



November 10, 2025

Policy & Governance Standing Committee

Minutes

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Policy & Governance Standing Committee Meeting this evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Boardroom, with the following members in attendance:

J. Meissner, M. Radlein (Chair of the Board), J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

Trustee S. Estoesta 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), D. Ahluwalia, J. Fedosoff, A. Gaymes-San Vicente, C. Hill, R. Hume and J. Mahila.

Other staff in attendance: S. Reidel.

Call to Order

Committee Vice-Chair J. Meissner called the meeting to order at 6:01p.m.

Approval of Agenda

1. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by M. Radlein:

That the agenda of the November 10, 2025, Policy & Governance Standing Committee Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

Announcements

Vice-Chair J. Meissner shared regrets from Committee Chair S. Estoesta.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Delegations

There were no delegations scheduled.

Staff Follow Up

There were no Staff Follow Up items.

Reports

Board Policy 6013 Drug Education and Addictive Behaviours

Recommended changes include an updated title and a refocus and alignment with the Mental Health and Addiction Strategic Plan.

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

That the Policy & Governance Standing Committee recommend approval of changes to Board Policy 6013 - Education on Substance Use and Addictive Behaviours as recommended at the November 10, 2025, Policy & Governance Standing Committee.

-Carried-

Board Policy 2004 Character Education and Social-Emotional Skills

Development

Upon review of this policy, it was noted that the “Character Education” language is out of date and related to a school subject in 2006. This is no longer the language used in classrooms, the Ministry of Education or School Mental Health Ontario.

Social-emotional skill development is covered and referenced in a number of other policies. As a result, staff recommend rescinding Board Policy 2004 - Character Education & Social-Emotional Skills Development.

Trustees asked questions regarding Learner Profiles in the Strategic Plan and work done in schools regarding school climate.

3. Moved by M. Radlein, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Policy & Governance Standing Committee recommend rescinding Board Policy 2004 - Character Education & Social-Emotional Skills Development effective November 10, 2025

-Carried-

New Anti-Racism Policy

The Anti-Racism Policy Steering Committee has been meeting since May 2023 to oversee the drafting of a new Anti-Racism Policy. Consultations took place between February 10, 2025 - June 3, 2025. Members of the Anti-Racism Policy Steering Committee considered all of the feedback and implemented changes as appropriate.

Trustees thanked staff for the consultation and comprehensive policy.

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

That the Policy & Governance Standing Committee recommend approval of the new policy titled Anti-Racism as presented at the November 10, 2025, Policy & Governance Standing Committee.

-Carried-

Board Reports

There were no Board Reports.

Question Period for Members

Trustee M. Radlein asked staff if they are anticipating challenges to the Anti-Racism policy. Human Rights and Equity Advisor D. Ahluwalia shared that while some push-back is anticipated to Human Rights and equity work, staff tried to be thoughtful and thorough with consultation, the documentation of feedback consideration, policy writing and legal review.

Rise & Reconvene

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

That the Policy & Governance Standing Committee Meeting of November 10, 2025, rise and reconvene to a Working Meeting.

-Carried-

The meeting rose to reconvene in a working meeting at 6:16 p.m.