
Trustees: Kathy Archer (electronic), Becky Buck, Sabreina Dahab, Dawn Danko, Amanda Fehrman, Maria Felix Miller, Ray Mulholland, Graeme Noble, Paul Tut, and Todd White. Student Trustees Thomas Lin and Harry Wang

Regrets: Elizabeth Wong

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment

Maria Felix Miller, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 7:45 p.m. and recited the land acknowledgement.

2. Delegations: related to the Notice of Motion on Anti-Palestinian Racism

The Chair welcomed the delegates to the meeting and thanked them for bringing forward their student voice to the Trustees. Delegates shared their perspectives as briefly outlined below – the [meeting recording](#) can be reviewed to listen to the delegates remarks.

- A. Fatema S, a student at HWDSB, highlighted her thoughts and experiences regarding anti-Palestine racism and the notice of motion being presented by Student Trustee Lin.
- B. Jenna S, a student at HWDSB, spoke about her experience, noting that the motion submitted by Student Trustee Lin was a collection of student voice, asking for urgent change within school communities.
- C. Lana A, a student at HWDSB, spoke about her current experience at school regarding anti-Palestine racism.

3. Approval of the Agenda

Student Trustee Lin requested that the agenda be amended to move the Notice of Motion (Item #13A) to earlier in the agenda, noting that students were in attendance to observe the discussion by the Board of Trustees.

RESOLUTION #23-162: Trustees Danko/Tut moved: that the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - None

5. Confirmation of the Minutes: November 20, 2023

The minutes from November 20, 2023 were confirmed for both Organizational Board and Board.

6. Correspondence:

a. Union Local Leadership re: Living Wage

RESOLUTION #23-163: Trustees White/Noble moved that the correspondence be referred to the Human Resources Committee for discussion.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

b. Letters in response to motion on December 4 agenda re: Anti-Palestinian Racism

RESOLUTION #23-164: Trustees Tut/Danko moved the correspondence be received and filed.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

7. Notice of Motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism

Submitted by: Student Trustee Lin, supported by Trustee Dahab.

Whereas: Students are citing increased levels of anti-Palestinian racism in schools, including but not limited to the threat of suspensions or other disciplinary action for saying “Free Palestine,” and are being asked to remove their Keffiyeh, a symbol of Palestinian culture,

Whereas: Students across HWDSB are citing increased levels of Islamophobia, including but not limited to being called “terrorists” in their schools for wearing a keffiyeh,

Whereas: Approximately 600 students at 5 HWDSB have walked-out of High Schools demanding a cease-fire and an end to the occupation in Palestine (Saltfleet, Ancaster, Glendale, Henderson, Westmount),

Whereas: Students across HWDSB have cited that student initiatives such as fundraisers, spirit days, and walkouts for Palestine, have been shut down and clubs have been threatened with being disbanded for such initiatives,

Whereas all students, including Palestinian students, deserve to be safe in their school without experiencing anti-Palestinian racism or Islamophobia,

Therefore, be it further resolved that HWDSB provide training to all school staff on Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-Palestinian racism, with the training to include a focus on how this racism informs disciplinary actions.

Be it further resolved that HWDSB provide clarification to all school staff on the updated dress code guidelines, which protects students from discrimination against cultural dress or headwear requirements, including the keffiyeh, to support religious/creed accommodations.

Be it further resolved that HWDSB provide clarification to all school staff on our current fundraising policy which states that “fundraising may be used to support humanitarian or charitable causes that can increase student understanding, empathy and activism in helping to address local, national and international issues.”

Be it further resolved that HWDSB staff provide a report back to the Board of Trustees on all the above actions.

RESOLUTION #23-165: Trustees Dahab/White moved that the following be approved:

- training be provided to all school staff on Islamophobia, anti-Semitism, and anti-Palestinian racism, with the training to include a focus on how this racism informs disciplinary actions.
- clarification be provided to all school staff on the updated dress code guidelines, which protects students from discrimination against cultural dress or headwear requirements, including the keffiyeh, to support religious/creed accommodations.
- clarification be provided to all school staff on our current fundraising policy which states that “fundraising may be used to support humanitarian or charitable causes that can increase student understanding, empathy and activism in helping to address local, national and international issues.”

- staff provide a report back to the Board of Trustees on all the above actions.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

Trustee Mulholland left the meeting at 9:00 pm.

Reports from Trustee Special Committees:

8. Program – October 24, 2023

RESOLUTION #23-166: Trustees Noble/Danko moved that the Program Committee report from October 24, 2023 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

9. Governance – November 13, 2023

RESOLUTION #23-167: Trustees White/Fehrman moved to that the Governance Committee report from November 13, 2023, be approved including The Board of Trustee Self-Evaluation.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

10. Reports from the Legislative Committees: Parent Involvement Committee – November 14, 2023

RESOLUTION #23-168: Trustees Fehrman/Danko moved that the Parent Involvement Committee report from November 14, 2023 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

11. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) – October 25, 2023

RESOLUTION #23-169: Trustees Danko/Buck moved that the Special Education Advisory Committee report from October 25, 2023 be received.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

12. Report from the Committee of the Whole (private) – December 4, 2023

RESOLUTION #23-170: Trustees Tut/Buck moved that the Committee of the Whole report from December 4, 2023 including the Governance Committee report from November 13, 2023 and personnel matter be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

13. Written Notice of Motion: RE: Flamborough Centre/Mary Hopkins Temporary Accommodation Strategy (Trustee Noble)

Submitted by: Trustee Graeme Noble

Whereas the conditions of Mary Hopkins Elementary School and Flamborough Centre Elementary School, the only two schools currently under consideration for the accommodation strategy, are experiencing critical-level or emerging enrollments issues related to available facilities and infrastructure; and

Whereas five schools in the area, including Mary Hopkins, Flamborough Centre, Balaclava, Guy B. Brown, and Allan A. Greenleaf are viable options for consideration within the current accommodation strategy given their

location, the communities impacted, transportation considerations, and the resources available at different sites.

Whereas the intent of this accommodation strategy seeks to improve the learning conditions of schools in Waterdown and Flamborough experiencing significant challenges related to their high enrollment pressures on a temporary basis until receipt of funding from the Ministry of Education and the subsequent construction of a new school in East Waterdown; and

Whereas the current proposal for a temporary accommodation strategy does not allow for the inclusion of the primary requests from impacted communities without adding a full year of delays to the implementation of a strategy; and

Whereas the urgent needs for solutions that consider community voice, infrastructural support, and ultimately the impact on student learning and success requires that we find a pathway forward that will be timely and, at minimum, include all possible opportunities that would achieve the best outcomes for as many students as possible.

Be it resolved that [Resolution #23-63](#) be amended to include the five area elementary schools of Mary Hopkins, Flamborough Centre, Balaclava, Guy B. Brown, and Allan A. Greenleaf that allows for implementation beginning in September of 2024.

RESOLUTION #23-171: Trustees Noble/Danko moved that the Temporary Accommodation strategy (related to Resolution #23-63) be amended to include the five area elementary schools of Mary Hopkins, Flamborough Centre, Balaclava, Guy B. Brown and Allan A. Greenleaf that allows for implementation beginning in September of 2024.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

The meeting adjourned at 9:57 pm.

Reference: [Agenda Package](#) and [Recording](#)