

WATERLOO REGION DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

NOTICE OF MEETING

The regular monthly **Board Meeting** of the Waterloo Region District School Board will be held in the Boardroom, Building 2, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor, 51 Ardelet Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, on **Monday, November 25, 2024, at 7:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

Call to Order

Territorial Acknowledgement and O Canada

Approval of Agenda

Announcements/Celebrating Board Activities

Communications Good News Update

H. Hughes

Delegations

Matthew O’Neil - Congregated Class for Gifted Learners

Consent Agenda\*\*

**Receipt/Approval of Minutes:**

- Approve Minutes - Audit Committee Meeting of September 24, 2024
- Approve Minutes - Special Education Advisory Committee Meeting of October 9, 2024
- Receive Minutes - Board Meeting of October 28, 2024
- Approve Minutes - Committee of the Whole Meeting of November 11, 2024
- Receive Minutes - Organizational Board Meeting of November 18, 2024

**Receipt/Approval of Monthly Reports:**

- |    |   |           |
|----|---|-----------|
| 25 | Staffing Information – Retirements and Resignations | S. Miller |
| 28 | Staffing Information – Appointments                 | S. Miller |
| 30 | Suspension and Expulsion Report, September 2024     | B. Lemon  |
| 32 | Suspension and Expulsion Report, October 2024       | B. Lemon  |

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Staff Follow Up

Reports

- |    |  |                                     |
|----|--|-------------------------------------|
| 34 | 2023-24 Annual Suspension and Expulsion Report                               | B. Lemon                            |
|    | Board Improvement and Equity Plan Update: Student Achievement and Well-Being | A. Gaymes-San Vicente / J. Albrecht |
|    | WRDSB Annual Report  | j. chanicka / H. Hughes             |

\*\*All matters listed under the Consent Agenda are considered not to require debate by the Board of Trustees and should be approved in one motion in accordance with the recommendation contained in each report.

## **Board Reports**

40 2025 Board Committee Membership

Chairperson

## **Board Communications**

43 Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board to Minister of Education

44 Minister of Education to Waterloo Region District School Board

46 Rainy River District School Board to Minister of Education

48 Simcoe County District School Board to Minister of Education

## **Other Business**

**Transforming Education through Community Engagement**

E. Dougan-McKenzie

**Question Period** (10 minutes)

**Future Agenda Items** (Notices of motion to be referred to Agenda Development Committee)

**Adjournment**



# Report to Board of Trustees

November 25, 2024

**Subject: Staffing Information –  
Retirements and Resignations**

## **Recommendation**

*This report is provided for information of the Board.*

## **Status**

The employees listed in Appendix A of this report have received acknowledgement of their retirement or resignation.

## **Background**

The board's practice is to receive information regarding staff retirements and resignations at regular monthly board meetings.

## **Financial implications**

Expenses are within the existing approved budget.

## **Communications**

Employees listed in this report have communicated through Human Resource Services.

Prepared by: Scott Miller, Associate Director, in consultation with Leadership Council.

**Staffing Statistics – Retirements**  
**Current at November 25, 2024**

| <b>Retirements: Elementary Teaching Staff</b> |                  |                               |                        |                         |
|---|------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>First</b>                                  | <b>Last</b>      | <b>Position/Location</b>      | <b>Retirement Date</b> | <b>Years of Service</b> |
| Catherine                                     | Camrass          | Teacher, Doon PS              | December 31, 2024      | 27                      |
| Dianne  | Epp              | Teacher, Sandhills PS         | January 31, 2025       | 35                      |
| Kersten                                       | Hauke Marschuetz | Teacher, Millen Woods PS      | December 31, 2024      | 30                      |
| Tina  | Jensen           | Teacher, Laurentian PS        | November 30, 2024      | 22                      |
| Maureen                                       | Peats            | Teacher, Breslau PS           | December 31, 2024      | 26                      |
| Donna   | Pilkington       | ESL Itinerant Teacher, Ed Ctr | December 31, 2024      | 29                      |

| <b>Retirements: Secondary Teaching Staff</b> |             |  |                        |                         |
|--|-------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>First</b>                                 | <b>Last</b> | <b>Position/Location</b>                   | <b>Retirement Date</b> | <b>Years of Service</b> |
| Shannon                                      | Henkel      | Teacher, Bluevale CI                       | January 31, 2025       | 34                      |
| Kelly  | Main        | History Department Head, Jacob Hespeler SS | January 31, 2025       | 31                      |

| <b>Retirements: Administrative &amp; Support Staff</b> |             |                                    |                        |                         |
|--|-------------|------------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>First</b>   | <b>Last</b> | <b>Position/Location</b>           | <b>Retirement Date</b> | <b>Years of Service</b> |
| Kimberley  | Kusz        | Child Youth Worker, St Andrew's PS | December 31, 2024      | 26                      |
| Kathleen   | Pahl        | Custodian, Grand River CI          | February 27, 2025      | 17                      |
| Cherree  | Roberts     | Security Officer, Health & Safety  | December 31, 2024      | 34                      |
| David  | Williamson  | Vice Principal, Forest Heights CI  | December 31, 2024      | 30                      |

**Staffing Statistics – Resignations**  
**Current at November 25, 2024**

| <b>Permanent Staff Resignations</b> |             |   |                         |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|---|-------------------------|
| <b>First</b>                        | <b>Last</b> | <b>Position/Location</b>                    | <b>Resignation Date</b> |
| Julie                               | Beal        | Educational Assistant, Bridgeport PS        | November 29, 2024       |
| Jenny-Lyn                           | Fields      | Educational Assistant, Winston Churchill PS | November 29, 2024       |
| Nicholas                            | Palmer      | Elementary Teacher, King Edward PS          | November 29, 2024       |
| McKenzie                            | Reid        | Elementary Teacher, WT Townshend PS         | November 20, 2024       |
| Nana                                | Tieku       | Educational Assistant, Chalmers Street PS   | November 29, 2024       |
| April                               | Wiens       | Elementary Teacher, Oak Creek PS            | November 17, 2024       |



# Report to Board of Trustees

November 25, 2024

## **Subject: Staffing Information – Appointments**

### **Recommendation**

*This report is provided for information of the Board.*

### **Status**

The staff appointments as noted on Appendix A of this report are effective the dates indicated.

### **Background**

The board's practice has been to have appointments presented for information at regular monthly board meetings.

### **Financial implications**

Expenses are within the existing approved budget.

### **Communications**

Employees listed in this report have been advised of the appointments.

Prepared by: Scott Miller, Associate Director, in consultation with Leadership Council.

**Staffing Information – New Appointments**  
**Current at November 25, 2024**

| <b>New Appointments: Administrative and Support Staff</b> |             |  |                       |
|---|-------------|--|-----------------------|
| <b>First</b>  | <b>Last</b> | <b>Position / Location</b>                           | <b>Effective Date</b> |
| Joan  | Aussems     | Secretary, Country Hills PS                          | November 18, 2024     |
| Holly   | Dickie      | Library Clerk, John Mahood PS                        | November 11, 2024     |
| Nasir   | Muhammad    | Executive Manager, IT & Digital Transformation (CIO) | December 2, 2024      |
| Jim   | Taylor      | Custodial Department Head, Cameron Heights CI        | November 4, 2024      |
| Julia   | Verin       | Secretary, Grand River CI                            | November 4, 2024      |

*New Hires - due to retirements, resignations or leaves and are to replace full or part time vacancies.*

*Human Resources & Equity Services*



# Report to Board of Trustees

November 25 , 2024

## **Subject: Student Suspension/Expulsion Report September, 2024**

### **Recommendation**

*This report is provided for the Waterloo Region District School Board with information regarding monthly and year-to-date suspension/expulsion data.*

### **Status**

Comparing the year to date from September 2023 and September 2024, elementary suspensions have decreased by 2 and secondary suspensions have decreased by 32.

Comparing year to date from September 2023 and September 2024, school expulsions have remained at 0 and board expulsions have decreased by 2.

The most recent month's suspension and expulsion data is included below. The data is accurate up to, and including, the date of collection.

#### Suspensions

- Total elementary school suspensions in September 2023 - 56, year to date - 56
- Total elementary school suspensions in September 2024 - 54, year to date - 54
- Total secondary school suspensions in September 2023 - 125, year to date - 125
- Total secondary school suspensions in September 2024 - 93, year to date - 93

#### Expulsions

- Total school expulsions in September 2023 - 0, year to date 0
- Total school expulsions in September 2024 - 0, year to date 0
- Total board expulsions in September 2023 - 2, year to date 2
- Total board expulsions in September 2024 - 0, year to date 0

#### Violent Incidents

The term violent incident is defined as the occurrence of any of the following or the occurrence of a combination of any of the following; possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm; physical assault causing bodily harm requiring medical attention; sexual assault; robbery; using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person; extortion; and hate and/or bias-motivated occurrences.

- Total elementary/secondary violent incidents in September 2023 - 4, year to date 4
- Total elementary/secondary violent incidents in September 2024 - 9, year to date 9



**Background**

As requested by the Board, suspension/expulsion data will be presented at the Board meeting in October, November, January, March, and May of each year.

**Financial implications**

There are no financial implications.

**Communications**

Upon request, suspension/expulsion data is communicated to the Ministry of Education for statistical purposes.

Prepared by: Bill Lemon, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-being,  
Brenda Cathcart, System Administrator, Learning Support Services,  
and in consultation with the Leadership Council



# Report to Board of Trustees

November 25, 2024

## **Subject: Student Suspension/Expulsion Report October, 2024**

### **Recommendation**

*This report is provided for the Waterloo Region District School Board with information regarding monthly and year-to-date suspension/expulsion data.*

### **Status**

Comparing year to date from October 2023 and October 2024, elementary suspensions have decreased by 26 and secondary suspensions have decreased by 52.

Comparing year to date from October 2023 and October 2024, school expulsions have remained the same at 0 and board expulsions have decreased by 6.

The most recent month's suspension and expulsion data is included below. The data is accurate up to, and including, the date of collection.

### Suspensions

- Total elementary school suspensions in October 2023 - 132, year to date - 188
- Total elementary school suspensions in October 2024 - 108, year to date - 162
- Total secondary school suspensions in October 2023 - 178, year to date - 310
- Total secondary school suspensions in October 2024 - 165, year to date - 258

### Expulsions

- Total school expulsions in October 2023 - 0, year to date 0
- Total school expulsions in October 2024 - 0, year to date 0
- Total board expulsions in October 2023 - 6, year to date 8
- Total board expulsions in October 2024 - 2, year to date 2

### Violent Incidents

The term violent incident is defined as the occurrence of any of the following or the occurrence of a combination of any of the following; possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm, physical assault causing bodily harm requiring medical attention, sexual assault, robbery, using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person, extortion, hate and/or bias-motivated occurrences.

- Total elementary/secondary violent incidents in October 2023 - 10, year to date 15
- Total elementary/secondary violent incidents in October 2024 - 25, year to date 34

**Background**

As requested by the Board, suspension/expulsion data will be presented at the Board meetings in October, November, January, March, and May of each year.

**Financial implications**

There are no financial implications.

**Communications**

Upon request, suspension/expulsion data is communicated to the Ministry of Education for statistical purposes.

Prepared by: Bill Lemon, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being,  
Brenda Cathcart, System Administrator, Learning Support Services, and  
in consultation with Leadership Council



# Report to Board

November 25, 2024

## **Subject: 2023-24 Suspension/Expulsion Annual Report**

### **Recommendation**

*This report is for the information of the Board.*

### **Status**

To provide the Waterloo Region District School Board with an annual report concerning suspension, expulsion and violent incident data for the 2023-24 school year.

This report supports the Strategic Directions of **Centring Students**: centre students and their voices in decisions about their education and support students who have been placed on the margins; **Support for Student Well-being**: provide them the supports they need; **Strengthen Connections**: work with families to help students reach their potential and become compassionate global citizens; and **Increasing Student Learning**: providing students with creative learning environments through intentional opportunities. The WRDSB continues to support students in alternative programs that support their success and well-being. Suspension and expulsion data are helpful in supporting schools to identify and adjust their approach to strategic directions and school improvement plans as needed.

Using the previous annual report as a model, staff worked to provide an in-depth analysis of suspension, expulsion and violent incident data.

In Appendix A:

Suspension/expulsion data is 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

### **Background**

On May 26, 2008, the Board requested an analysis of annual suspension/expulsion/violent incident data, including statistics on violent incidents.

### **Financial implications**

No financial implications.

**Communications**

Upon request, suspension/expulsion data is communicated to the Ministry of Education for statistical purposes.

Prepared by: Bill Lemon, Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being,  
Brenda Cathcart, System Administrator, Learning Support Services, and  
in consultation with Leadership Council

**SUSPENSION/EXPULSION ANALYSIS**

September 1, 2023 to June 30, 2024

**Percentage of Students Suspended by Enrollment:**

| Category                       | Male   | Female | Total       |
|--------------------------------|--------|--------|-------------|
| Enrollment                     | 33 672 | 31 856 | 65 885      |
| # of suspensions               | 1786   | 728    | <b>2524</b> |
| % of suspensions by enrollment | 5.3%   | 2.3%   | 3.8%        |

*\*There is a discrepancy in the totals due to a small sample not identifying as male or female. To include these data could risk revealing the location / identity of the student.*

**Number of Students Expelled:**

| Male | Female | Total |
|------|--------|-------|
| 19   | 11     | 30    |

**Number of Violent Incident Reports: 81**

**Suspension Analysis by Gender:**

- 71% of all suspensions were given to males
- 29% of all suspensions were given to females

Suspension data was collected for students using more inclusive categories; however, the numbers in these categories are not reportable to protect student privacy.

| Grade        | Male        | Female     |
|--------------|-------------|------------|
| JK/SK        | 0           | 0          |
| 1            | 0           | 0          |
| 2            | 0           | 0          |
| 3            | 0           | 0          |
| 4            | 50          | 16         |
| 5            | 73          | 21         |
| 6            | 124         | 24         |
| 7            | 298         | 116        |
| 8            | 284         | 148        |
| 9            | 318         | 131        |
| 10           | 275         | 126        |
| 11           | 210         | 102        |
| 12           | 154         | 44         |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>1786</b> | <b>728</b> |

*\*There is a discrepancy in the totals due to a small sample not identifying as male or female. To include these data could risk revealing the location / identity of the student.*

**Suspension Analysis by Length of Suspension:**

- 2157 85.5% of all suspensions were three days in length or less
- 139 5.5% of all suspensions were long-term (six days or longer)

| Length of Suspension | Number of Suspensions |
|----------------------|-----------------------|
| 1                    | 1081                  |
| 2                    | 515                   |
| 3                    | 561                   |
| 4                    | 85                    |
| 5                    | 143                   |
| 6                    | 30                    |
| 7                    | 6                     |
| 8                    | 2                     |
| 9                    | 5                     |
| 10                   | 9                     |
| 11                   | 1                     |
| 12                   | 2                     |
| 13                   | 0                     |
| 14                   | 4                     |
| 15                   | 6                     |
| 16                   | 2                     |

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| 17           | 0           |
| 18           | 0           |
| 19           | 1           |
| 20           | 71          |
| <b>Total</b> | <b>2524</b> |

### Suspension/Expulsion Analysis by Category:

| Code        | Category Description  | Suspensions |
|-------------|---|-------------|
| S1          | Uttering a threat to inflict serious bodily harm on another person  | 96          |
| S2          | Possessing alcohol or illegal drugs   | 0           |
| S3          | Being under the influence of alcohol or drugs   | 11          |
| S4          | Swearing at a teacher or at another person in a position of authority   | 91          |
| S5          | Committing an act of vandalism that causes extensive damage to school property at the pupil's school or to property located on the premises of the pupil's school | 38          |
| S7          | Bullying  | 143         |
| S9          | Possessing cannabis unless the pupil is a medical cannabis user   | 33          |
| S10         | Being under the influence of cannabis, unless the pupil is a medical cannabis user  | 34          |
| S11         | Possessing alcohol or illegal drugs (except cannabis)   | 19          |
| OTH<br>DISC | Any other activity that, under a policy of a board, is an activity for which a principal must suspend   | 212         |
| Board       | Code of Conduct Violation   | 968         |
| Board       | Fighting/Violence   | 760         |
| Board       | Habitual Neglect of Duty  | 56          |
| Board       | Opposition to Authority   | 296         |
| Board       | Profanity/Swearing  | 194         |

S - Suspension

\* The number of suspensions for each reason code will appear higher, as one suspension may have had two or more reason codes and therefore counted multiple times. This chart should be used to review the reasons for a suspension, not a total number of suspensions.

| Code | Category Description   | Suspensions Pending Expulsion |
|------|--|-------------------------------|
| E1   | Possessing a weapon, including possessing a firearm.   | 16                            |
| E2   | Using a weapon to cause or to threaten bodily harm to another person.  | 17                            |
| E3   | Committing physical assault on another person that causes bodily harm requiring treatment by a medical practitioner. | 27                            |
| E4   | Committing sexual assault.   | 7                             |
| E5   | Trafficking in weapons or in illegal drugs.  | 0                             |
| E6   | Committing robbery.  | 0                             |



|             |  |    |    |
|-------------|--|----|----|
| E7          | Giving alcohol to a minor.   | 1  | 39 |
| E9          | Bullying, if the pupil has previously been suspended for engaging in bullying and the pupil's continuing presence in the school creates an unacceptable risk to the safety of another person.  | 8  |    |
| E10         | Any activity listed under Suspensions that is motivated by bias, prejudice or hate based on race, national or ethnic origin, language, colour, religion, sex, age, mental or physical disability, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, or any other similar factor. | 59 |    |
| OTH<br>MAND | Any other activity that, under a policy of the board, is an activity for which a student may be considered for expulsion.  | 63 |    |

E - Expulsion

\* The number of suspensions pending expulsion for each reason code will appear higher, as one suspension may have had two or more reason codes and therefore counted multiple times. This chart should be used to review the reasons for a suspension pending expulsion, not a total number of suspensions.

**Suspension Analysis by Location:**

|                 |     |
|-----------------|-----|
| Bleachers       | 3   |
| Cafeteria/Lunch | 50  |
| Change Room     | 24  |
| Classroom       | 576 |
| Gymnasium       | 40  |
| Hallway         | 408 |
| Internet        | 35  |
| Laboratory      | 1   |
| Library         | 12  |
| Not Available   | 38  |
| Off Site        | 153 |
| Office          | 132 |
| Other           | 196 |
| Parking Lot     | 29  |
| Portable        | 8   |
| School Bus      | 36  |
| School Grounds  | 500 |
| School Trip     | 8   |
| Sports Events   | 7   |
| Staircase       | 6   |
| Swimming Pool   | 0   |
| Washroom        | 262 |



# Report to Board

November 25, 2024

## **Subject: 2024/2025 Board Committee Membership**

### **Recommendation**

*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.*

### **Status**

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 as attached (Appendix A). All trustees have been selected for the committee they indicated as their first choice.

### **Background**

On November 13, 2024, trustees received a link to the Trustee Committee Preference 2025 Survey and were asked to submit their committee preferences to the Manager of Corporate Services by November 20, 2024. The survey requested trustees rank their committee choices in order of preference.

### **Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications.

### **Communications**

The new committee membership structure will be posted on the website and communicated to staff responsible for these committees through the Office of the Chairperson.

Prepared by: Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services  
for Chairperson M. Radlein

## 2024/2025 - BOARD COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP STRUCTURE

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Special Education Advisory Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Appointed for 4 Years<br/>2 Trustees &amp; 2 Alternates<br/>Meets Monthly<br/>2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● S. Estoesta</li> <li>● J. Meissner</li> <li>● C. Johnson (Alt)</li> </ul> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Agenda Development Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Appointed Annually<br/>Chairperson, Vice-Chair, Past Chair &amp; 2 Trustees<br/>Meets Monthly- 1<sup>st</sup> Monday</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● M. Radlein (Chair)</li> <li>● J. Weston (Vice-Chair)</li> <li>● S. Piatkowski (Past Chair)</li> <li>● J. Meissner (Dec-Apr)</li> <li>● B. Cody (May-Nov)</li> <li>● PLUS: One trustee rotating alphabetically</li> </ul> | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Discipline Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Appointed Annually<br/>Chairperson &amp; Trustees<br/>Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● B. Cody (T)</li> <li>● S. Estoesta (M)</li> <li>● C. Johnson (M)</li> <li>● S. Piatkowski (M&amp;T)</li> <li>● M. Radlein (T)</li> <li>● M. Ramsay (M&amp;T)</li> <li>● C. Watson (M)</li> <li>● J. Weston (M&amp;T)</li> <li>● K. Woodcock (M&amp;T)</li> </ul> |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Board Audit Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Appointed for 4 Years<br/>3 Trustees<br/>Meets 3 times per year</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● S. Piatkowski</li> <li>● M. Waseem</li> <li>● K. Woodcock</li> </ul>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Parent Involvement Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Appointed Annually<br/>1 Trustee &amp; 1 Alternate<br/>Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● M. Radlein</li> <li>● J. Weston (Alternate)</li> </ul>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Student Program Review and SAL</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Appointed Annually<br/>At least 4 Trustees<br/>Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● C. Johnson</li> <li>● M. Radlein</li> <li>● J. Weston</li> <li>● K. Woodcock</li> </ul>   |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Past Directors' Bursary</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● M. Radlein (Chair)</li> <li>● J. Weston (Vice-Chair)</li> <li>● S. Piatkowski (Past Chair)</li> </ul>   | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Equity and Inclusion Advisory Group</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Appointed Annually<br/>2 Trustees<br/>Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● S. Estoesta</li> <li>● J. Meissner</li> </ul>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>School Year Calendar Committee</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Appointed Annually<br/>1 Trustee<br/>Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● S. Piatkowski</li> </ul>  |

|  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
| <p><b>Student Trustee &amp; Student Senate Mentor</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually<br/>2 Trustee<br/>Meets as required</i></p> <p>Current Mentors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● C. Johnson</li> <li>● J. Weston</li> </ul> <p>Mentors for next Student Trustee Term:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● C. Johnson</li> <li>● M. Waseem</li> </ul> | <p><b>Policy Working Group</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● M. Radlein (Chair)</li> <li>● S. Estoesta</li> <li>● J. Weston</li> <li>● K. Woodcock</li> <li>● PLUS: One trustee rotating alphabetically</li> </ul> | <p><b>Waterloo Education Foundation Inc.</b></p> <p><i>Appointed Annually<br/>Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson<br/>Meets as required</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● M. Radlein (Chair)</li> <li>● J. Weston (Vice-Chair)</li> </ul> |
| <p><b>Parents Reaching Out Grant Evaluation</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● J. Meissner</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Mental Health and Addiction Strategy</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● S. Estoesta</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Tim Walker Memorial Award</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● J. Meissner</li> </ul>   |
| <p><b>Director Performance Appraisal (In Camera)</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● M. Radlein (Chair)</li> <li>● J. Weston (Vice-Chair)</li> <li>● S. Piatkowski (Past Chair)</li> </ul> <p>Additional Trustees for Next Term (May):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● M. Ramsay</li> <li>● K. Woodcock</li> </ul>                                 | <p><b>Trustee Self Evaluation Tool</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● S. Estoesta</li> <li>● M. Waseem</li> <li>● C. Watson</li> </ul>  | <p><b>Committee Selection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● M. Radlein (Chair)</li> <li>● J. Weston (Vice-Chair)</li> <li>● S. Piatkowski (Past Chair)</li> </ul>  |
| <p><b>Internet Content Filtering Working Committee</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● C. Watson</li> </ul>   |   |   |

October 24, 2024

The Honourable Jill Dunlop  
Minister of Education  
Ontario Ministry of Education  
438 University Ave  
Toronto, ON M5G 2K8

Dear Minister Dunlop,

I am writing on behalf of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) to urge a review and amendment of the current legislation and regulations pertaining to Education Development Charges (EDCs). Our Board is committed to supporting housing and homelessness solutions within our community, but we face significant challenges under the existing legislative framework.

We respectfully request the following actions:

**Review and Amend EDC Legislation:** We urge the Ministry to consider amending the existing legislative scheme to allow school boards to apply a different rate or scheme for not-for-profit or supportive housing projects. This flexibility is crucial to ensure that school boards can support these vital community projects without facing penalties or losing essential core educational funding.

**Support for Housing and Homelessness Solutions:** Any amendments made to the EDC framework should enable school boards to support housing and homelessness solutions within their communities, while maintaining the necessary financial resources to address core educational needs. This balance is essential to ensure that our educational institutions can continue to provide high-quality education while also contributing to broader community well-being.

Additionally, we emphasize the need for a statutory exemption for affordable housing. The current legislated \$300 cap makes it difficult for boards to recalculate costs related to housing categories for differentiated rates. Given that EDCs are imposed at a provincial level, any changes to the legislation would support affordable housing across the province, not just in Hamilton. This province-wide approach would ensure that all communities benefit from more flexible and supportive EDC regulations.

We believe that these changes are necessary to create a more equitable and supportive environment for both education and housing. Thank you for considering our request and for your continued dedication to improving our province.

Sincerely,



Maria Felix Miller  
Chair of the Board

---

**Fwd: A Letter from the Minister of Education**

1 message

---

**Joanne Weston** <joanne\_weston@wrdsb.ca>  
To: Stephanie Reidel <stephanie\_reidel@wrdsb.ca>  
Cc: jeewan chanicka <jeewan\_chanicka@wrdsb.ca>

Mon, Oct 28, 2024 at 4:29 PM

For the next board package

**Joanne Weston**

Chairperson, Board of Trustees

Trustee (Kitchener)

Pronouns: She/Her

**Waterloo Region District School Board**

51 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener ON, N2C 2R5

Desk: 519-570-0003 Ext.

Mobile: 226.752.7781

Email: [joanne\\_weston@wrdsb.ca](mailto:joanne_weston@wrdsb.ca)Website: [www.wrdsb.ca](http://www.wrdsb.ca)

Confidentiality Warning: This message and any attachments are intended only for the use of the intended recipient(s) and may contain confidential or personal information that may be subject to the provisions of the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act. If you are not the intended recipient or an authorized representative of the intended recipient, you are notified that any dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify the sender immediately and delete the message and any attachments.

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Minister of Education** <[Minister.EDU@ontario.ca](mailto:Minister.EDU@ontario.ca)>

Date: Mon, Oct 28, 2024 at 4:23 PM

Subject: A Letter from the Minister of Education

To: Joanne Weston <[joanne\\_weston@wrdsb.ca](mailto:joanne_weston@wrdsb.ca)>

October 28, 2024

Ms. Joanne Weston  
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees  
Waterloo Region District School Board  
[joanne\\_weston@wrdsb.ca](mailto:joanne_weston@wrdsb.ca)

Dear Joanne Weston,

Thank you for your letter; I really appreciated your kind words of congratulations. It is an incredible honour to become Ontario's Education Minister and I do not take this responsibility lightly. As a mom to three incredible daughters, I am intimately familiar with the way our province's public education system improves and transforms lives.

In the six years since our government was first elected, Ontario's schools have faced incredible and unprecedented disruptions to student learning. I'm proud to say our education system met those challenges with courage and compassion. Students, teachers, parents, support staff, and everyone

else have all been incredibly resilient, and I thank them for their patience. During this time, our government has also stepped up by raising education funding to the highest levels in Ontario's history.

I am excited that the 2024-25 school year is shaping up to be one without disruption. Students and parents deserve this stability. Over the past year, we successfully reached agreements with all the province's teachers' unions and in doing so, prevented the possibility of any teacher strikes. Keeping kids in class was critically important in allowing us to deliver our back-to-basics plan.

Thanks to the actions we have taken, Ontario families are seeing many key changes in their local schools including a classroom cell phone ban, restrictions on social media and stricter enforcement on vaping. There will also be a renewed focus on fundamental subjects, such as reading, writing and math, and updates to our curriculum that will teach students financial literacy and other practical life skills they will need after graduation.

As Education Minister, I will always put students and families first. While I am proud of our government's successes so far, I am excited to continue to drive transformational change in the education system with the support of teachers, principals, parents and other key partners.

I thank you again for taking the time to write to me.

Sincerely,

Hon. Jill Dunlop

Minister of Education



# *Rainy River*

## DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

November 13, 2024

### EDUCATION CENTRE

522 Second St. E.  
Fort Frances, ON  
P9A 1N4  
Phone: 807 274 9855  
Fax: 807 274 5078  
Toll Free: 1 800 214 1753

The Honorable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Education  
13th floor, Mowat Block 900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2  
VIA EMAIL [minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

Dear Minister Dunlop,

### **RE: *Two-Year Update Right to Read Report***

On behalf of the Rainy River District School Board, I am writing to inquire about the next steps to respond to *The Right to Read Report* recommendations. The Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) released *The Right to Read Inquiry Report* in February 2022. The *Report* outlines critical changes to teaching early reading, with 157 interconnected recommendations for school boards, faculties of education, and the Ministry of Education.

### WEB SITE:

[www.rrdsb.com](http://www.rrdsb.com)

This fall, the OHRC released a status update on the progress toward meeting the recommendations. While considerable progress has been made across the province with the updated Gr. 1-8 Language Arts curriculum, the Policy Program Memorandum 168, and the release of *Effective Early Reading Instruction – A teacher’s guide*, it was noted that Benchmarks 4 and 5 – the benchmarks related to accommodations and professional assessments - showed little to no progress.

### DIRECTOR

Heather Campbell

These benchmarks include the following next steps:

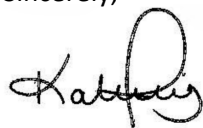
- standardization around learning disabilities, specifically when professional assessments occur and how assessments should be used
- updated Individual Education Plan guidelines, to reflect the implementation of literacy assessments and interventions
- greater guidance on the appropriate use of accommodations and modifications

As noted in the *Two-Year Update Right to Read Report*, “When it comes to meeting students’ right to read, Ontario needs consistency and stability. This means clear, mandatory standards related to curriculum and instruction, early screening, reading interventions, accommodations, and professional assessments.” As a school board invested in the work to enhance our literacy practices and our students’ educational outcomes, we look to the Ministry of Education for information on the next steps and timelines to respond to these benchmarks.



We thank you in advance for your consideration of this request and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kathryn', written in a cursive style.

Kathryn Pierroz, Chair,  
Rainy River District School Board

- c. The Rainy River District School Board of Trustees
  - Denise A. Cole, Deputy Minister of Education
  - Heather Campbell, Director of Education
  - The Ontario Public School Boards Association and member boards

November 18, 2024

VIA EMAIL: [minister.edu@ontario.ca](mailto:minister.edu@ontario.ca)

The Honourable Jill Dunlop  
Minister of Education  
5<sup>th</sup> Floor  
438 University Avenue  
Toronto, ON M7A 2A5

Dear Minister Dunlop:

### **Urgent Need for Student Nutrition Programs in our Schools**

I am writing to you on behalf of the Simcoe County District School Board (SCDSB) to express our strong support for the establishment of student nutrition programs in all Ontario schools. As advocates for student well-being, we believe that access to nutritious food is essential for academic success and overall health.

#### **The challenge:**

Across Canada, many students face food insecurity, which directly impacts their ability to learn and thrive. Hunger and malnutrition hinder concentration, cognitive development, and overall educational outcomes. A 2022 Statistics Canada report shows that 6.9 million people in 10 provinces, including almost 1.8 million children, lived in households struggling to afford the food they need. As a school board, we witness first-hand the effects of food insecurity on our students, and we are committed to addressing this critical issue.

The SCDSB has 88 elementary schools, 16 secondary schools and seven learning centres serving approximately 57,000 students with close to 7,000 staff. According to the Ontario Ministry of Education up to 35 per cent of students in some SCDSB schools are living in poverty. The County of Simcoe's 2021 Census publicized that an average of 9.1 per cent of children under 17 are living as low-income status, and within some regions that number climbs to 32 per cent.

In Ontario 30.7 per cent of students under 18 are living in Food-insecure Households (Canadian Income Survey 2022). In Simcoe Muskoka 18 per cent of households are food insecure. Students in Grade 7 to 12 report that less than half eat breakfast before school and more than 2,200 (5 per cent) students go to bed or school hungry daily (Ontario Student Health and Drug Use Survey).

#### **The solution:**

A provincial student nutrition program would provide consistent and equitable access to healthy food for all students, regardless of their socio-economic background. By implementing such a program, we can:

1. **Enhance learning:** Proper nutrition positively influences cognitive function, memory retention, and concentration. When students have access to nutritious food, they are better equipped to engage in learning.

2. **Promote health and well-being:** A well-balanced diet contributes to physical health, mental well-being, and overall resilience. By nourishing our students, we invest in their long-term health outcomes.
3. **Reduce stigma:** A universal program eliminates the stigma associated with receiving subsidized food. All students benefit equally, fostering a sense of inclusivity and community.
4. **Support families:** A provincial student nutrition program would alleviate financial strain on families, ensuring children receive nourishing food during the school day.

#### **Our request:**

We are asking that the provincial government match the federal governments commitment to a national food program to support the provision of food in our Ontario schools. We urge the provincial government to collaborate with the federal government and community organizations to develop and fund school nutrition programs in our schools. This program should prioritize fresh, locally sourced ingredients, cultural diversity, and sustainability.

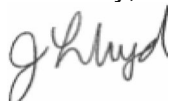
#### **Conclusion:**

We believe that investing in our students' nutrition is an investment in Ontario's future. By working together, we can create a program that ensures no child goes hungry while pursuing their education.

We kindly request your support and advocacy for the swift implementation of student nutrition programs in all of our Ontario schools. A similar joint letter of request has been sent to the Committee of the Whole, County of Simcoe, from the SCDSB and Simcoe Muskoka Catholic District School Board. Let us join forces to nourish our students and empower them to reach their full potential.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter. We look forward to positive action that will benefit generations of Ontario students.

Sincerely,



Jodi Lloyd, Chairperson  
 Simcoe County District School Board

c: Hon. Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario  
 Hon. Doug Downey, MPP, Barrie-Springwater-Oro-Medonte  
 Hon. Andrea Khanjin, MPP, Barrie-Innisfil  
 Hon. Caroline Mulroney, MPP, York-Simcoe  
 Brian Saunderson, MPP, Simcoe-Grey  
 Ontario Public School Boards' Association  
 School Board Chairs  
 Board of Trustees, SCDSB  
 John Dance, Director of Education, SCDSB  
 Dawn Stephens, Associate Director, SCDSB  
 Greg Jacobs, Superintendent of Education, SCDSB