

**FEBRUARY 24, 2025  
BOARD MEETING**

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

Trustee C. Johnson was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustee F. Luo was in attendance and Student Trustee D. Lakhanpal was absent.

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

Other staff in attendance: M. Mayer and S. Reidel.

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson M. Radlein called the meeting to order at 7:40 p.m.

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

1. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by M. Waseem:

**That the agenda of the February 24, 2025, Board Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

**ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES**

Chairperson M. Radlein shared regrets from Student Trustee D. Lakhanpal.

Chairperson M. Radlein assisted a Grade 8 class at Groh Public School on a research project on how Boards respond to communities.

Chairperson M. Radlein attended the Elmira District Secondary School Black Brilliance event where feeder elementary schools were invited to celebrate.

Trustee K. Woodcock thanked the Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils (WRAPSC) for hosting an All Parties meeting and debate for the provincial election.

**COMMUNICATIONS DEPARTMENT GOOD NEWS UPDATE**

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

**DELEGATIONS**

There were no scheduled delegations.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

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

**That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of February 24, 2025, 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 S. Estoesta, seconded by J. Meissner:

**That the agenda of the February 24, 2025, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera and will move the Other Business to be the first agenda item and Appointments To The Qualified Applicants' Pool, Superintendent to the end of the agenda.**

-Carried-

**SOCIAL MEDIA LITIGATION UPDATE**

B. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by J. Weston:

**That the question be called.**

-Carried-

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
M. Waseem

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

**That the motion be amended to include "subject to the question regarding adverse cost insurance being answered to the board's satisfaction." so that it now reads:**

**"That the Waterloo Region District School Board take next steps to participate in this litigation process subject to the question regarding adverse cost insurance being answered to the board's satisfaction."**

-Amendment Carried-

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board take next steps to participate in this litigation process subject to the question regarding adverse cost insurance being answered to the board's satisfaction.**

-Amended Motion Defeated-

In Favour:  
K. Woodcock

Opposed:  
B. Cody  
S. Estoesta  
C. Johnson  
J. Meissner  
S. Piatkowski  
M. Radlein  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson  
M. Waseem  
J. Weston

#### **APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA**

E. Moved by J. Meissner, seconded by K. Woodcock:

**That the consent agenda of the February 24, 2025, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

#### **RISE AND REPORT**

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

**That we rise and report in public session at 7:40 p.m.**

-Carried-

*Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.*

#### **DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

#### **REPORTS**

There were no reports.

## **REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS**

There were no Board reports.

## **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS**

The Board received the following communications:

- Waterloo Region District School Board to Ontario Public School Boards' Association

Trustees discussed the letter written to Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA). It was noted that OPSBA would not act on any advocating unless a resolution was passed at the upcoming Annual General Meeting.

## **OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

## **QUESTION PERIOD**

Trustee C. Watson asked about de-streaming and receiving a report in the future sharing challenges and successes. Director S. Miller started by applauding staff who have embraced destreaming that removes pathway limitations for students created by traditional streamed courses. He shared that it would be a good time to review credit accumulation and de-streaming practices in grade ten and would be happy to bring forward some information on professional development provided to staff, the impact on students, and how WRDSB is engaging with families and listening to how they see their children experiencing de-streaming in our secondary schools.

Trustee J. Weston asked if the WRDSB prioritizes buying local and Canadian and if existing budgets allow WRDSB to do so. Superintendent N. Landry informed trustees that the WRDSB is required to follow Broader Public Sector procurement guidelines and Building Ontario Businesses Initiative (BOBI). BOBI mandates public sector entities to give Ontario businesses preference when conducting procurements for goods and services under a specified threshold amount. He shared that there are also international trade agreements that are also applicable. He noted that we manage within our currenting funding.

## **FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The following Notice of Motion was served by Trustee J. Weston with support from Trustee S. Estoesta:

*Whereas Ontario Regulation 463/97: Electronic Meetings and Meeting Attendance together with s.228(1)(e) of the Education Act, states that if a trustee fails to be physically present or fails to participate by electronic means at a public or in camera Committee of the Whole (COTW) meeting, that trustee would vacate their seat;*

*Whereas the board has no authority to approve an absence by a trustee from a regular COTW meeting;*

*Whereas while WRDSB Trustees strive to attend all meetings, the new regulation does not provide flexibility for a Trustee to miss even one COTW meeting for any reason, including illness, traffic, accident, etc.;*

*Whereas other Boards have committee structures that use COTW only for matters that fall outside the purview of other committees;*

*Whereas WRDSB Bylaw section 16 and 17 outlines the current WRDSB committee structure, including COTW meetings;*

*Whereas the new legislation comes into effect on September 1, 2025.*

***Therefore it be resolved that the WRDSB form an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Board's current committee structure and recommend a committee structure that would align with the new legislation and allow the board to fulfill their legislative responsibilities by means other than a Committee of the Whole;***

***That the Ad Hoc Committee review and consider the committee structures of other comparative boards;***

***That the Ad Hoc Committee recommend changes to Sections 16 and 17 of the WRDSB Bylaws (July 2024) as well as any other sections which reference Committees of the Whole to align the bylaws with the recommended committee structure;***

***That the Ad Hoc Committee reports back to the board in May 2025.***

This motion will be scheduled for a future meeting.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

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

**That the Board Meeting of February 24, 2025, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.