



June 15, 2026

Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee

Minutes

The Waterloo Region District School Board held a Board Meeting this evening at 6:00 p.m. in the Education Centre Boardroom, with the following members in attendance: M. Radlein (Chair of the Board), C. Johnson (Committee Chair), S. Piatkowski, M. Waseem and *C. Watson.

*Virtual Attendance

Additional Trustees in Attendance: J. Weston.

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

The following senior administration members were in attendance: S. Miller (Chief Executive Officer), J. Albrecht, B. Chatha, A. Gaymes-San Vicente, C. Hill and R. Hume.

Other staff in attendance: S. Reidel.

Call to Order

Committee Chair C. Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

1. Moved by M. Waseem, seconded by S. Piatkowski:

That the agenda of the June 15, 2026, Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee Meeting be approved.

-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 were no items of staff follow up.

Reports

Student Suspension/Expulsion Report, January 2026

This report was provided for information.

The January 2026 Student Suspension and Expulsion Report provided comparative data from January 2025 to January 2026.

Student Suspension/Expulsion Report, February 2026

This report was provided for information.

The February 2026 Student Suspension and Expulsion Report provided comparative data from February 2025 to February 2026.

Student Suspension/Expulsion Report, March 2026

This report was provided for information.

The March 2026 Student Suspension and Expulsion Report provided comparative data from March 2025 to March 2026.

Student Suspension/Expulsion Report, April 2026

This report was provided for information.

The April 2026 Student Suspension and Expulsion Report provided comparative data from April 2025 to April 2026.

Trustees asked questions regarding the January to April Student Suspension/Expulsion reports. They asked about trends, initiatives, restorative practices and expressed an interest in receiving additional information regarding the Choices programs.

Reported Student Behaviour Incidents Quarterly Data Q3 – 2025-2026

This report was provided for information.

The Q3 2025–2026 report on reported student behaviour incidents, sharing data spanning February 1 to April 15, 2026, indicates that elementary school incidents increased, while

secondary school incidents decreased compared to the same period in the previous school year. The vast majority of these tracked incidents across the district were categorized under lower-severity levels, specifically as hazards or requiring first aid. To proactively support staff and manage complex student needs, the Board continues to utilize its Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) team, refine administrative procedures, and investigate innovative staffing strategies.

Trustees asked questions regarding how central teams respond to referrals, the Student Support Process, professional development, and they expressed an interest in additional data such as breakdowns by grade. Staff noted that each incident is followed by a debrief between the principal and the person who reported the incident

Student Evacuation Quarterly Data Q3 – 2025 - 2026

This report was provided for information.

The quarterly data report on classroom evacuations, covering the period from February 1 to April 15, 2026, highlights that classroom evacuations are utilized by staff as a safety and supportive measure to manage student behaviour or medical needs. During this 45-day instructional quarter, the elementary panel recorded 886 evacuations, while the secondary panel recorded 26, representing overall evacuation rates of 1% and 0.018% respectively. The vast majority of these disruptions occurred due to a perceived risk of imminent harm to self or others, with Grade 1 and Kindergarten classes experiencing the highest frequencies. These figures inform continuous improvements in student support and safety protocols.

Trustees asked questions regarding the request for additional funding from the Ministry of Education, the role of parents in developing safety plans, staff absences, and they expressed an interest in additional data. Staff noted that each incident is followed by a debrief between the principal and the person who reported the incident.

Board Reports

Outdoor Education

Committee Chair C. Johnson reminded Trustees that this agenda item was brought forward following a previous delegation on the topic. CEO Miller provided Trustees with information on the Laurel Creek Outdoor Education Centre (Laurel Creek). He shared that the shift away from Laurel Creek was a difficult decision resulting from financial constraints. It was noted that all existing outdoor educators were kept and programming has continued at other sites and returned to Huron Natural Centre. The City of Waterloo (City) has recently

purchased the Laurel Creek Natural Area and staff are committed to exploring opportunities for partnerships.

Trustees asked questions of clarification regarding the City's purchase, timelines for discussions, and offered to speak to elected officials at the City.

Motion: Collaboration Sub Committee

This Notice of Motion was served by Trustee C. Watson with support from Trustee M. Ramsay at the May 14, 2025, Committee for the Whole meeting. On February 2, 2026 the motion was postponed until the classroom evacuation reports were received. Trustees have received two quarterly reports on classroom evacuations.

Trustee C. Watson spoke to her motion including the complex needs of students and the classroom environment. A recorded vote was requested. Trustees discussed the motion referencing the work done by existing committees.

2. Moved by C. Watson, seconded by M. Ramsay at previous Board Meeting**:

That the Student Achievement & Well-Being Standing Committee recommend approval to establish a "Collaboration" Sub Committee to review research, statistical information, trends, best practices within our board and abroad, including relevant legislation, funding information, budget timelines and constraints, information about the role and responsibilities of ECEs, EAs, and CYWs and any other information related to the increase of violent incidences and lack of funding for educational supports within the learning environments within WRDSB schools.

And that this Collaboration Sub Committee have at a minimum, 1 Student Trustee, 2 Parents, 1 Special Education Advisory Committee member, 1 Early Childhood Educator , 1 Educational Assistant , 1 Child and Youth Worker , 1 Elementary Teacher , 1 Secondary Teacher, 1 Vice Principal (Elementary), 1 Principal (Elementary/Secondary,) 1 Superintendent, 2 Trustees chosen by the Chair and any other staff member and/or board staff as designated by the Director.

And that the Sub Committee structure remains flexible to include designates for each member and that experts and guest speakers be included as needed.

And that this new Collaboration Sub Committee makes recommendations to the Board of Trustees that would help address violent incidents, the lack of funding for educational support, and any other related challenges within the learning environments in WRDSB schools.

-Defeated-

In Favour:
C. Watson

Opposed:
C. Johnson
S. Piatkowski
M. Radlein
M. Waseem
*K. Kaur
*K. Trivedi

* 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)).

**This motion was reconsidered at the June 22, 2026 Board Meeting but remained defeated.

A motion to extend was moved but not seconded.

The meeting adjourned at 8:09 p.m.