



February 9, 2026

Waterloo Region District School Board

Notice of Special Board Meeting

The Special Board Meeting of the Waterloo Region District School Board will be held in the Boardroom, Building 2, 1st Floor, 51 Ardel Avenue, Kitchener, Ontario, on Monday, February 9, 2026, at 6:00 p.m.

AGENDA

Call to Order

Territorial Acknowledgement and O Canada

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Delegations

Board Reports

01	Motion: Letter to the Ministry of Education	Trustee C. Watson
03	Motion: Letter to the Ombudsman	Trustee J. Weston

Rise & Reconvene in Policy & Governance Standing Committee



Report to Board

February 9, 2026

Subject: Motion - Letter to the Ministry of Education

Recommendation

That the Waterloo Region District School Board write a letter to the Minister of Education requesting a referendum be held or a formal province wide consultation process be developed and implemented before making a decision that would eliminate English Public Board Trustees; and

That this consultation process include province wide Town Hall meetings, surveys, virtual and in person focus groups and round table discussions that would seek input from students, parents, staff and community and also discuss research concerning the pros and cons of eliminating local English Public Trustee representation while also promoting open dialogue and two-way conversations; and

That this motion be sent to every English Public Board in the province of Ontario; and

That this motion be considered time sensitive.

Status

This Notice of Motion was served by Trustee C. Watson with support from Trustee B. Cody at the February 2, 2026, Board meeting.

Background

“Whereas” statements are based on the reasoning and judgement of facts of the mover of this motion. The following recitals were included as background:

Whereas the Minister of Education has been given the authority to remove English Public Trustees without consulting students, parents, staff and community members,

Whereas the English Public Trustees serve the largest group of students, parents, staff and community members in the province,

Whereas public meetings that promote government transparency and accountability will also be eliminated,

Whereas students, parents, staff and community members will not have a trustee advocate at the local level.

Whereas students, parents, staff, community member and school boards will have no recourse or push back when the Ministry of Education directives are issued to local school boards,

Financial implications

Financial implications are not known at this time.

Communications

If approved, a letter would be written and submitted as instructed, The letter will also be posted on the WRDSB website under Chairperson Correspondence.

Prepared by: Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services, for Trustee Cindy Watson.



Report to Board

February 9, 2026

Subject: Motion - Letter to the Ombudsman

Recommendation

That the Waterloo Region District School Board That the WRDSB write to the Ontario Ombudsman to ask the office to review the potential impacts of removing English Public Trustees with respect to fairness, openness, transparency and accountability; and

That a copy of the letter be sent to all Waterloo Region MPPs, MPs, OPSBA, OPSBA member Boards, Minister Calandra and the Ontario Premier.

Status

This Notice of Motion was served by Trustee J. Weston with support from Trustee J. Meissner at the February 2, 2026, Board meeting.

Background

“Whereas” statements are based on the reasoning and judgement of facts of the mover of this motion. The following recitals were included as background:

Whereas the [role of the Ontario Ombudsman](#) is to examine the transparency, fairness and accountability of policies and government;

Whereas the Minister of Education has stated the intention to remove the role of democratically elected English Public Trustees and has [stated](#) that French and Catholic Trustees will not be removed;

Whereas the removal of English Public Boards of Trustees would result in the loss of Indigenous representation where it currently exists;

Whereas the removal of English Public Boards of Trustees would also result in the loss of Student Trustees in those boards, which is the sole legislated role giving voice to Ontario students in English Public Schools;

Whereas there has been no formal public consultation on the proposal to remove the role of English Public Trustees and polls have shown [support for the role of Trustees](#) and [are skeptical that the proposed governance changes will improve public education](#);

Whereas the removal of democratically elected Trustees at supervised Boards has resulted in [less open, public meetings](#) which can result in less accountability.

Financial implications

Financial implications are not known at this time.

Communications

If approved, a letter would be written and submitted as instructed, The letter will also be posted on the WRDSB website under Chairperson Correspondence.

Prepared by: Stephanie Reidel, Manager of Corporate Services, for Trustee J. Weston.