

Notice of Motion
Regular Board Meeting
March 24th, 2025

In accordance with Board bylaw 4.1, Trustee Conrad Stanley is providing notice of the following motion at the Regular Board meeting on March 24th 2025, to be considered and voted on at the Regular Board meeting on April 28th 2025.

Topic: Update to Flag Protocol and Political Symbol Policy

- Whereas:** The Canadian flag perfectly represents a nation that is now, and will forever be, glorious and free, and
- Whereas:** The Ontario flag perfectly represents a founding Province of Canada that is strong, prosperous, and compassionate, and
- Whereas:** Both flags together, because they represent our Constitution and collective laws, are fully inclusive and representative of all the diverse people who reside under their jurisdiction, and
- Whereas:** It is for this reason that these two flags, and only these two flags, are required to be flown at schools per Regulation 298 of the Education Act of Ontario, and
- Whereas:** Teaching children that these two flags unite us and represent all of us together equally contributes to the important work of cultivating their patriotism and love for our shared nation Canada, and
- Whereas:** This is no need, nor reasonable justification, for any other international political or identity based flags to be flown which might confuse the all-encompassing, inclusive and fully representative natures of the Ontario and Canadian flags, and
- Whereas:** There is a need to align the Waterloo Catholic District School Board with the widely held public expectation that schools should be non-partisan, non-political institutions, and
- Whereas:** Ongoing complaints, protests and delegations from the public show that the practice of flying international identity based flags like the rainbow, pride and progress flags remains divisive and unpopular among many Waterloo Catholic parents, constituents, and rate payers, and
- Whereas:** As a Catholic school board and faith community we already have everything we need to promote inclusiveness in the classroom and no additional political symbols can do the job better than what our faith and trust in Jesus already does, and
- Whereas:** Catholic school boards in the nearby Greater Toronto Area, including York and Dufferin-Peel, have recently voted to not fly the pride or progress flags. Dufferin-Peel also voted

in January to not allow any flags to be displayed inside their buildings except the flags of Canada, its Provinces and Territories, and their local school board.

Therefore, be it resolved that:

The WCDSB's external Flag Protocol shall be updated as follows:

For all 365 days of the year the Waterloo Catholic District School Board shall only fly the flag of Canada and the flag of Ontario outside of its facilities.

Where a third flag pole exists it shall fly a flag representing our school board for all 365 days of the year. This flag will consist of the WCDSB logo on a white background. The purpose of this local school board flag is to:

- 1) Clearly designate WCDSB facilities and ensure they are distinct at all times from any other government buildings, and
- 2) Ensure that all three levels of government in Canada (Federal, Provincial and Municipal) are shown equal reverence by the flag protocol at our facilities.

No other flags shall be permitted.

These flags may be flown at half mast per existing protocol.

All decisions regarding external flags shall now be made solely by trustees.

Concerning internal flags and political symbols and slogans,

No flags may be displayed (fixed to a wall, pole, hanging, or on a sticker) inside of WCDSB facilities other than the flag of Canada, its Provinces and Territories, and the school board logo flag.

No other political symbols or slogans may be displayed inside or outside WCDSB facilities. This includes on any signage, banners, pennants, posters, murals, plaques, window paintings, wall paintings, floor or ground paintings, statues, decorations or stickers (large or small).

Examples of political symbols or slogans include: those associated with the Pride, Progress and Rainbow flags; Antifa red and black flags; Don't Tread on Me snake flag; Confederate flag; BLM (Black Lives Matter); White Lives Matter; Fascist iconography; the Communist Star, Hammer and Sickle or raised fist emblems; the Anarchist A; MAGA (Make America Great Again); or the brands and colours of current political parties (e.g. Conservative, NDP, Liberal, Democrat or Republican) when they are used to promote these parties in a political context.

This list is not exhaustive. When in doubt, staff should err on the side of discretion and on the side of Catholic Church teaching.

Any existing infringements of this policy shall be removed or painted over.

Recognized Catholic religious symbols and slogans (e.g. the Sacred Heart of Jesus banner) that are free from political symbols or ideologies are exempt from the above policies.