



February 13, 2026

The Honourable Paul Calandra, Minister of Education
Ministry of Education
315 Front Street West, 14th Floor
Toronto, ON, M7A 0B8

Subject: Urgent Request for Province-Wide Consultation Regarding English Public School Board Trustees

Dear Minister Calandra,

On behalf of the Waterloo Region District School Board (WRDSB), I am writing to formally request that the Ministry of Education initiate a comprehensive, province-wide consultation process or a referendum before any final decision is made to eliminate English Public School Board Trustees.

As the provincial government reviews the current school board governance model, it is vital that the voices of those directly impacted—students, parents, staff, and the broader community—are central to the conversation.

School Board Trustees serve as a critical democratic link between local communities and the provincial education system. They provide essential oversight and ensure that the unique needs of local students are reflected in board policies.

The WRDSB believes that removing this elected layer of governance without robust public engagement would significantly undermine local accountability.

To ensure a transparent and evidence-based decision, the WRDSB urges the Ministry to implement a consultation process that includes:

- **Public Forums:** Province-wide Town Hall meetings and virtual/in-person focus groups.
- **Broad Engagement:** Targeted surveys and round table discussions involving students, families, and education sector partners.
- **Research Transparency:** A public review of the "pros and cons" concerning the elimination of local English Public School Trustee representation.
- **Two-Way Dialogue:** An open platform that promotes authentic conversation between the Ministry and the constituents it serves.



We believe that a decision of this magnitude, which affects the democratic rights of Ontarians to have a voice in their public education system, must not be made in isolation. According to one poll, [“Support for elected trustees climbed to 59 per cent among parents with school-aged children”](#) and according to another poll, Ontarians [“believe the \[proposed\] changes would either make no difference for students or actively make things worse.”](#)

We look forward to your response and to the opportunity to participate in a meaningful dialogue regarding the future of educational governance in Ontario.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Maedith Radlein".

Maedith Radlein
Chair, Board of Trustees
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: WRDSB Trustees
The Honourable Doug Ford, Premier of Ontario
Members of Provincial Parliament (MPPs) for Waterloo Region
Local Mayors and the Regional Chair
Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) and Member Boards
WRDSB Parent Involvement Committee
WRDSB Special Education Advisory Committee
Waterloo Region Assembly of Public School Councils