



May 11, 2026

Business Services Standing Committee

Minutes

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Business Services Standing Committee Meeting this evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Boardroom, with the following members in attendance:

S. Piatkowski (Committee Chair), B. Cody, M. Radlein (Chair of the Board), M. Ramsay and J. Weston.

Additional Trustees in Attendance: C. Watson.

Student Trustees K. Kaur and K. Trivedi were not in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: S. Miller (Director of Education and Secretary), L. Agar, N. Landry and B. Lemon.

Other staff in attendance: M. Hilton and S. Reidel.

Call to Order

Chair S. Piatkowski called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

That the agenda of the May 11, 2026, Business Services Standing Committee Meeting be approved with the addition of Water Testing for Lead.

-Carried-

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Delegations

There were no delegations scheduled.

Staff Follow Up

There was no staff follow up.

Reports

2026-2027 Extended Day Program Fee

Established annually in accordance with Ministry of Education guidelines, the proposed daily fee is set at \$33.50 per child, representing a \$1.00 increase over the previous year. This rate is calculated on a cost-recovery basis to align with the incremental operating costs incurred by the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB). Several factors influenced the 2026-2027 fee structure including wages, special education support, and operational costs.

Children aged five and under remain eligible for reduced rates through the Canada-Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) program, resulting in a subsidized daily fee of \$12.59. The program continues to offer flexible scheduling, including "Before School Only," "After School Only," or combined care on various weekday configurations. The WRDSB currently operates these programs across 75 schools, serving over 4,810 children in the region.

Trustees asked questions regarding the CWELCC program, the bad debt estimate and the decrease in salary costs. Trustees also asked about the program's growth.

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

That the Business Services Standing Committee recommend approval of the Extended Day Program fee of \$33.50 per day, per child, for the 2026-2027 school year.

-Carried-

Water Testing for Lead

Associate Director B. Lemon shared that the federal lead testing level is a guideline and the provincial lead testing level is a mandate. The WRDSB uses the provincial mandate of 10 micrograms per litre. The test is 2-phased with both a standard sample and a flush sample, both of which are posted on the WRDSB for lead exceedance. The WRDSB also has daily water flushing measures beyond the mandated requirements. The service lines and ceramic water fountains are replaced at older facilities when needed. Over the last 6 years, the WRDSB has replaced or installed 190 hydration stations and 70 new stainless steel fountains. All family studies rooms have also been updated.

Trustees asked questions regarding the steps taken when a lead exceedance occurs, the testing timelines and funding for upgrades.

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

That the Business Services Standing Committee Meeting recommend the Waterloo Region District School Board write to the Minister of Education and Premier of Ontario to thank them for the concern that they expressed in the CTV article dated May 8, 2026, and ask them to lower the limit to Canada's standard, increase testing frequency and to dedicate additional funding to reduce any possible exposure of children to lead in schools.

-Carried-

Board Reports

There were no Board reports.

Question Period for Members

Trustee C. Watson asked why Chromebooks have access to social media accounts when students use the devices at home. Associate Director B. Lemon offered to follow up with a response at a later date.

Rise & Reconvene

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

That the Business Services Standing Committee Meeting of May 11, 2026, rise and reconvene in camera.

-Carried-

The meeting rose to reconvene in camera at 6:32 p.m.