



March 30, 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), B. Cody, S. Estoesta, C. Johnson, J. Meissner, S. Piatkowski, M. Ramsay, M. Waseem\*, C. Watson, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

\*Virtual 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, J. Albrecht, P. Bender, J. Fedosoff, A. Gaymes-San Vicente, C. Hill, H. Hughes, R. Hume, N. Landry, D. Lane, B. Lemon, J. Maliha and K. Pivdor..

Other staff in attendance: G. Le-Phuong, D. Loveless, M. Mayer and S. Reidel.

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### Call to Order

Chair M. Radlein called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

### Approval of Agenda

1. Moved by J. Meissner, seconded by J. Weston:

**That the agenda of the March 30, 2026, Board Meeting be approved.**

-Carried-

### Announcements/Celebrating Board Activities

#### Appointment of 2026-2027 Student Trustees

Trustees S. Estoesta and C. Johnson introduced Skyler Yoo, a student at Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute, and Gloria Anuraj, a student from Glenview Park Secondary School, as the Student Trustees for the 2026-2027 school year.

#### Other Announcements and Board Activities

Trustees S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, J. Weston and K. Woodcock attended the International Women's Day Breakfast held by the Greater Kitchener Waterloo Chamber of Commerce.

Chair M. Radlein visited Smithson Public School and Willow River Public School. She also attended a Black Brilliance event at William G. Davis Public School, Black Heritage Night at Westheights Public School and The Day You Begin Kindergarten event.

## Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Trustee M. Ramsay declared pecuniary interest for the previous in camera meeting.

Trustee K. Woodcock declared pecuniary interest for the Policy and Governance Standing Committee recommendations.

## 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

The following delegation spoke at the meeting:

- Lisa Weiler Haskins - Classroom Evacuations

Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions of clarification.

## Consent Agenda

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

**That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of March 30, 2026, and the actions contained therein, be approved with the exception of Folio 20.**

-Carried-

**Folio 20 - Motion: Reassess Book Selection and Review Process from the Student Achievement and Well-Being Standing Committee Meeting of February 25, 2026.**

Trustee C. Watson spoke to her motion and noted that there were delegation requests that were declined.

Trustee K. Woodcock called a Point of Order when the Trustee deferred to a member of the public gallery to provide clarification on the delegations as members of the gallery are not permitted to speak. Chair M. Radlein agreed with the Point of Order.

Trustee C. Watson continued to speak to the motion noting concerns she has received from families regarding the selection of and access to books. She noted that she believes consultation should occur.

A recorded vote was requested.

Trustees discussed the motion including the events of the standing committee meeting, the use of staff resources, oversight of curriculum by the Ministry of Education (Ministry) and trusting the professionalism of staff. Trustees also discussed varying viewpoints of families on the matter, the ways families are consulted on a variety of matters, a Ministry request to pause library reviews and if students have indicated any concerns with current resources.

3. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by M. Ramsay:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board (1) immediately undertake a full, transparent, and independent review of how the Selection of Educational Resources Procedure takes place, including the well-defined criteria, advisory sources, and decision-making process used to select and retain library (including online library commons) and classroom materials; and**

**(2) This review shall include formal, documented, and broad parental consultation, ensuring that the values, expectations, and concerns of parents of diverse views and beliefs are fully represented; and**

**(3) This review shall include a comprehensive audit of existing library (including online library commons) and classroom resources to:**

**(i) identify sexually explicit content or promotion of identitarian political frameworks such as critical race theory and gender ideology and**

**(ii) assess the educational value, developmental appropriateness, and weigh the benefits versus risks of exposing students to these materials; and**

**(4) The Board publicly disclose a summary of findings and proposed reforms arising from this review, including timelines, responsible departments, and clear accountability measures; and**

**(5) That the information collected by staff be presented to trustees in a board report by the end of March 2026.**

-Defeated-

In Favour:

B. Cody  
M. Ramsay  
C. Watson

Opposed:

S. Estoesta  
C. Johnson  
J. Meissner  
S. Piatkowski  
M. Radlein  
M. Waseem  
J. Weston  
K. Woodcock  
\*K. Kaur  
\*K. Trivedi

4. Moved by S. Estoesta, seconded by K. Woodcock:

**That Folio 20, from the consent agenda of the March 30, 2026, Board Meeting, and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

Abstained:

B. Cody  
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 J. Meissner, seconded by J. Weston:

**That the agenda of the March 30, 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 J. Meissner, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

**That the consent agenda of the In Camera Board Meeting of March 30, 2026, and the actions contained therein, be approved.**

-Carried-

## Rise & Report

C. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Johnson:

**That the In Camera Board Committee Meeting of March 30, 2026, rise and report in public.**

-Carried-

This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

## Recommendations from Standing Committees

### Student Achievement and Well-Being Standing Committee

5. Moved by C. Johnson, seconded by J. Weston:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the recommendations from the Student Achievement and Well-Being Standing Committee meeting of February 25, 2026.**

-Carried-

### Policy and Governance Standing Committee

Trustee K. Woodcock left the meeting at 8:24 p.m.

6. 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 March 9, 2026.**

-Carried-

Abstained: K. Woodcock

Trustee K. Woodcock rejoined the meeting

### Business Services Standing Committee

7. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by B. Cody:

**That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the recommendations from the Business Services Standing Committee meeting of March 23, 2026.**

-Carried-

## **Staff Follow Up**

There were no items of Staff Follow Up.

## **Reports**

### **Board Improvement and Equity Plan: Wellness**

This report was provided for information.

The update outlined the progress of the board's Mental Health and Addictions Strategic Plan, which focuses on fostering a sense of belonging and providing evidence-informed, culturally responsive support for all students. Key highlights from the update included the Strategic Pillars building upon four foundational areas: Environment, Learning, Support, and Engagement. These pillars guide the board's commitment to co-creating mentally healthy classrooms and establishing clear pathways to support those in need. Staff identified student attendance as a critical metric for well-being, defining "persistent absenteeism" as missing 10% or more of school (approximately two days per month). Staff are currently leveraging "Design Thinking" and technological solutions to improve attendance data and address barriers to school engagement. It was shared that significant investment has been made in professional development and new mental health modules were implemented for Grade 6 and Grade 10 students, focusing on managing stress, healthy relationships, and substance use awareness. The WRDSB hosted several community events in partnership with local organizations such as the YMCA and Kinbridge Community Association. These initiatives aim to provide families with resources to promote positive mental health at home and identify early signs of student distress.

Trustees asked questions regarding resources for families, building educator capacity, the stigma of absences and accessing supports for students.

## **Board Reports**

### **Ontario Public School Boards' Association Update**

Trustee S. Piatkowski shared that on March 12, 2026, OPSBA's membership approved changes to OPSBA's General By-Law that revises OPSBA's governance structure by changing the size of the Board of Directors to 17/18 Directors and adjusting Regional Council structures. OPSBA's voting delegates for each member board remain unchanged. The 2026 OPSBA Annual Meeting and Program will occur from June 4 to 6 in Ottawa.

## **Board Communications**

The Waterloo Region District School Board received the following communications:

- Bluewater District School Board to the Minister of Education
- Bluewater District School Board to the Ombudsman of Ontario
- Avon Maitland District School Board to the Premier and Minister of Education
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board to the Ombudsman of Ontario
- Kawartha Pine Ridge District School Board to the Minister of Education
- Superior-Greenstone District School Board to Member of Provincial Parliament
- Halton District School Board to the Premier and Minister of Education
- Township of Rideau Lakes Council to the Minister of Education
- Ombudsman of Ontario to Waterloo Region District School Board

Trustee M. Waseem left the meeting.

## **Other Business**

There was no other business.

## **Question Period**

Trustee C. Watson inquired into the denied delegations. Chair M. Radlein indicated that delegations are denied or accepted according to the parameters set out in the bylaws. It was noted that the curriculum is set by the Ministry of Education and is operational in nature.

Trustee S. Piatkowski asked if any past practices in the WRDSB which may have given rise to this warning to school boards from the Ministry of Education (Ministry) in regards to graduation ceremonies. Director S. Miller indicated that the practices in WRDSB align with what was asked in the Ministry's memo and that no changes to practice were required.

## **Future Agenda Items**

There were no future agenda items.

## Adjournment

8. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Johnson:

**That the Board Meeting of March 30, 2026, be adjourned.**

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 9:08 p.m.