



June 8, 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.

Student Trustee K. Trivedi was in attendance.

The following senior administration members were in attendance: S. Miller (Chief Executive Officer), M. Armellini, N. Landry, B. Lemon and C. Sagar.

Other staff in attendance: C. Gingrich Regehr, L. Lima 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 M. Radlein, seconded by J. Weston:

That the agenda of the June 8, 2026, Business Services Standing Committee Meeting be approved.

-Carried-

Announcements

There were no announcements.

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Delegations

The following delegation spoke at the meeting:

- Maria Michel - Magnet Program Transportation

Trustees were provided an opportunity to ask questions of clarification.

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

That the Business Services Standing Committee Meeting recommend the delegation from M. Michel on Magnet Program Transportation be referred to staff for follow up.

-Carried-

Staff Follow Up

Chromebooks at Home

Associate Director B. Lemon shared that a question regarding filters on board devices on home networks and access to social media was posed at the previous Business Services Standing Committee meeting. Upon investigation, he confirmed that the filtering capabilities do not exist on external networks, only on the WRDSB internal networks. He confirmed that there are securities to limit downloads to approved applications and that families are responsible for the networks students access at home as staff have fewer controls when students are on a network outside of WRDSB.

Reports

Energy and Greenhouse Gas Emissions Update

This report was provided for information.

The report highlighted that weather-normalized Energy Use Intensity has decreased by 28% and greenhouse gas emission intensity has declined by 41% since 2008, driven by building automation optimizations and accelerated LED lighting upgrades. Despite a 17% expansion in total building area and a 35% spike in energy prices, targeted conservation investments successfully minimized the 2024/25 utility expenditures to the budgeted \$11.9M. Since the 2008/09 baseline period, the cumulative savings are \$34.2M.

Trustees asked questions regarding incentive funding, what Energy Use Intensity is, consumption at specific sites, and the use of natural gas.

Major Capital Projects Quarterly Update

This report was provided for information.

The report outlined the status of active construction and restoration developments valued over \$3.0M. The report noted that major milestones have been achieved, including securing full second-floor classroom occupancy at Willow River Public School and mobilizing foundation work at the Breslau Hopewell Crossing site. Additionally, the new joint-use Giinawind Public School campus remains on track to open in September 2026, while the extensive restoration of Elizabeth Ziegler Public School progresses on schedule for a September 2027 completion.

Trustees asked questions regarding the difference in project costs and the grand opening for Giinawind Public School.

2025-2026 School Renewal and School Condition Improvement Allocation

This report was provided for information.

This report provided information regarding the active and upcoming summer infrastructure modernization schedules. These structural initiatives utilize approximately \$43.4M in total funding, combining a School Renewal Allocation of \$10,282,379 with a School Condition Improvement allocation of \$33,164,573. Administered in alignment with Ministry directives and regular accommodation committee consultations, the resources are prioritized toward bringing older schools up to current standards through major mechanical, building envelope, and program area enhancements. Specific region-wide and site-specific items include structural roof replacements, accessibility installations like lifts and universal washrooms, and extensive interior refreshes.

Trustees asked questions regarding the solar thermal panels at Cameron Heights Collegiate Institute, playground repairs and accessibility.

Interim Financial Report and Forecast

This report was provided for information.

The 2025-2026 Interim Financial Forecast is based on actual financial results compiled up to May 31, 2026. The report projects that the board's in-year operating deficit will decrease from an initially reported \$6.2 million down to \$5.6 million, aided by vacancy management and short-term unpaid leaves. Revenue pressures include an overall student shortfall of 633.4 Average Daily Enrolment which reduced Core Education Funding by \$1.4 million. This core funding drop was partially offset by a major \$4.3 million favorable variance in student transportation and \$327,000 in newly released provincial Ministry allocations for Responsive Education Programs. Because school operations savings relied heavily on high absenteeism and non-recurring transportation surpluses, staff will strategically reallocate these temporary variances without factoring them into permanent, long-term base budget planning.

Trustees asked questions regarding staff vacancies, unpaid leaves and the increase of costs related to the strategic spending, debts written off, and the reclassification of some roles.

Board Reports

There were no Board reports.

Question Period for Members

Trustee M. Ramsay asked whether students are capable of downloading a VPN on their WRDSB Chromebooks. Associate Director B. Lemon indicated that he did not have this answer but noted that any students doing so would be in violation of the Responsible Use Agreement and would be jeopardizing their access to WRDSB devices if they did so.

Adjournment

3. Moved by J. Weston, seconded by B. Cody:

That the Business Services Standing Committee Meeting of June 8, 2026, be adjourned.

-Carried-

The meeting adjourned at 7:11p.m.