

**MAY 26, 2025
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 (Chair of the Board), B. Cody, S. Estoesta, C. Johnson, J. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, C. Watson, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

Trustee M. Waseem was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

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

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

Other staff in attendance: E. Gray, G. Le-Phuong, M. Mayer, S. Reidel and J. Sipos.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair M. Radlein called the meeting to order at 7:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

1. Moved by J. Meissner, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the agenda of the May 26, 2025, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

Chairperson M. Radlein shared regrets from Trustee M. Waseem.

RECIPIENTS OF THE 2024-2025 PAST DIRECTORS' BURSARY

This report is provided for information.

The Past Directors' Bursary provides funding for students who are pursuing a trade, through college or apprenticeship, and who have not already been selected to receive an award at their graduation ceremony. All 16 recipients met the necessary criteria and will receive a \$125 bursary.

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting at 7:35 p.m.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Trustees M. Ramsay, M. Radlein and J. Weston attended the Alpine Public School 50th Anniversary celebration.

Trustee K. Woodcock attended a classroom visit at Central Public School with MPP B. Riddell for Take Your MPP to School Week 2025.

Trustee J. Weston attended a classroom visit at Westheights Public School with MPP M. Harris for Take Your MPP to School Week 2025.

Chair M. Radlein attended a classroom visit at Hillside Public School with MPP A. Clancy for Take Your MPP to School Week 2025.

Chair M. Radlein attended the groundbreaking ceremony at the future location of the New Cambridge Joint Elementary School at 605 Wesley Boulevard in Cambridge.

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 delegations scheduled.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by J. Meissner, seconded by C. Johnson:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of May 26, 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 K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Johnson:

That the agenda of the May 26, 2025, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

B. Moved by C. Johnson, seconded by J. Weston:

That the consent agenda of the May 26, 2025, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

SENIOR TEAM UPDATE

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the appointment of Ryan Hume, Acting Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, to a permanent role as Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, effective immediately; and

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the appointment of Jamila Maliha, from Superintendent of Student Achievement, Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board, to Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, effective August 1, 2025.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

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

That we rise and report in a public session.

-Carried-

Note: This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

Trustee K. Woodcock declared a conflict of interest for the Direction For Ontario Public School Boards' Association Annual General Meeting Voting Delegate.

STAFF FOLLOW UP

POSTPONED MOTION - CLASSROOM EVACUATION

This motion was withdrawn by the mover and the seconder.

REPORTS

BOARD IMPROVEMENT AND EQUITY PLAN UPDATE: STUDENT MENTAL HEALTH, WELL-BEING AND ENGAGEMENT

This presentation was provided for information.

This Board Improvement and Equity Plan (BIEP) presentation had a focus on student mental health, well-being, and engagement. Key initiatives include building student knowledge and understanding of mental health, enhancing educator capacity to support mental health literacy, and supporting student wellness teams. The presentation highlighted various strategies such as in-class presentations, professional learning sessions, wellness fairs, and substance use awareness programs. It also emphasized the importance of attendance, detailing the role of social workers and attendance counsellors in addressing attendance issues and supporting students' overall well-being. The presentation underscored the collaborative efforts between educators, mental health professionals, and community partners to create a supportive and inclusive environment for students.

Trustees asked questions regarding screen time, student-led activities, building resiliency, building capacity in educators, grade by grade skill building and monitoring results.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

SCHEDULING OF BOARD COMMITTEE STRUCTURE RECOMMENDATIONS AD HOC COMMITTEE

On March 17, 2025, the Waterloo Region District School Board approved the creation of 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. The Committee met 12 times between March 2025 and May 2025 and has prepared recommended changes to the WRDSB Bylaws. At this time, the committee is recommending that the Draft Bylaws be scheduled for discussion at the June 9, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting.

Trustee J. Meissner, as Committee Co-chair, introduced the recommendation to schedule the Bylaws for discussion on June 9, 2025. He noted that the Board has not received a response to the advocacy letter for changes to the legislation sent on April 17, 2025. A number of documents were provided to Trustees to allow for ample time to review in advance of the June 9, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board schedule the Ad Hoc Board Committee Structure Committee recommendations and final report for the June 9, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting for discussion.

-Carried-

Abstained: C. Watson

DIRECTION FOR ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING VOTING DELEGATE

Trustee K. Woodcock left the meeting at 8:49 p.m.

The purpose of this report is to provide direction for Trustee C. Johnson (or alternate) as voting delegate at the OPSBA Annual General Meeting (AGM). As is the usual practice, OPSBA sent several items slated for consideration at the OPSBA 2025 AGM, in order that they may be reviewed and discussed as necessary at the board table prior to the AGM in June. Trustees considered four Policy Resolutions from OPSBA Member Boards and OPSBA First Vice-President and Regional Candidates.

Trustees discussed the recommendation and given that much discussion and information was received during the AGM, trustees believed allowing the voting delegate the opportunity to vote based on that information was appropriate.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board allow the voting delegate to vote at the 2025 OPSBA Annual General Meeting as they deem appropriate; and

That they take into consideration the discussions occurring at the May 26, 2025, Committee of the Whole meeting.

-Carried-

Abstained: C. Watson

Trustee K. Woodcock rejoined the meeting at 8:52 p.m.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

There were no board communications.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee C. Watson asked about the process for an Educational Assistant - Level D to apply for a position posted as an Educational Assistant - Level B. Associate Director B. Lemon shared that there are no core day positions posted at a Level B, only Level D and they are posted and hired within collective agreement requirements and the Fair and Equitable Hiring Practices policy.

Trustee C. Johnson asked if it is possible to schedule software updates and maintenance to the Apply to Education system outside of the busy posting times. Associate Director B. Lemon shared that the vendor decides its maintenance schedule but that feedback can be shared with them. It was noted that the vendor is Canadian and has many clients in Ontario and Canada.

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked for clarification on why a measles case required closure at one school but not the second one. Superintendent R. Hume indicated that the first case was still within the infectious stage of the initial exposure.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

There were no future agenda items.

ADJOURNMENT

5. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by C. Johnson:

That the Board Meeting of May 26, 2025, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 p.m.