



March 9, 2026

# 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:

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

Additional Trustees in Attendance: S. Piatkowski.

Student Trustee K. Trivedi was in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: S. Miller (Director of Education and Secretary).

Other staff in attendance: S. Reidel.

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### Call to Order

Committee Chair S. Estoesta called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

### Approval of Agenda

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

**That the agenda of the March 9, 2026, Policy & Governance Standing Committee Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

### Announcements

There were no announcements.

### Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Trustee K. Woodcock declared a pecuniary interest for Board Policy 3007 - Membership in Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

## Delegations

There were no delegations scheduled.

## Staff Follow Up

There were no staff follow up items.

## Reports

### **Board Policy 3007 - Membership in Ontario Public School Boards' Association**

Trustee K. Woodcock Left the meeting at 6:04 p.m.

Minor updates to Board Policy 3007 - Membership in Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) included an update to the number of students served and removal of positions for nomination to reduce the need to make updates to the policy in the future. The 2026-2027 fee for OPSBA is not yet known. OPSBA has indicated that they are aware of both the financial constraints on boards and will be working to limit any dues increase as much as possible.

Trustees discussed the changes to the policy and were in support of continuing membership in OPSBA.

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

**That the Policy & Governance Standing Committee recommend approval of Board Policy 3007 - Membership in Ontario Public School Boards' Association as presented at the March 9, 2026, Policy & Governance Standing Committee meeting; and**

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board continue with membership in the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) for 2026-2027.**

-Carried-

Abstained: K.Woodcock

Trustee K. Woodcock rejoined the meeting.

## **Trustee Determination and Distribution**

Under Ontario Regulation 412/00 of the Education Act (O. Reg. 412/00), school boards are responsible for confirming trustee determination and for providing trustee distribution calculations.

A trustee proposed an alternative to the current trustee distribution which would reduce the number of trustees to nine and distribute four to Kitchener, two to Waterloo, two to Cambridge and North Dumfries and one for Wellesley, Woolwich and Wilmot townships. It was noted that the regulations allow the number of trustees to be reduced. Committee members discussed the alternative but decided not to move forward with an amendment. Trustees discussed interest in public consultation before making any changes to the trustee complement and noted that there is already much uncertainty with the future of trustees.

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

**That the Policy & Governance Standing Committee recommend that, pursuant to Section 4(1)(b) of Ontario Regulation 412/00 of the Education Act, the Waterloo Region District School Board agrees that no areas within the Board's area of jurisdiction in the Region of Waterloo be designated as low population municipalities; and**

**That, pursuant to Section 58.1 (10.0.1) of the Education Act which says the number of elected trustee positions on a district school board be set at the number determined by the Board for the 2006 school board election, the Waterloo Region District School Board confirms that the number of trustees for this Board will remain at eleven (11); and**

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board distributes its members as follows:**

- **four (4) representatives for the City of Kitchener;**
- **three (3) representatives for the combined area of the City of Waterloo and the Township of Wilmot;**
- **three (3) representatives for the combined area of the City of Cambridge and the Township of North Dumfries; and**
- **one (1) representative for the combined area of the Township of Wellesley and the Township of Woolwich.**

-Carried-

## Board Reports

There were no Board reports.

## Question Period for Members

Trustee J. Weston asked if a response has been received by either the Minister of Education or the Ombudsman to letters sent in February. Manager S. Reidel indicated that no response was received.

## Rise & Reconvene

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

**That the Policy & Governance Standing Committee Meeting of March 9, 2026, rise and reconvene in a Working Meeting.**

-Carried-

The meeting rose to reconvene in a working meeting at 6:17 p.m.