

**JUNE 23, 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, M. Waseem, C. Watson and K. Woodcock.

Trustee J. Weston was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees D. Lakhanpal and F. Luo were in attendance.

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

Other staff in attendance: C. Gingrich, R. Hewer, M. Mayer, S. Reidel, E. Wainaina and S. Watters.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair M. Radlein called the meeting to order at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

That the agenda of the June 23, 2025, Board Meeting be approved with a re-ordering of the Reports to allow the Board Improvement & Equity Plan Update: Math Achievement Action Plan to occur first.

-Carried-

ANNOUNCEMENTS/CELEBRATING BOARD ACTIVITIES

RECOGNITION OF STUDENT TRUSTEES

Trustee C. Johnson acknowledged Student Trustees Devansh Laphanpal and Feiyang Luo as their term is ending. She shared their accomplishments throughout the year.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair M. Radlein shared regrets from Trustee J. Weston.

Chair M. Radlein recognized Superintendent Pam Kaur and celebrated her retirement.

Trustee J. Meissner visited the Mary Johnston Public School Library.

Trustee S. Piatkowski spoke at the Eastwood Collegiate Institute commencement ceremony.

Trustee S. Piatkowski will be speaking at the Bluevale Collegiate Institute commencement ceremony.

Trustee K. Woodcock spoke at the Waterloo Oxford District Secondary School commencement ceremony

Trustee M. Waseem spoke at the Huron Heights Secondary School commencement ceremony.

Trustee C. Johnson spoke at the Galt Collegiate Institute commencement ceremony.

Trustee C. Johnson will be speaking at the Glenview Park Secondary School commencement ceremony.

Trustees C. Johnson and M. Radlein attended the Spectrum's 4th Annual Fundraising Gala.

Trustees M. Radlein and S. Piatkowski attended a meeting at Groh Public School for future intermediate students of Willow River Public School to meet their teachers for next year.

Chair M. Radlein spoke at the Kitchener-Waterloo Collegiate Institute commencement ceremony.

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

No delegations were scheduled for this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by B. Cody:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of June 23, 2025, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folios 25-28.

-Carried-

JUNE 11, 2025 - SPECIAL BUDGET MEETING

Trustee C. Watson asked questions of clarification regarding chromebooks and Behaviour Support Teams.

3. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Johnson:

That Folios 25-28, from the consent agenda of the June 23, 2025, 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. Ramsay, seconded by C. Johnson:

That the agenda of the June 23, 2025, In Camera Board Meeting be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera with the addition an in camera Notice of Motion to the end of Other Business.

-Carried-

APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA

- B. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by J. Meissner:

That the consent agenda of the June 23, 2025, In Camera Board Meeting and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

STAFFING UPDATE & APPOINTMENT OF SUPERINTENDENT

- C. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by J. Meissner:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the appointment of Kimberley Pivdor, from Principal, École Bannockburn Public School, Toronto District School Board, to Superintendent, Student Achievement & Well-Being, effective August 1, 2025.

-Carried-

RISE AND REPORT

- D. Moved by J. Meissner, seconded by C. Johnson:

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.

STAFF FOLLOW UP

CONSULTATION: PLANNING PHASE UPDATE

Director S. Miller shared an update on the comprehensive consultation process to gather input from the community on the educational needs of students. This initiative will involve engaging students, parents, families, staff, and community organizations through various methods such as town hall meetings, virtual sessions, and surveys. The goal is to ensure the Multi-Year Strategic Plan reflects the diverse voices and needs within the community. The consultation process will begin in fall 2025, with a report on the feedback expected in early 2026.

REPORTS

BOARD IMPROVEMENT & EQUITY PLAN UPDATE: MATH ACHIEVEMENT ACTION PLAN

This presentation was provided for information.

The Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP) presentation provided an update on the WRDSB's implementation. The presentation highlighted the board's efforts to enhance math instruction, improve student outcomes, and align with the Ministry of Education's priorities. Key points included the success of the Elementary Long Range Plans, professional development for educators, and the positive impact of tools like Reflex on student math fluency. The presentation also addresses challenges such as fluctuating student confidence in math and outlines strategies for ongoing improvement, including mentorship for new teachers, targeted interventions, and strengthening the home-school connection. The WRDSB's commitment to equity, fluency, and confidence in mathematics was emphasized throughout the presentation.

Trustees asked questions regarding the student confidence statement compared to the improvement in facts knowledge, supporting student attendance, the students included in the data, funding model, key performance indicators and educator confidence.

BOARD IMPROVEMENT & EQUITY PLAN UPDATE: DESTREAMING

This presentation was provided for information.

The Destreaming presentation outlined the historical context, rationale, and impact of destreaming in Ontario schools. The presentation traces the evolution of streaming policies from the Robarts Plan in 1962 to the current destreaming initiative that began in 2021. Destreaming aims to eliminate the disproportionate representation of students from marginalized groups in applied courses and ensure equitable access to post-secondary pathways. Key goals include improving graduation rates, aligning education with employment opportunities, and fostering inclusive instructional practices. Data highlights show stable pass rates and increased

enrollment in post-secondary prerequisite courses, indicating positive outcomes from the destreaming efforts. The presentation emphasized the importance of maintaining high expectations for all students and the role of educators in creating an inclusive learning environment.

Trustees asked questions regarding the streaming in grades eleven (11) and twelve (12), possible related increases in positive mental health and supporting staff.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the meeting an additional thirty minutes to 10:00 p.m.

-Carried-

2021-2026 ACCESSIBILITY PLAN UPDATE

This report was provided for information.

The 2025 WRDSB Accessibility Plan Update outlined the progress and future direction of the Waterloo Region District School Board's Multi-Year Accessibility Plan (MYAP) for 2021-2026. The presentation highlights the board's commitment to meeting the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) standards across various domains, including customer service, employment, information and communication, physical environment, transportation, and systemic practices. Key updates include the completion of an AODA desk audit, ongoing accessibility training, policy reviews, and the introduction of new tools for website accessibility. The presentation also emphasized the WRDSB's proactive approach in preparing for the next MYAP (2026-2031).

5. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by S. Estoesta:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board extend the meeting an additional thirty minutes to 10:30 p.m.

-Carried with two-thirds-

Trustees asked questions regarding PDF remediation, the website accessibility tool and the challenges for physical vision and hearing upgrades.

REPORTS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

MEMBERSHIP IN STANDING COMMITTEES

On June 9, 2025, the Board of Trustees approved an amended version of the Ad Hoc Board Committee Structure Committee's Final Report. The report recommended the WRDSB approve the Draft WRDSB Bylaws effective August 31, 2025 and proposed transitioning to a Standing Committee structure to enhance flexibility for trustee absences and align with new legislation. The recommended Standing Committees were Business Services, Policy & Governance, and

Student Achievement & Well-Being, each focusing on specific areas aligned with the Board's strategic plan and operational goals. The term of membership on the Standing Committees will be from September 1, 2025 to November 14, 2026 to bring alignment to the trustee election term.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approves the Standing Committee Membership as outlined in Appendix A titled “2025 - 2026 Standing Committee Membership” dated June 23, 2025.

-Carried-

ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION (OPSBA) UPDATE

Trustee C. Johnson provided trustees with an update from the OPSBA Annual General Meeting earlier this month.

BOARD COMMUNICATIONS

The Board did not receive any communications.

QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked what staff are doing to resolve concerns regarding extended day registration as we move forward. Superintendent N. Landry shared that registration for extended day programs opened on June 16, and since then over 4,600 students have successfully registered for programs for next year

- Before School Program- an average of 2,855 students registered, representing about 70% of the available spots
- After School Program- an average of 3,522 students are registered, representing about 87% of the available spots.

Staff are aware of some minor technical issues that occurred early on in the registration process, but staff quickly connected with the Region and the vendor to identify the source of the issue and get it resolved. Staff will continue to monitor registrations throughout the summer and into September, and may be able to add additional sections where staffing and program demand allow for it. When asked, staff confirmed families should be directed to the Registration FAQs on the website.

FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee M. Ramsay served the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustee C. Watson:

WHEREAS, on June 28, 2021 the School Resource Officer Review Committee recommended to the Waterloo Region District School Board (the “Board”) as follows:

1. That the Waterloo Region District School Board issues a public apology acknowledging the harms of the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program to Black, Indigenous, and Racialized students.
2. That the Waterloo Region District School Board agrees to end the School Resource Officer (SRO) Program effective immediately.
3. That the Waterloo Region District School Board develops a clear procedure limiting the role of police in schools, other than incident response. Community partners with the capacity to deliver presentations and support services currently being provided by police officers should be identified, vetted, and promoted throughout the system.
4. That the Waterloo Region District School Board reviews the local School-Police Protocol through an equity, anti-racist, and anti-oppressive lens.
5. That the Waterloo Region District School Board explores restorative justice strategies and practices when addressing student discipline issues.
6. That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter to the Region of Waterloo, requesting that the funds previously used to deliver the School Resource Officer Program within the Waterloo Region District School Board be reallocated to community-based services for youth.
7. That the Board of Trustees dissolves the Ad Hoc School Resource Officer Review Committee.

WHEREAS, the Board adopted the recommendations in its entirety on June 28, 2021; and

WHEREAS, on December 4, 2024 the Legislative Assembly for the Province of Ontario (the OLA) approved the following motion, that:

In the opinion of this House, the Ministry of Education should encourage and support all publicly funded school boards to work in partnership with police services by maintaining community school liaison officer programs to support relevant programming, building positive relationships between students, officers and educators, and ensuring schools remain safe and healthy learning environments; and

WHEREAS, on May 29, 2025 the Minister of Education for the Province of Ontario introduced Bill 33, Supporting Children and Students Act, 2025 which includes a requirement for boards to work with local police services to provide them with access to school premises, permit them to participate in school programs and implement school resource officer programs; and

WHEREAS, the motion passed by the OLA on December 4, 2024 and the introduction of Bill 33 on May 29, 2025 requires a different approach for boards to work in partnership with police services; and

WHEREAS, on June 4, 2025 the Chief of Police of the Waterloo Regional Police Service believes there is a role for them to play within an educational school environment as required; and

WHEREAS, it is now necessary to rescind certain sections of the original Board motion in order to comply with the intentions of the OLA;

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, That the Waterloo Region District School Board hereby rescinds paragraphs 2, 3, and 6 of the original Board motion that was adopted on June 28, 2021.

Trustee C. Watson served the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustee M. Ramsay:

Whereas the professional development “Dismantling Whiteness at WO” has many parents upset and confused,

Whereas trustees were assured in the past that the tenets of Critical Race Theory and ideologies were not being taught in WRDSB Schools,

Whereas many concerned parents want transparency and accountability,

Whereas the anti-racism policy currently being developed did not receive broad parental consultation,

Therefore, be it resolved that the trustees be provided with a written report early in the 2025/26 school year that would provide full context and information about the professional development, “Dismantling Whiteness at WO schools”, as well as next steps; and

That the anti-racism policy currently being developed be released to parent councils for broader consultation.

ADJOURNMENT

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

That the Board Meeting of June 23, 2025, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 10:23 p.m.