



September 29, 2025

# Waterloo Region District School Board

## Minutes

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 K. Kaur and K. Trivedi were in attendance.

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

Other staff in attendance: M. Mayer, P. Miller, K. Moore, A. Ofori-Atta, S. Reidel and V. Tiwari.

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### Call to Order

Chair M. Radlein called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.

### Approval of Agenda

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

**That the agenda of the September 29, 2025, Board Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

### Announcements/Celebrating Board Activities

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

Chair M. Radlein acknowledged both the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation and Orange Shirt Day which will be observed tomorrow, Tuesday, September 30.

Trustees C. Johnson, S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein and J. Weston attended a breakfast with four labour partner groups.

Trustee S. Piatkowski attended The March of 1,000 Umbrellas, the annual United Way fundraising launch.

Trustee C. Watson was called out of order for an announcement regarding the death of Charlie Kirk. Trustee M. Ramsay called a Point of Order asking for the reason. Chair M. Radlein confirmed that while people have the right to grieve, C. Kirk was not Canadian and it is not relevant to school board announcements and activities.

## Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Trustee S. Piatkowski declared pecuniary interest for the previous in camera meeting.

## Communications 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 S. Piatkowski, seconded by B. Cody:

**That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of September 29, 2025, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of folio 35.**

-Carried-

## Folio 35 - Absences from Board Meetings - September

It was asked if the Ministry has requested this occur in public session and Chair M. Radlein confirmed.

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

**That folio 35, from the consent agenda of the September 29, 2025, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

## Motions From In Camera Meeting

The following motions were approved in the In Camera session held earlier this evening.

### Approval of Agenda

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

**That the agenda of the September 29, 2025, In Camera Board Meeting be approved and be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera with the addition of an Ontario Public School Boards' Association Update under Other Business.**

-Carried-

### Consent Agenda

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

**That the consent agenda of the In Camera Board Meeting of September 29, 2025, and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

### Business Services Standing Committee

C. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by M. Ramsay:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the In Camera recommendations from the Business Services Standing Committee meeting of September 15, 2025.**

-Carried-

### Rise & Report

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

**That the In Camera Board Committee Meeting of September 29, 2025, rise and report in public at 7:15 p.m.**

-Carried-

This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

## Recommendations from Standing Committees

### Business Services Standing Committee

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

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the recommendations from the Business Services Standing Committee meeting of September 15, 2025.**

-Carried-

Opposed: C. Watson

### Policy and Governance Standing Committee

When asked, Committee Chair S. Estoesta explained that the committee has committed to using the word parent as part of policies to be consistent with Ministry of Education language.

5. Moved by S. Estoesta, seconded by J. Meissner:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the recommendations from the Governance and Policy Standing Committee meeting of September 17, 2025.**

-Carried-

## Staff Follow Up

### Consultation Ad Hoc Committee Update

This update was provided for information.

Director S. Miller provided an update on the community consultation tied to the Strategic Plan review. The goal is to ensure the Multi-Year Strategic Plan continues to reflect the needs and voices of students, staff, parents, families, and community partners. Engagement will include surveys, town halls, and focus groups, with outreach to students, families, staff, and community organizations. A dedicated website for the

consultation will launch by October 14, 2025 and a final report summarizing feedback will be presented to the Board in March 2026.

## Reports

### **Board Improvement & Equity Plan - 2025 Summer Programs**

This report was provided for information.

This summer, WRDSB supported approximately 4,500 students through a variety of programs from SK to Grade 12. The Summer Enhancement (SK–Grade 8) program delivered in-person at three sites, with a focus on literacy, numeracy, social-emotional learning, and culturally responsive instruction. Students with special education needs were integrated and supported by EAs and DECEs. Speech-Language Pathologists and Social Workers provided targeted interventions and workshops. For Secondary Summer School (Grades 9–12), over 3,200 students completed credit-bearing courses through eLearning, in-person, co-op, and Reach Ahead formats. 429 students completed two-credit co-operative education placements with support from local businesses and organizations. SHSM students earned 2,546 certifications, and virtual co-op options were piloted. Assessment data showed measurable gains in literacy and math across grade levels, with increased proficiency in phonics and numeracy. The programs aimed to reduce summer learning loss and foster student identity, joy, and academic growth.

Trustees asked questions regarding resources for elementary students who are not progressing, class sizes and in person summer learning locations. Trustees also asked about Co-operative Education opportunities and social emotional learning.

## Board Reports

There were no Board reports.

## Board Communications

The Waterloo Region District School Board received the following communications:

- Letter from the Minister of Education - Electronic Meeting Attendance

Trustees discussed the response from the Ministry of Education. It was noted that changes made to the governance structure were based on interpretation from the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and that regardless of the vagueness of the letter, the WRDSB is responsible to adhere to the legislation as it is written.

## Other Business

There was no other business.

## Question Period

Trustee J. Weston asked if, from a student achievement and wellbeing perspective, the changes to the cell phone policy have had an impact on students. Associate Director A. Gaymes-San Vicente confirmed that information was gathered from three secondary schools and they report positive feedback. Schools have noticed a positive impact on behaviour specifically in washrooms and a decrease in cyber bullying throughout the day. It was noted that a number of schools previously had cell phone policies in place but these policies were enhanced and schools noticed the positive results.

## Future Agenda Items

Trustee S. Piatkowski served the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustee C. Johnson:

Whereas the WRDSB is concerned about the dangers that speeding in school zones poses to students and others;

Whereas automated speed enforcement (speed cameras) in school zones has proven to be effective in reducing speeding;

Whereas the provincial government has indicated its intention to introduce legislation that would outlaw speed cameras, including those in school zones;

Whereas the elimination of speed cameras would negatively impact the safety and wellbeing of WRDSB students and other members of the community;

**Be it resolved that the Board of Trustees direct the Chairperson to write a letter to the Premier, Minister of Transportation, and Minister of Education opposing the end of automated speed enforcement;**

**Be it further resolved that copies of this letter be sent to OPSBA, OPSBA member school boards, coterminous school boards, as well as local regional, city and township councils.**

Notices of Motion will be scheduled for a future meeting.

## Adjournment

6. Moved by S. Estoesta, seconded by K. Woodcock:

**That the Board Meeting of September 29, 2025, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:42 p.m.