



February 23, 2026

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), S. Estoesta, C. Johnson*, J. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, M. Waseem, C. Watson, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

*Virtual Attendance

Trustee B. Cody was not in attendance.

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, P. Bender, B. Chatha, J. Fedosoff, A. Gaymes-San Vicente, C. Hill, H. Hughes, D. Lane, B. Lemon, J. Maliha and K. Pividor.

Other staff in attendance: C. Gingerich, M. Mayer, S. Reidel, L. Unsworth and S. Watters.

Call to Order

Chair M. Radlein called the meeting to order at 6:59 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

1. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by J. Weston:

That the agenda of the February 23, 2026, Board Meeting be approved with the addition of a delegation from Amanda Mohammad regarding Local Democracy.

-Carried-

Announcements/Celebrating Board Activities

Chair M. Radlein shared regrets from Trustee B. Cody.

Trustee S. Piatkowski participated in a 6 person panel discussion hosted by Together in Education. Trustee J. Weston was in attendance.

Trustees J. Weston and M. Radlein attended a Black Brilliance Youth STEAM Festival.

Student Trustees K. Kaur and K. Trivedi hosted the first student roundtable of 2026. During the session, they presented information about the student census, and facilitated a strategic plan community consultation with the students in attendance.

Chair M. Radlein visited Country Hills Public School, Meadowlane Public School, Suddaby Public School and Jean Steckle Public School.

Chair M. Radlein attended an interfaith and multicultural Iftar at Kitchener City Hall celebrating Ramadan.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Trustee S. Piatkowski declared pecuniary interest during 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

2. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by J. Weston:

That the delegation be permitted to speak for 7 minutes.

-Carried-

The following delegation spoke at the meeting:

- Amanda Mohammad - Local Democracy

Trustees were given an opportunity to ask questions of clarification.

Consent Agenda

3. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of February 23, 2026, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Abstained:
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

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 M. Waseem, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the agenda of the February 23, 2026, In Camera Board Meeting be approved and be deemed to meet the legislative requirements for discussion in camera.

-Carried-

Consent Agenda

B. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by S. Estoesta

That the consent agenda of the In Camera Board Meeting of February 23, 2026, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Rise & Report

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

That the In Camera Board Committee Meeting of February 23, 2026, rise and report in public.

-Carried-

This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

Recommendations from Standing Committees

Policy and Governance Standing Committee

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the recommendations from the Policy and Governance Standing Committee meeting of February 9, 2026.

-Carried-

Abstained:
M. Ramsay
C. Watson

Staff Follow Up

There were no items of staff follow up.

Reports

2026-2027 School Year Calendar

Developed through a comprehensive consultation process involving employee federations, administrators, and community stakeholders, the proposed 2026-2027 School Year Calendars were designed to meet the requirements of Ontario Regulation 304. This regulation mandates a minimum of 194 school days, including seven professional activity (PA) days and up to ten instructional days designated for examinations. While the School Year Calendar Committee prioritised alignment with the Waterloo Catholic District School Board (WCDSB), the 2026-2027 proposal includes two unaligned days resulting in an estimated additional transportation cost of \$286,668, of which the WRDSB's share is approximately \$189,756 primarily due to reporting and assessment days for elementary and secondary. Following Board approval, the calendars will be submitted to the Ministry of Education for final authorisation.

5. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by K. Woodcock:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the 2026-2027 School Year Calendars containing 194 school days, as outlined in Appendices A and B of the Report titled "School Year Calendars: 2026-2027."

-Carried-

Math Achievement Action Plan - Interim Report

This report was provided for information.

The Math Achievement Action Plan (MAAP) detailed the board's ongoing commitment to enhancing mathematics outcomes for all students, with a specific focus on closing achievement gaps for those currently underserved. The MAAP is a multi-year initiative designed to align with provincial priorities while addressing the unique needs of the Waterloo Region student population. The plan continues to focus on students who have historically faced systemic barriers to success in mathematics. Ongoing training for educators is being implemented to foster high-impact instructional practices and improve content knowledge across all grade levels. The WRDSB is directing specific resources and personnel to schools identified as needing the most intensive support to meet provincial math standards. The WRDSB is utilizing data-driven assessments to monitor student progress and evaluate the effectiveness of the interventions being deployed under the MAAP.

Trustees asked questions regarding professional development, reporting to the Ministry of Education, universal screeners, disparity between report cards and EQAO scores and funding from the Ministry of Education. Trustees also inquired about math picture books, secondary supports, assessment conditions and math software.

Board Reports

There were no Board reports.

Board Communications

The Waterloo Region District School Board received the following communications:

- Waterloo Region District School Board to the Minister of Education
- Waterloo Region District School Board to the Ombudsman

Trustees discussed the suggestions from the delegation to further communicate the role of trustees. When asked, staff confirmed that something could be developed in the next week.

6. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by S. Estoesta:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board, in the next week, use our communication channels to communicate the role of trustees to the community.

-Carried-

Trustees further discussed the letters they previously sent and additional media attention on the matter. Trustees expressed appreciation to WRDSB advisory groups for their support on the matter.

Other Business

There was no other business.

Question Period

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked if the directive by the Premier and Minister of Education posted on social media directing all Ontario school boards to allow all students to watch two Olympic hockey games during class time on Thursday and Friday was also received through official means and how it was implemented in schools across the WRDSB. Director S. Miller shared that the Olympics are an exciting time of national pride and teachable moments in class. He confirmed that a request from the Ministry of Education was received Thursday morning and was shared with administrators. This request was implemented in a variety of ways depending on the classroom and, in some cases, the game was played in the background while classroom work continued and was the focus of learning for others. Trustee S. Piatkowski asked if the direction clarified how this directive was tied to student achievement. Director S. Miller indicated that this information was not included in the request.

Future Agenda Items

There were no future agenda items.

Adjournment

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

That the Board Meeting of February 23, 2026, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 8:37 p.m.