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, C. Watson, J. Weston and K. Woodcock.

Trustee M. Waseem was unable to attend this evening's meeting.

Student Trustees K. Kaur and K. Trivedi were in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: S. Miller (Chief Executive Officer), L. Agar, J. Albrecht, P. Bender, B. Chatha, J. Fedosoff, A. Gaymes-San Vicente, C. Hill, H. Hughes, R. Hume, N. Landry, D. Lane, B. Lemon, J. Maliha and K. Pividor.

Other staff in attendance: J. Bistolas, M. Mayer, L. Pullen, S. Reidel and S. Ringwood.

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 K. Woodcock:

That the agenda of the May 25, 2026, Board Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

Announcements/Celebrating Board Activities

Chair M. Radlein shared regrets from Trustee M. Waseem

Past-Directors' Bursary

The Past Directors' Bursary will provide funding for students who are pursuing a trade, through college or apprenticeship, and who have not already been selected to receive an award at their graduation ceremony. All eleven (11) recipients met the criteria and will receive a $200 bursary. The Past Directors' Bursary was established by the Board of

Trustees in celebration and recognition of the many contributions and achievements of retired Directors.

Other Announcements

Trustee C. Johnson attended the Student Trustee transition meeting with current Student Trustees and incoming Student Trustees for the 2026-2027 school year.

Student Trustees K. Kaur and K. Trivedi provided an update on the recent Student Roundtable which included sharing and receiving feedback on the Accessibility Plan, updated website concept and the Transit to Learning project.

Trustee S. Piatkowski attended Waterloo Collegiate Institute's 65th Anniversary.

Trustee S. Piatkowski and K. Woodcock attended a WRAPSC meeting to answer questions about the role of trustees.

Trustees S. Piatkowski, M. Radlein, M. Waseem, J. Weston and K. Woodcock attended the Food 4 Kids Breakfast.

Trustee S. Piatkowski attended the Central West Regional OPSBA meeting as well as OPSBA's call to discuss Bill 101, Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026. He will also be attending another call this week.

Trustee K. Woodcock attended Mayor S. Shantz's final State of the Township event in Woolwich.

Trustees M. Radlein, M. Waseem and J. Weston attended Adventure4Change's cultural event.

Chair M. Radlein visited Huron Heights Secondary School, Mackenzie King Public School and Alpine Public School.

Chair M. Radlein attended the Curtain Call Showcase for secondary schools at the Conrad Centre for the Performing Arts, a partnership with Green Light Arts.

Chair M. Radlein attended Kodaly Festival at Centre in the Square.

Chair M. Radlein attended the School Zones are for Kids campaign event.

Chair M. Radlein attended the celebration of Arab Heritage Month at Canadian Arab Women's Association.

Chair M. Radlein attended the Interfaith breakfast.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

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

Trustee K. Woodcock declared pecuniary interest for the previous in camera meeting.

Trustee K. Woodcock declared pecuniary interest for the OPSBA Annual General Meeting: Direction for Delegate.

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

There were no delegations scheduled.

Consent Agenda

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

That the consent agenda of the Board Meeting of May 25, 2026, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

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 C. Johnson, seconded by S. Estoesta:

That the agenda of the May 25, 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 S. Piatkowski, seconded by J. Weston:

That the consent agenda of the In Camera Board Meeting of May 25, 2026, and the actions contained therein, be approved.

-Carried-

Business Services Standing Committee

C. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approved the In Camera recommendations from the Business Services Standing Committee meeting of May 11, 2026.

-Carried-

Rise & Report

D. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the In Camera Board Committee Meeting of May 25, 2026, rise and report in public.

-Carried-

This concludes the reporting of In Camera motions.

Recommendations from Standing Committees

Business Services Standing Committee

3. Moved by S. Piatkowski, seconded by J. Weston:

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the recommendations from the Business Services Standing Committee meeting of May 11, 2026.

-Carried-

Policy and Governance Standing Committee

It was noted that in Section 2.40 of Board Policy 4000 - Pupil Accommodation Review, the word “parents” will be added.

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 May 13, 2026.

-Carried-

Staff Follow Up

There were no items of staff follow up.

Reports

Multi-Year French Language Plan

This report was provided for information.

The Multi-Year French Language Plan highlights progress since the June 2022 French Program Review. Key structural milestones reviewed included the implementation of a Grade 2 entry point for French Immersion (FI) in 2024–2025 and the doubling of Grade 1 Core French instructional time to 16% in 2023–2024. Trustees were provided enrolment trends that noted 1,104 students applied for Phase 1 of the Grade 2 FI program for the 2026–2027 school year, representing 26.2% of the total Grade 1 cohort. Looking ahead to 2027 and beyond, staff examined systemic pressures affecting program viability, such as shifting demographics and operational balancing within dual-track schools, alongside updated transportation pathways designed to sustain engagement.

The presentation concluded with an overview of academic innovations reinforcing literacy instruction, including intensive professional development for Grade 1 educators, active classroom resource pilots, and the integration of diagnostic learning tools. Finally, data revealed a 53.33% increase over five years in senior students successfully challenging the Diplôme d’études en langue française (DELF) exam, supported by positive testimonial feedback from local students, parents, and educators.

Trustees asked questions regarding Core French resources, recruitment and retention, communicating with parents and families, resources for families, guidance for students and improved equity of access. Trustees also asked about students continuing French

Immersion, a commitment to continual review and improvements and building staff capacity to support students with special education needs.

Board Improvement & Equity Plan: School Improvement & Leadership

This report was provided for information.

This presentation outlines the WRDSB strategic framework to align executive oversight with school-level student outcomes. Grounded in the WRDSB "North Star" commitment to educational equity, the report details how the system operationalises its strategic goals through four interconnected components: the Board Improvement and Equity Plan (BIEP), which sets the overarching system direction; the School Leadership Improvement Plan (SLIP), which localises educational targets using student data; School Leadership, with principals driving implementation in classrooms; and SLIP Coaching, which ensures organizational coherence and equity-centred decision-making across learning families. Furthermore, the presentation highlighted the *Together We Transform: Leadership Capacity and Development Plan (2026–2028)*. Aligned with provincial leadership and effectiveness frameworks, this long-term strategy focuses on fostering psychological safety, implementing equitable recruitment practices, and narrowing achievement gaps to directly connect administrator development with measurable improvements in student success and well-being.

Trustees asked questions regarding overarching pedagogy and Board Improvement and Equity Plan. They also asked about administrator onboarding training regarding family engagement, surveying staff, evaluating success and supports for staff choosing lateral moves.

5. Moved by K. Woodcock, seconded by C. Watson:

That the Board Meeting of May 25, 2026, be extended an additional thirty minutes to 10:00 p.m.

-Carried

Board Reports

Ad Hoc Board Committee Structure Committee Recommendations - Bylaw Amendments

As requested by the Board of Trustees, the ad hoc committee met twice in 2026 to review the WRDSB Board Bylaws and Standing Committee structure implemented on

August 31, 2025. At this time, the committee is recommending minor changes to the Bylaws and Standing Committee Terms of Reference.

Trustees discussed an amendment to the recommended bylaws that would remove Section 25.1.3.a. This section allows a non-member Trustee to second a motion at a Standing Committee meeting providing the non-member is present at the meeting.

A recorded vote was requested.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board amend the Draft WRDSB Bylaws (Appendix A) as presented at the May 25, 2026, Board Meeting, effective August 31, 2026 to strike out Section 25.1.3.a.

-Defeated-

In Favour:	Opposed:
C. Johnson	B. Cody
S. Piatkowski	S. Estoesta
K. Woodcock	J. Meissner
*K. Kaur	M. Radlein
*K. Trivedi	M. Ramsay
	C. Watson
	J. Weston

* Student Trustees votes are recorded for the purpose of public record and for accountability to the student body; however, it is recognized that “a student trustee is not a member of the Board” (Education Act, Section 55 (2))

7. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by J. Meissner:

That the Board Meeting of May 25, 2026, be extended an additional thirty minutes to 10:30 p.m.

-Carried with two-thirds-

Opposed:
B. Cody
K. Woodcock

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board approve the Draft WRDSB Bylaws (Appendix A) as presented at the May 25, 2026, Board Meeting, effective August 31, 2026; and

That the Ad Hoc Board Committee Structure Committee be dissolved upon the adoption of the updated bylaws; and

That the Terms of Reference for the following Standing Committees be approved:

- **Business Services Standing Committee**
- **Policy & Governance Standing Committee**
- **Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee**

-Carried-

OPSBA Annual General Meeting: Direction for Delegate

Trustee K. Woodcock left the meeting at 9:58 p.m.

The purpose of this report is to provide direction for Trustee S. Piatkowski as delegate at the OPSBA AGM. As is the usual practice, OPSBA sent several items slated for consideration at the OPSBA 2026 AGM, in order that they may be reviewed and discussed as necessary at the board table prior to the General Meeting in June.

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

That the Waterloo Region District School Board allow the voting delegate to vote at the 2026 OPSBA Annual General Meeting as they deem appropriate; and

That they take into consideration the discussions occurring at the May 25, 2026, Board meeting.

-Carried-

Abstained:
S. Piatkowski
K. Woodcock

Board Communications

The Waterloo Region District School Board received the following communications:

- Halton District School Board to the Minister of Health
- Upper Grand District School Board SEAC to Minister of Education

Other Business

There was no other business.

Question Period

Trustee C. Johnson asked if staff would be taking a closer look at the Southwood Secondary School drama course situation to better understand why enrollment is down and to look at what needs to be done to ensure Drama is supported on a systemic level. CEO S. Miller reiterated the importance of drama and arts as a whole, noting examples of opportunities provided and encouraged. Superintendent P. Bender shared that this situation is about student course selection, not enrolment, and that the WRDSB commits to having conversations with staff and students to attempt to prevent this from happening in future years. Drama will continue to be available in the course guidebook for future years, the school has a viable drama club, and staff will highlight drama as an option for students at the next course selection for Grade Eight students.

Trustee C. Watson asked if the drama program at Southwood Secondary School could be resurrected next year or the year after. Superintendent P. Bender shared that drama will not be available at Southwood Secondary School in the 2026-2027 school year, but will be available for course selection in February 2027 for the 2027-2028 school year. She also indicated that she will be following up with the school on this.

Future Agenda Items

Trustee C. Watson served the following Notice of Motion with support from Trustee M. Ramsay.

Whereas the WRDSB environmental policies must reflect the , “Acting Today, Shaping Today”, framework,

Whereas outdoor education staff have decreased from 12 to 4 over the last 40 years,

Whereas outdoor education programs have been scaled back,

Whereas there are concerns about the future role of the WRDSB at the Laurel Creek Outdoor Education Centre

Whereas transportation is limited between 9:30 am to 1:30pm which interferes with student learning,

Therefore be it resolved that the WRDSB Policy committee review and align WRDSB policies 2000 Environmental Values and 6004 Outdoor / Off Campus Education with “Acting Today, Shaping Tomorrow “, ministry framework.

And that the Policy Working Group explore the output indicator on pg 24 of the framework, “ Board-wide committee established to coordinate implementation within the board”, as well as the outcome indicator, “Implementation plan in place that is renewed, revised, and communicated annually.”

Notices of Motion will be scheduled for a future meeting.

Adjournment

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

That the Board Meeting of May 25, 2026, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 10:09 p.m.