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

**Regrets: Trustees Dawn Danko, Ray Mulholland, and Elizabeth Wong.**

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**1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgment**

Maria Felix Miller, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m. and recited the land acknowledgement.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

**RESOLUTION #23-172:** Trustees Fehrman/Tut moved that the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

**3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - None**

**4. Confirmation of the Minutes: November 20, 2023**

**RESOLUTION #23-173:** Trustees Dahab/Archer moved that the minutes from December 4, 2023 be approved as amended.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

**5. Correspondence:**

**RESOLUTION #23-174:** Trustees Tut/Buck moved that correspondence be received and filed.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

**Reports from Trustee Special Committees:**

**6. Program – November 30, 2023**

**RESOLUTION #23-175:** Trustees Fehrman/Tut moved that the Program Committee report from November 30, 2023 be approved including that staff move forward with developing the one-page resource document (translated into top 10 languages according to the We All Count Student Census) that provides further explanation of the Disproportionality Data Report.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

**7. Governance – December 6, 2023**

**RESOLUTION #23-176:** Trustees White/Fehrman moved that the Governance Committee report from December 6, 2023, be received.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

**Reports from the Legislated Committees:**

**8. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) – November 29, 2023**

**RESOLUTION #23-177:** Trustees Dahab/Buck moved that the Special Education Advisory Committee report from November 29, 2023 be received.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Student Trustee Wang voted in favour.  
Student Trustee Lin was not in the room for the vote.

**Reports from Community Advisory Committees:**

**9. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee:**

**RESOLUTION #23-178:** Trustees White/Buck moved that the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee report from November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, be received.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

**10. Human Rights & Equity Community Advisory Committee:**

**RESOLUTION #23-179:** Trustees Dahab/Tut moved that the Human Rights & Equity Advisory Committee report from November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2023, be received.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

**11. Rural Schools Advisory Committee:**

**RESOLUTION #23-180:** Trustees Fehrman/Buck moved that the Rural Schools Advisory Committee report from November 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, be received.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

**12. Standing Committee Report**

**RESOLUTION #23-181:** Trustee Tut/Dahab moved that the Standing Committee report from December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2023, be approved including that staff proceed with public consultation for the School Year Calendar 2024-2025.

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

**13. Oral Reports from Liaison Committees:**

**A. City/School Board Liaison Committee**

There was no update to provide for this committee.

**B. Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School Associations**

There was no update to provide for this association.

**C. Hamilton Foundation for Student Success Meeting December 18<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

Trustee Archer reported that the Foundation started accepting Student Support Grants (SSGs) on October 1<sup>st</sup>, 2023. As of November 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 \$97,000.00 had been approved compared to \$69,000.00 in November of 2022. The Foundation continues to work with donors, funders, and the community to secure required funds. The Hamilton Community Foundation has awarded 49 school-based projects through its Abacus Teacher Small Grants (for students in Gr 6,7,8,9). Tandia Credit Union's Strive for Success Grants awarded a total of \$6,000.00 to 4 schools to support existing or new programs.

**D. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)**

- Trustee Buck participated in the OPSBA Advocacy Day which took place at Queens Park.
- OPSBA is working with CSBA on a template for all provincial Associations to use within their memberships to garner more support for the federal Private Member's Bill C-322 – National Framework for a School Food Program Act and is encouraging all member boards to submit letters to their local Members of Parliament.

- Registration is open for OPSBA’s 2024 Public Education Symposium (PES), January 25 and January 26 at the Sheraton Centre in Toronto. Please contact Trustee Officer Miller to register.
- The 2024 Canadian School Boards Association National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education and Congress is taking place in Toronto from July 30-31, 2024. OPSBA will be hosting this event.

**14. Oral Reports from:**

**A. Student Trustees Report – Local Activities & Ontario Student Trustees Association Report**

- Student Trustee Wang was invited and attended the new Mental Health Advisory group with approximately 20 very passionate students who were also in attendance.
- In those meetings they discussed the role of what the student advisory is, provided an overview of w the board of trustees and how students and the trustees work together.
- Students shared where they go to get help when needed, what resources will eventually be available and where opportunities exist for mental health support.
- Student Wang was also invited to the Equity and Inclusion Student Advisory and is looking forward to future meetings.
- Trustee Lin shared they were involved with students and staff on the review of the student dress code guidelines to provide feedback on the use of student friendly language.
- Student Trustee Lin also shared he has supported many students with interest in the student trustee elections. He is looking forward to the information session and election process happening early next year and calls on all trustees to support students through this process.

**B. Director’s Report to the Community – [The Year in Review – Looking Back to Look Forward](#)**

- The Director shared it is an important time in our school board because of the multi-year strategic plan.
- The Director focused on the previous plan (in place since 2016) that said “We empower students to learn and grow to their full potential. In a diverse world we are committed to learning, equity, engagement, and innovation.” This plan had 5 strategic directions: Positive Culture and Well-Being, Student Learning and Achievement, Effective Communication, School Renewal and Partnerships.
- The purpose of looking back is to see what has been accomplished and to close the chapter on those strategic directions, taking a new path forward.
- In April 2022, HWDSB Staff and board of Trustees embarked on a new path forward. With the help of the community (over 3,000 survey respondents) the new multi-year strategic plan was approved for 2023 to 2028.
- The new Mission statement is to ensure that every student experiences a sense of belonging and engages in dynamic learning to reach their potential and build their own future. With the vision statement of Growing Together and the 4 values of: Compassion, Dignity, Trust, and Joy
- 5 Strategic Directions:
  - Upholding Human Rights, Safety and Well-Being
  - Providing Equitable Quality Education
  - Collaborating with Students, Families and Communities
  - Building a Sustainable Education System
  - Reinforcing Indigenous Educational Wellness and Reconciliation
- The official launch with staff of the Multi-Year Strategic Plan is planned for January 17, 2024.
- The Director congratulated Superintendent Jane McPherson on her incredible career and upcoming retirement.

**C. Chair's Report**

- The Chair also congratulated Superintendent MacPherson on her upcoming retirement.
- Thanked Trustee Archer for her work with the Mountain Kids Club. They host their own version of the Santa Clause parade for children on the Mountain.
- Celebrate Queensdale 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.
- The Chair attended with Trustee Fehrman the Cathy Wever Rotary Club 25<sup>th</sup> year holiday festivities. Ancaster Highschool students raised \$1K to support this event.
- Chair Miller was invited and attended the Parent Involvement Committee meeting last week and thanked them for all the incredible work they do.
- Thank you to every educator and school-based staff, commend the effort of staff at this time of year to create memories and magic for students.
- Chair Miller wished everyone a peaceful, restorative, relaxing winter break, and all her deepest wishes for a happy New Year.

The meeting adjourned at 7:48 pm.

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