



Waterloo Region District School Board

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December 12, 2024

The Honourable Jill Dunlop, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON, M7A 0B8

Dear Minister Dunlop,

At its meeting on November 25, 2024, the Board of Trustees for the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB) agreed to write a letter of support regarding the letter from Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board dated October 24, 2024, regarding a review and amendment of the current legislation and regulations pertaining to Education Development Charges (EDCs).

We agree with the request for the following actions:

Review and Amend EDC Legislation: We urge the Ministry to amend the existing legislative scheme (O. Reg. 20/98) 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 negatively impacting our ability to acquire future school sites, which we will need to support our growing communities.

Support for Housing and Homelessness Solutions: Any amendments made to the EDC by-law framework (O. Reg. 20/98) should enable school boards to support housing and homelessness solutions within their communities while maintaining the necessary financial resources to address the escalating costs of land. This balance is essential to ensure our educational institutions continue providing high-quality education while contributing to broader community well-being.

The above actions align closely with our Strategic Plan as the WRDSB is committed to supporting students placed on the margins and providing all students with what they need when they need it to ensure equitable outcomes. Thank you for considering and supporting families in Waterloo Region and the province.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maedith Radlein".

Maedith Radlein
Chairperson of the Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees
Ontario Public School Boards' Association
Ontario public school boards
Local Members of Provincial Parliament
Regional Chair