



February 25, 2026

Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee

Minutes

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Board Meeting this evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Boardroom, with the following members in attendance: M. Radlein (Chair of the Board), S. Piatkowski, M. Waseem and C. Watson.

Trustee C. Johnson was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Additional Trustees in Attendance: M. Ramsay.

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), J. Albrecht, A. Gaymes-San Vicente and R. Hume.

Other staff in attendance: S. Reidel.

Call to Order

Committee Vice-Chair M. Waseem called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m..

Approval of Agenda

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

That the agenda of the February 25, 2026, Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee Meeting be approved with the addition of a delegation from Anita Brooks Kirkland on Motion: Reassess Book Selection and Review Process.

-Carried-

Announcements

Chair M. Waseem shared regrets from Trustee C. Johnson.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Delegations

The following delegations spoke at the meeting:

- Sheryl Tilley - Motion: Reassess Book Selection and Review Process
- Cristina Fernandes - Motion: Reassess Book Selection and Review Process
- Anita Brooks Kirkland - Motion: Reassess Book Selection and Review Process

Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions of clarification of each delegate.

Staff Follow Up

There were no items of staff follow up.

Reports

Reported Student Behaviour Incidents Quarterly Data Q2 –2025-2026

This report was provided for information.

The Q2 Student Behaviour Report for the period November 16, 2025 to January 31, 2026 outlined workplace incidents involving student behaviour, categorized by severity: hazard, first aid, health care, and lost time. The report highlights ongoing challenges related to 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 monitoring the success of supports in place and adjusting when needed. Trustees asked about schools assigning educational assistants (EAs) to academic or behaviour support, possible reasons for increases from last year, referrals to the BMS team, and supporting students transitioning to the school environment.

Student Evacuation Quarterly Data Q2 – 2025 - 2026

This report was provided for information.

The second-quarter report regarding student evacuations within the WRDSB covers the period from November 16, 2025, to January 30, 2026 and provides transparency on the use of classroom evacuations as a safety and support tool. The report categorizes evacuations into three primary areas: Risk of Imminent Harm, Reduction of Stimuli/Triggers, and Student Medical needs. There were 495 total evacuations during this period. With 1,930 classes over 50 instructional days, the elementary evacuation

rate was 0.5% and with 3,100 instructional periods over 47 days, the secondary evacuation rate was 0.007%. The Board continues to utilize AP2330 (Management Process for Student Behaviours Causing a Risk of Injury) to guide staff in maintaining a safe environment while making every effort to restore the learning space quickly after a disruption.

Trustees asked questions regarding the guidance provided to schools and kindergarten to grade 3 supports.

Trustees discussed a motion to write a letter to the Ministry of Education. It was noted that the letter should mention that this supports academic achievement and be based on evidence-based data including the impact evacuations have on the education experiences. It was confirmed that the Chair of the Board will review the letter.

2. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the That the Waterloo Region District School Board send a letter to the Ministry of Education sharing the data in the Student Evacuation Quarterly Data Q2 – 2025 - 2026; and

Ask that the Ministry request evacuation data collection by other school boards; and

Request that the Ministry consider providing the additional resources to school boards and community agencies to reduce classroom evacuations.

-Carried-

Trustees continued with questions about the report including evacuation processes, and supports to minimize the impact on evacuated students.

Student Suspension/ Expulsion Report, December 2025

This report was provided for information.

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

Trustees asked questions regarding current practices and expulsions.

Board Reports

Motion: Reassess Book Selection and Review Process

This Notice of Motion was served by Trustee C. Watson with support from Trustee B. Cody at the November 24, 2025 Board Meeting. No seconder was provided for Trustee C. Watson's motion so it was not discussed.

Question Period for Members

Trustee C. Watson asked if a response had been received from the WRDSB's most recent letter to the Minister of Education. Manager S. Reidel confirmed that she has not yet received a response.

Adjournment

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

That the Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee Meeting of February 25, 2026, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.