken in the classroom and the connection to the WRDSB Strategic Plan. System Administrator S. McCrae and Special Education Consultant S. Plante also reviewed Tier 3, Congregated Special Education Class, including the instructional approach, referral process and additional considerations.

Trustees asked questions regarding identifying students, educator support sessions, supporting students through transitions between tiers. It was noted that staff are exploring the use of a standardized screener for giftedness.

WRDSB ANNUAL REPORT

This report was provided for information.

Director j. chanicka provided trustees with instructions for navigating the 2024 Annual Report on the WRDSB website. The 2024 Annual Report provides a snapshot of student and staff achievements. Awards, good news stories and advancements in achievement, equity, well-being and pathways are highlighted in the report.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

2025 BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

On November 20, 2024, the Chairperson, Vice-Chair and Past Chair, along with the Manager of Corporate Services, met to review the responses to the Trustee Committee Preference Survey and provide the recommendations

4. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by J. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approves the 2024/2025 Board Committee Membership as outlined in Appendix A titled “2024/2025 - Board Committee Membership Structure” dated November 25, 2024.

-Carried-

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board received the following communications:

- Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to Minister of Education
- Minister of Education to Waterloo Region District School Board
- Rainy River District School Board to Minister of Education
- Simcoe County District School Board to Minister of Education

Trustees discussed a motion to write a letter in support of the letter from Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

5. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education in support of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board’s letter regarding Education Development Charges.

-Carried-

Opposed:
B. Cody
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION THROUGH COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Executive Officer E. Dougan-McKenzie provided Trustees with an update on recent engagement with the community including events and partnerships referencing a snapshot of the engagement and collaboration including 25 community organizations to support student engagement of approximately 1400 students.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee J. Weston asked staff to explain the funding model for WCSSAA extracurriculars and any recent changes. Superintendent B. Lemon shared that fee structures have slowly moved to a model of 100% cost recovery by families as other school revenues have reduced over the last 8 years, especially during and after the pandemic. The new structure includes a standardized fee for all students participating in a sport to ensure costs of transportation, facility rentals, and replacement cycles of uniforms and equipment for the sport are included. Families in need of financial assistance are able to access support through their school. Trustee M. Ramsay asked staff to clarify if fees collected from parents for a sport are used to subsidize other programs. Superintendent B. Lemon shared that schools are asked not to distribute the revenue between activities as any funds are needed for expenses within the sport it was collected for; it is a WCSSAA fee, not a school fee. Staff will work to increase and clarify communications on this topic.

Trustee C. Watson asked if a central location was considered when the Blue Heron congregated gifted learning classroom was closed and students living in Cambridge are now attending a school in Waterloo. Superintendent J. Albrecht shared that when enrolment in the 5/6 congregated classroom was reduced, classes needed to be combined and based on the existing students, the Waterloo site was selected. Staff have begun to investigate possible alternative locations.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

6. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by J. Meissner:

That the Board Meeting of November 25, 2024, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.