



October 15, 2025

Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee

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), C. Johnson, S. Piatkowski, M. Waseem and C. Watson.

Additional Trustees in Attendance: M. Ramsay and J. Weston.

Student Trustees K. Kaur and K. Trivedi were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: D. Ahluwalia, J. Albrecht, A. Gaymes-San Vicente (Director's designate) and R. Hume.

Other staff in attendance: S. Reidel.

Call to Order

Chair M. Radlein called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m.

Appoint Scrutineers

Board Chair M. Radlein named Associate Director A. Gaymes-San Vicente and Manager S. Reidel to fulfill the role of scrutineer for the election of Committee Chair and Vice-Chair.

Nominations For Committee Chair

Board Chair M. Radlein provided trustees with a reminder of the procedure for nominations.

Trustee S. Piatkowski nominated Trustee C. Johnson for the role of Committee Chair. Trustee C. Johnson accepted the nomination.

There were no other nominations at this time.

Close Nominations

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

That the nominations for the position of Student Achievement and Well-Being Standing Committee Chair now be closed.

-Carried-

Board Chair M. Radlein announced that Trustee C. Johnson was acclaimed as Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee Chair.

Trustee M. Ramsay joined the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Nominations For Vice-Chair

Committee Chair C. Johnson assumed the chair for the remainder of the meeting.

Trustee M. Radlein nominated Trustee M. Waseem for the role of Committee Vice-Chair. Trustee M. Waseem accepted the nomination.

There were no further nominations.

Committee Chair C. Johnson announced that Trustee M. Waseem was acclaimed as Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee Vice-Chair.

Close Nominations

2. Moved by M. Radlein, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the nominations for the position of Student Achievement and Well-Being Standing Committee Vice-Chair now be closed.

-Carried-

Approval of Agenda

1. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by M. Radlein:

That the agenda of the October 15, 2025, Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee Meeting be approved with the addition of a delegation from Jennifer Adams on the Reconsideration of the School Resource Officer Motion.

-Carried-

Announcements

There were no announcements

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Delegations

The following delegation spoke this evening:

- Jennifer Adams - Reconsideration of School Resource Officer Motion

Trustees asked questions of clarification.

Staff Follow Up

Gifted Learners Program Update

This update was provided for information.

Staff presented a comprehensive follow-up on gifted programming, focusing on location planning, referral processes, and equitable screening practices. Brigadoon Public School was identified as a central site for congregated programming, with considerations for future enrolment and regional accessibility. Updates to the 2025–2026 referral process include the addition of a parent/guardian questionnaire to enhance the body of evidence used in identifying gifted learners.

The presentation outlined current tiered supports (Tier 1–3) and highlighted challenges with existing screeners, including potential bias and false positives. A newer, more equitable screener was explored, featuring animated instructions and multiple-choice formats to reduce language barriers. WRDSB is engaging with other Ontario boards to assess implementation outcomes. Next steps include professional development for Special Education Resource Teachers (SERTs) and continued refinement of enrichment opportunities through classroom instruction and multidisciplinary support teams.

Trustees asked questions regarding the use of the referral process, requesting accommodations, teacher confidence recognizing giftedness and timelines for the potential implementation of a screener.

School-Police Protocol Update

This update was provided for information.

The updated School-Police Protocol emphasizes a commitment to equity, safety, and collaboration. The protocol outlines foundational principles that affirm the inherent dignity and rights of all individuals, promote respect and civility in schools, and protect against discrimination under the Ontario Human Rights Code. Key objectives include enhancing safety, strengthening partnerships between police and school communities, particularly in violence prevention, and promoting coordinated engagement with families and communities to support student well-being. The protocol also acknowledges systemic barriers to justice and commits to eliminating them through inclusive policies and practices. It aligns with relevant legislation.

Trustees ask questions regarding Bill 33 and School Resource Officers. It was noted that this protocol is used throughout the Region of Waterloo.

Reports

Suspension/Expulsion Report, May 2025

This report was provided for information.

The May 2025 Student Suspension and Expulsion Report provided comparative data from May 2024 to May 2025.

Trustees asked questions regarding violent incidents.

Suspension/Expulsion Report, June 2025

This report was provided for information.

The June 2025 Student Suspension and Expulsion Report provided comparative data from June 2024 to June 2025.

Trustees asked questions regarding the decrease in suspensions and expulsions paired with an increase in violent incidents. Staff noted that the definition of violent incidents has been further defined.

2024-2025 Annual Suspension Report

This report was provided for information.

The 2024–25 Annual Suspension and Expulsion Report provided a comprehensive analysis of student suspension, expulsion, and violent incident data across the Waterloo Region District School Board for the school year ending June 30, 2025. Superintendent R. Hume shared information regarding active bystander training and supports for schools.

Trustees asked questions regarding monitoring trends and news articles with provincial data.

Reported Student Behaviour Quarterly Data Q4 –2024-2025

This report was provided for information.

The Q4 Student Behaviour Report for the period April 16 to June 30, 2025 outlined workplace incidents involving student behaviour, categorized by severity: hazard, first aid, health care, and lost time. The report highlights ongoing challenges related to staffing and absenteeism, and outlines proactive measures taken by the Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) team to support staff and students. Data is shared bi-weekly with the Joint Health and Safety Committee.

Trustees asked questions regarding low level indicators and any new supports.

Identification Placement & Review Committee Membership

The annual report outlines the jurisdiction and membership of the Waterloo Region District School Board's Identification, Placement and Review Committees (IPRCs) for the 2025–2026 school year. In accordance with Regulation 181/98 of the *Education Act*, the Board is required to establish and approve the structure and membership of IPRCs annually. Each committee consists of a minimum of three members appointed by the Board, with the school principal or designate serving as chair. The report included a detailed appendix listing committee members across elementary and secondary schools.

It was noted that the Principal listed for Eastwood C. I. has since retired. This will be noted in the motion.

2. Moved by M. Radlein, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee recommend that the jurisdiction of each of these committees as outlined below and the attached Appendix A outlining WRDSB IPRC Committees, is approved, with the removal of Josh Windsor from the Eastwood C. I. committee membership:

A) School Committees: A school IPRC is held when a program modification to accommodate an exceptional student with Special Education Needs can be accomplished within the home school Environment.

B) Area Committees: An area IPRC is held when program modifications to accommodate an exceptional student with Special Education Needs is necessary for them to access a designated program within their current school environment or if a change in schools is required for the student to access the designated program.

C) District Committees: A district IPRC is held when program modifications to accommodate an exceptional student with Special Education Needs requires placement in cross-district Special Education Programs (i.e., Provincial School). This occurs when school and district resources have been exhausted or when specialized equipment that is not available in a school setting is being considered.

-Carried-

Board Reports

Motion: Reconsideration of School Resource Officer Motion

Trustee M. Ramsay served this Notice of Motion at the June 23, 2025, Board meeting with support from Trustee C. Watson.

Trustee C. Watson moved the motion. There was no seconder and the motion was unable to proceed.

When asked, Manager S. Reidel explained the parliamentary process regarding motions brought to committee without a seconder from the committee members as previously explained to Trustees.

Motion: Automated Speed Enforcement

This Notice of Motion was served by Trustee S. Piatkowski with support from Trustee C. Johnson at the September 29, 2025, Board Meeting. On October 6, 2025, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) released a Joint School Board and Trustee Association Statement on Automated Speed Enforcement Cameras in School Safety Zones.

Trustee S. Piatkowski proposed a friendly amendment to add "in school zones" to the first paragraph of the motion. This was accepted. He spoke to his motion.

A recent Sick Kids Hospital article "*Automated speed enforcement significantly reduces speeding in Toronto school zones*" was highlighted as a source of potential data for the letter.

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

That the Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee recommend 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 in school zones; and

That copies of this letter be sent to OPSBA, OPSBA member school boards, coterminous school boards, and local MPPS, as well as local regional, city and township councils.

-Carried-

Question Period for Members

Trustee C. Watson referenced an online article regarding the Islamic Apparel Store and asked if the WRDSB provides the opportunity for apparel purchases for other faiths. Associate Director A. Gaymes-San Vicente noted that the WRDSB has made other apparel available in alignment with other days of significance and can provide additional information if needed.

Adjournment

Student Trustees K. Kaur and K. Trivedi requested that adjournment be moved and seconded.

4. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by M. Radlein:

That the Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee Meeting of October 15, 2025, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.