

**AGENDA: 6:30 pm**

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement
2. O Canada
3. Meeting Roll Call
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
6. Confirmation of the Minutes: November 17<sup>th</sup> and November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2025
7. Director's Annual Report to the Community (no copy)

Reports from Trustee Special Committees:

8. [Finance & Facilities – November 25, 2025](#)
9. [Governance – December 1, 2025](#)

Reports from Legislative Committees:

10. [Parent Involvement Committee – November 11, 2025](#)
11. [Special Education Advisory Committee – November 26, 2025](#)

Reports from Community Advisory Committees:

12. [Faith Community Advisory Committee – November 25, 2025](#)
13. [Human Rights & Equity – November 27, 2025](#)
14. [Rural Schools Advisory Committee – October 22, 2025](#)

15. Reports from:

- A. [Standing Committee – November 24, 2025](#)
- B. [Committee of the Whole \(Private\) – December 15, 2025](#)

16. Appointment to Trustee Special Committee - Governance Committee

17. Oral Reports from Liaison Committees:

- A. [City/School Board Liaison Committee](#)
- B. [Ontario Public School Boards' Association \(OPSBA\)](#)

18. Oral Reports from:

- A. Student Trustees' and Shakowennakarátats
- B. Director's Report
- C. Chair's Report

19. Adjournment

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**Trustees:** Kathy Archer\*, Becky Buck, Sabreina Dahab, Dawn Danko, Amanda Fehrman, Maria Felix Miller, Graeme Noble, Paul Tut, Todd White, Elizabeth Wong\*. Student Trustees Sanad Bizanti, Evelyn Watson, and Shakowennakara:tats Daunte Hillen.

\*electronic participation, <sup>(R)</sup> regrets

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#### 1. Call to Order

Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Director of HWDSB, called the meeting to order at 6:22 pm.

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

**RESOLUTION #25-89:** Trustees Miller/Danko moved that the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

#### 3. Appointment of Scrutineers

**RESOLUTION #25-90:** Trustees Tut/Miller moved: That Heather Miller and Matthew Gerard be appointed as scrutineers.

**CARRIED**

#### 4. Election of the Chair

The Director called for nominations for the Chair of the Board. Trustee Tut nominated Trustee Miller for the position of Chair of the Board.

The Director called three times for nominations and no further nominations were received.

**RESOLUTION #25-91:** Trustees Buck/Fehrman moved to close nominations.

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION #25-92:** Trustees Tut/Buck moved that Trustee Miller be appointed as Chair of the Board.

The motion CARRIED on the following division:

In Favour (8): Archer, Buck, Danko, Fehrman, Noble, Tut, White, Wong

Opposed (2): Trustee Dahab, Zaitley

Trustee Miller thanked Trustee Tut for nominating her and all trustees who supported her election and took over as Chair.

#### 5. Election of the Vice-Chair

The Chair called for nominations for the Vice-Chair of the Board. Trustee Buck nominated Trustee Tut as Vice Chair of the Board.

The Chair called three times for nominations and no further nominations were received.

**RESOLUTION #25-93:** Trustees Danko/Buck moved to close nominations.

**CARRIED**

**RESOLUTION #25-94:** Trustees Buck/Danko moved that Trustee Tut be appointed Vice-Chair of the Board.

The motion **CARRIED** on the following division:

In Favour (8): Archer, Buck, Danko, Fehrman, Miller, Noble, White, Wong

Opposed (2): Trustee Dahab, Zaitley

Trustee Tut thanked Trustee Buck for nominating him and all trustees who supported his election and assumed the Vice-Chair position.

#### **6. Greetings from John Valvasori, Chair, Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board**

On behalf of Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board, Chair John Valvasori extended warm greetings on behalf of his board and congratulated HWDSB's newly elected Chair Maria Felix Miller and Vice-Chair Paul Tut. He reflected on his long-standing connection to HWDSB, sharing personal and professional experiences spanning decades as a student, teacher, coach, and principal in Hamilton schools. Chair Valvasori emphasized the shared mission of both boards to provide the best education for students, noting that decisions on funding, policy, and governance must always center on the impact on students. In closing, Valvasori praised trustees for their dedication and service, affirming that their work is driven by a commitment to children and communities rather than personal gain, and wished HWDSB continued success in its efforts.

#### **7. Appointments to Board Mandated Committees**

**RESOLUTION #25-95:** Trustees Tut/Fehrman, moved that the appointments of the following Board Mandated Committees be approved.

- A. Standing Committee - All Trustees
- B. Suspensions Appeals & Expulsion Hearings - All Trustees
- C. Trustee Code of Conduct Review - First Alternate Trustee Noble & Second Alternate Trustee Buck
- D. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) - Trustees Archer, Fehrman, and Zaitley
- E. Supervised Alternate Learning Committee (SAL) - Trustees Archer, Fehrman, Miller, and Zaitley
- F. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) - Trustees Danko and Miller

**CARRIED**

#### **8. Appointments to Trustee Special Committees:**

**RESOLUTION #25-96:** Trustees Zaitley/Dahab moved that the appointments to the following Trustee Special Committees be approved.

- A. Audit Committee - Trustees Danko, Tut, and White
- B. Finance and Facilities - Trustees Buck, Fehrman, Miller, Tut, and Zaitley
- C. Governance- Trustees Buck, Danko, Fehrman, Miller, and Tut
- D. Human Resources - Trustees Buck, Danko, and Zaitley
- E. Policy - Trustees Dahab, Miller, Noble, Wong, and Zaitley
- F. Program - Trustees Archer, Buck, Dahab, Fehrman, and Zaitley

**CARRIED**

#### **9. Election of Committee Chairs for Trustee Special Committees:**

**RESOLUTION #25-97:** Trustees Buck/Danko moved that the appointments of the following Chairs for Special Committees be approved.

- A. Finance and Facilities – Trustee Tut  
Trustee Wong nominated *Trustee Tut* for Chair of Finance & Facilities.  
The Chair called three times for nominations and no further nominations were received.
- B. Human Resources – Trustee Danko  
*Trustee Danko* self-nominated for Chair of Human Resources.  
The Chair called three times for nominations and no further nominations were received.

C. Policy – Trustee Dahab

*Trustee Dahab* self-nominated for Chair of Policy.

The Chair called three times for nominations and no further nominations were received.

D. Program – Trustee Fehrman

Trustee Wong nominated *Trustee Fehrman* for Chair of Program.

The Chair called three times for nominations and no further nominations were received.

**CARRIED**

**10. Appointments to HWDSB Community Advisory Committees:**

**RESOLUTION #25-98:** Trustees Tut/Buck, moved: That the appointments to the following HWDSB Community Advisory Committees be approved.

- A. Faith Community – Trustees Buck and Dahab
- B. French as a Second Language - Trustee Noble
- C. Human Rights and Equity - Trustees Dahab and Zaitley
- D. Rural Schools - Trustees Fehrman and Noble

**CARRIED**

**11. Appointments as Liaison/Representatives to Associated Agencies:**

**RESOLUTION #25-99:** Trustees Tut/Buck, moved: That the appointments to the following Liaison/Representatives to Associate Agencies be approved.

- A. City/School Board Liaison Committee – Trustees Miller, Tut, White
- B. Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School Associations - Trustee Noble
- C. Hamilton Foundation for Student Success - Trustee Fehrman

**CARRIED**

**12. Director's Remarks**

Director Robinson Petrazzini expressed appreciation for the strong partnership between trustees and staff, describing HWDSB as a system rooted in collaboration, accountability, and a shared commitment to student success. She highlighted the board's accomplishments over the past year, including investments in school renewal, advocacy with government and community partners, strengthened community representation, and balanced fiscal leadership. The Director emphasized that these achievements reflect a deep focus on equity, excellence, and student well-being. She congratulated Chair Maria Felix Miller and Vice-Chair Paul Tut on their re-election, commending their steady leadership and ability to foster inclusive dialogue. Looking ahead, she reaffirmed the board's dedication to the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and priorities in human rights and Indigenous education, pledging continued collaboration to ensure every student experiences belonging, safety, and opportunity.

**13. Chair's Remarks**

Chair Miller expressed deep gratitude for the board's confidence in her continued leadership, noting the honour and responsibility of serving as chair during a challenging political landscape. She highlighted the diversity of strengths among trustees—from community engagement to policy expertise and fiscal oversight—and praised the collaborative spirit that has shaped the board's work. Chair Miller reflected on the Multi-Year Strategic Plan as a legacy of this board, emphasizing its impact across the system and its role in fostering belonging, achievement, and community connection. She commended trustees for their commitment to improvement and steady governance, acknowledged the vital contributions of staff and union partners, and extended appreciation to student trustees for amplifying student voice.

The Meeting adjourned at 7:52 pm

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

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**Trustees:** Kathy Archer<sup>(R)</sup>, Becky Buck, Sabreina Dahab, Dawn Danko, Amanda Fehrman, Maria Felix Miller, Graeme Noble, Paul Tut, Todd White, Elizabeth Wong\*, Abby Zaitley. Student Trustees Sanad Bizanti, Evelyn Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Daunte Hillen.

\*electronic participation, <sup>(R)</sup> regrets

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## 1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 8:06 p.m.

**RESOLUTION #25-100:** Trustees Tut/Buck moved that Trustee Archer be approved as being absent for the November 17, 2025, Board Meeting.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

**RESOLUTION #25-101:** Trustees Fehrman/White moved that the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 3. Confirmation of the Minutes

**RESOLUTION #25-102:** Trustees Tut/White moved that the Minutes from October 27, 2025, be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 4. Finance & Facilities

**RESOLUTION #25-103:** Trustees Tut/Fehrman moved that the Finance & Facilities Committee report from October 21, 2025, be approved including that the \$3 million Proceeds of Disposition allocation, approved through the 2024-25 Capital Budget for three (3) elevator projects (AM Cunningham, Bennetto, and Parkdale Elementary Schools) be funded through Accessibility SCI funding and that the \$3 million of Proceeds of Disposition be returned.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 5. Human Resources

**RESOLUTION #25-104:** Trustees Danko/Tut moved that the Human Resources Committee report from October 23, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 6. Governance

**RESOLUTION #25-105:** Trustees Buck/Fehrman moved that the Governance Committee report from November 3, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 7. Audit Committee

**RESOLUTION #25-106:** Trustees Danko/Fehrman moved that the Audit Committee report from November 11, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 8. Community Advisory Committees:

**RESOLUTION #25-107:** Trustees Noble/Tut moved that the membership appointments to the following Community Advisory Committees be approved:

- Faith Advisory Committee
- French as a Second Language Advisory Committee
- Human Rights & Equity Advisory Committee
- Rural Schools Advisory Committee

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 9. Resolution into Committee of the Whole (Private) – November 17, 2025

**RESOLUTION#25-108:** Trustees Tut/Noble moved that the Committee of the Whole report from November 17, 2025, be approved, including:

- That the Audit Committee report from November 11, 2025, be approved, including the 2024-25 Consolidated Financial Statements of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board for the year ended August 31, 2025.
- That the Finance & Facilities Committee report from October 21, 2025, be received.
- That the Human Resources Committee report from October 23, 2025, be received.
- That the Governance Committee report from November 3, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 10. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Buck provided the following update:

- OPSBA continues to monitor the next legislative stages for Bill 33, Supporting Children and Students Act and any new legislation about school board governance models.
- OPSBA President Kathleen Woodcock and Executive Director, Stephanie Donaldson were pleased to speak at last weekend's OSTA-AECO's Fall General meeting to support the work and role of student trustees and the importance of student voice.
- PES is January 23, 2026, and is open for registration.
- Trustees are invited to participate in the [democracynotoutdated.ca](https://www.democracynotoutdated.ca) campaign as it is more important than ever to participate in raising up local voice and democratic oversight over Ontario's education system.

The meeting adjourned at 10:18 p.m.

Reference: [Agenda Package Recording](#) and [Recording 2](#)

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**Trustees:** Kathy Archer\*, Becky Buck, Sabreina Dahab<sup>(R)</sup>, Dawn Danko<sup>(R)</sup>, Amanda Fehrman, Maria Felix Miller, Graeme Noble\*, Paul Tut, Todd White, Elizabeth Wong\*, Abby Zaitley. Student Trustees Sanad Bizanti, Evelyn Watson, and Shakowennakara:tats Daunte Hillen.

\*electronic participation, <sup>(R)</sup> regrets

#### 1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:46 p.m.

**RESOLUTION #25-109:** Trustees Tut/Fehrman moved that Trustees Dahab and Danko be approved as being absent for the November 24, 2025, Board Meeting.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

#### 2. Approval of the Agenda

**RESOLUTION #25-110:** Trustees Tut/Buck moved that the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

#### 3. Program

**RESOLUTION #25-111:** Trustees Fehrman/Buck moved that the Program Committee report from October 16, 2025, received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

#### 4. Human Rights & Equity

**RESOLUTION #25-112:** Trustees Zaitley/Tut moved that the Human Rights & Equity Advisory Committee report from October 30, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

#### 5. Report from Committee of the Whole (Private) – November 24, 2025

**RESOLUTION #25-113:** Trustees Tut/Buck moved that the Committee of the Whole report of November 24, 2025, including the personnel matter, be approved.

**CARRIED**

#### 6. Student Trustees' and Shakowennakara:tats report

Shakowennakara:tats Hillen provided a verbal update:

- Recipient of the *Youth Diversity Champion Award* from EMPower Strategy Group - 2025 Greater Golden Horseshoe Diversity Awards
  - This award celebrates young individuals (16-24 years) who have shown outstanding commitment to advancing diversity, equity and inclusion. These young champions embody the future of leadership and activism, working to create inclusive spaces within their communities and workplaces.

- Participated in professional development and leadership sessions at the Fall General Meeting with OSTA-AECO and chaired the Indigenous Student Trustee Council Meeting.
- Highlighted key November observances and events: Indigenous Education Month, Treaty Recognition Week (Nov 2–8), Indigenous Veterans Day (Nov 8), and Remembrance Day; emphasized their significance in honouring Indigenous histories, contributions, and veterans.

Student Trustees Bizanti and Watson provided a verbal update:

- OSTA-AECO Fall General Meeting: Joined other students in professional development focused on leadership development and advocacy for student well-being and equity.
  - Student Trustee Bizanti highlighted lessons learned from planning the event in his role as Vice President of Events
- Student Senate: Hosted the first two meetings; Dundas Valley senators leading elementary leadership workshop; preparing for Human Rights and Equity event on December 10.
- Social Media Goal: Aim to reach 1,000 Instagram followers by the end of 2025.
- Robotics Event: HWDSB's 2nd Lego League tournament at Carmen's Event Centre; invited trustees to attend.

## 7. Director's Report

Shery Robinson Petrazzini [presented](#) the Director's Report and highlighted HWDSB's commitment to eliminating systemic anti-Black racism and creating inclusive, affirming learning environments. This work stems from the Anti-Black Racism Policy (2022) and provides practical actions for system, school, and classroom levels, integrating with existing equity and human rights plans. The Director emphasized that the strategy is operational and actionable, not merely a reference document and reaffirmed the connection to broader goals of equity, achievement, and well-being.

## 8. Chair's Report

Chair Miller expressed appreciation to staff for the earlier information session and acknowledged the challenging provincial political context. Trustees reaffirmed their commitment to the Multi-Year Strategic Plan, committee work, and advocacy for public education during the Organizational Board Meeting held on November 17, 2025. Gratitude was extended to trustees for assuming committee roles and to Vice Chair Tutt for continuing in the role. The Chair emphasized collaboration and recognized the student trustees' contributions, concluding with gratitude to staff and trustees for advancing equity and student success.

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

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

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Presented to: Board

Date of Meeting: December 15, 2025

From: Finance and Facilities Committee

Date of Meeting: November 25, 2025

The committee held a hybrid meeting on November 25, 2025, at 7:00pm with Trustee Paul Tut presiding.

Members present: Trustees Beck Buck, Amanda Fehrman, Maria Felix Miller \*, Paul Tut and Abby Zaitley.  
Also in attendance: Trustee Todd White.

\* Electronic participation, <sup>(R)</sup> Regrets

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**MONITORING ITEMS:**

**A. Average Elementary Class Size**

Staff provided an update on HWDSB’s submission to the Ministry of Education related to Average Class Sizes for elementary students as of September 30, 2025. HWDSB is in compliance with all Ministry elementary average class size requirements for 2025-2026.

**B. Final Financial Report – August 31, 2025**

Staff presented the final financial report for the period ending August 31, 2025. The Board filed an in-year surplus of \$2.9 million. Revenues increased in comparison to the revised estimates by \$19.7 million as a result of responsive education program (REP) revenues related to Bill 124 and collective agreements, interest and rental increases, as well as Education Development Charge revenue and revenue related to the Foundation. Expenses increased from revised estimates to actual by \$16.8 million as a result of an increase in supply costs, expenses related to the Foundation, as well as an increase in school board expenses.

**C. Bernie Custis Secondary School Outdoor Space**

Staff provided the following response to Resolution #25-48:

- Staff are exploring the option with the city to place an artificial turf area in the outdoor space between the Bernie Custis Secondary School (BCSS) and the Bernie Morelli Recreation Centre. Staff will bring back another update once we obtain more information and details from the City.
- Staff met with Hamilton Stadium staff to review the current booking process and the suggestion of the school being an equal tenant at the stadium. The current agreement between the City and the owners of the Hamilton Tiger Cats and The Forge dictates that the sports teams are provided first rights to the stadium bookings. However, stadium staff reaffirmed that HWDSB continues to be the next group offered to book available times in the space. Staff from both the stadium and the Board agreed to begin planning and discussing ideas immediately after the professional 2026 football and soccer schedules are known in winter of 2026.
- Staff have met with the Corporate Real Estate Office for the City of Hamilton about the potential to acquire the former King George Elementary School. The City is not in a position to make the site available for the Board’s consideration. Staff did not pursue further exploration of the potential to acquire the King George site, nor the potential to remove the heritage designation of the site given it is not available for sale, at this time.

- City Real Estate, stadium staff and board staff are exploring the request for consideration for parking alternatives to the use of the existing BCSS parking lot.

#### **D. Westmount Secondary School Playing Field**

Staff provided the following response to Resolution #25-46:

Staff have reviewed the Westmount Agreement between the Board and City related to Westmount Secondary School access to Captain Cornelious Park (City asset). In addition, staff continue to have discussions with City staff related to the ongoing field concerns raised by the school community. The City has reviewed the field condition and has put in place an elevated field condition improvement program which includes additional cultural practices (core aeration, slit seeding, topdressing, and overseeding to relieve soil compaction, promote air and water movement in the root zone, and encourage strong turfgrass regeneration).

Moving forward, an annual meeting between City and Board staff, inclusive of school staff, will review operations of the field. This meeting will be held in January to review the state of the field in the previous season as well as expectations and access for the coming year.

HWDSB staff will explore the opportunity to place a portable toilet on the Westmount / Westview property during 2026 field season to support the need for washrooms, in line with the current practice of providing portable toilets at each secondary school artificial turf field location.

In addition, the City has approximately \$500,000 available to support a review of improvements at Captain Cornelious Park to support Westmount, as funded through a motion by the previous City Councillor. City staff plan to develop a functional review of what would be required, and how to allocate funding for improvements at this field location in the coming year.

#### **E. Notice of Motion: Budget Development and Monitoring Process**

Staff have been requested to prepare a concise, accessible document summarizing the budget cycle and monitoring steps, including timelines and key touchpoints, and bring it back for committee review.

On the motion of Abby Zaitley, the Finance and Facilities Committee RECOMMENDS that a budget development and monitoring document be created.

Respectfully submitted,  
Paul Tut, Chair of the Committee

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

### COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board

Date of Meeting: December 15, 2025

From: Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: December 1, 2025

The committee held a hybrid meeting on December 1, 2025, at 6:00 pm.

Members: Trustees Becky Buck, Dawn Danko, Amanda Fehrman, Maria Felix Miller\* and Paul Tut\*. Also in attendance: Trustees Todd White\* and Abby Zaitley\*.

\*electronic participation, <sup>(R)</sup>regrets

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#### ACTION ITEMS(S):

##### A. Trustee Special Committee – Human Resources – Committee discussion

The Committee engaged in a detailed discussion on the future of the Human Resources (HR) Committee. Trustees discussed that many HR topics overlap with Finance & Facilities, creating duplication and inefficiencies, and noted that consolidating these areas could streamline meetings while ensuring HR matters continue to receive appropriate attention.

Although committees were recently established at the Organizational Board, Trustees felt there was value in piloting the change this year rather than leaving the decision to a future board unfamiliar with current context. Staff confirmed that redistributing the HR work plan items to Finance & Facilities, Standing Committee, or Committee of the Whole is operationally feasible.

Trustees agreed that the change should be implemented on a trial basis, with a formal review (including a summary of where the HR Committee reports were realigned) before the next board term.

On motion from Trustee Danko, the Governance Committee **recommends that:**

- **the Human Resources Committee (reports) be redistributed to the most aligned committees of the board, including standing or committee of the whole as appropriate, until reviewed, and**
- **that feedback be collected from Trustees and staff regarding the pilot with and a summary report be provided to the Governance Committee by June 2026 to inform next steps.**

**Consent.**

#### MONITORING ITEM(S):

##### B. Election of Committee Chair

The election of the Governance Committee Chair is held at the first meeting following the Organizational Board Meeting per O. Reg. 83/24 where the committee members are responsible for electing a Committee Chair.

Trustee Danko nominated Trustee Buck for the position of Governance Committee Chair, and there was consent from the committee.

##### C. Board of Trustees Self-Assessment Survey – Year 3

Staff noted for the committee that Trustees will be invited to participate in the third year of the Board of Trustees Self-Assessment, with survey results being aggregated, and open responses summarized in themes before returning to the Governance Committee for a more fulsome discussion.

The committee requested that staff revise one of the open-ended questions from the survey on future trustee learning topics to focus on what the *next board* would benefit from, emphasizing onboarding and anticipated challenges and that a note be included in the survey invitation email reminding trustees to consider challenges the next board may face when responding to future learning topics and resources and support questions.

Respectfully submitted,  
Trustee Buck, Chair of the Committee

Reference: [Committee Package](#), [Recording](#)

## Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Meeting date: December 15, 2025

From: Parent Involvement Committee

Meeting date: November 11, 2025

The committee held a PIC meeting on November 11, 2025, from 6:23 p.m. to 8:43 p.m. with Amanda Lloyd presiding.

**Members Present:** Kailey Crowther, Andrea Hamilton-Coulson, Adriana Harris, Emma Haslam Topping, Mohamed Khamis, Heather Lambert-Hillen, Amanda Levesque, Amanda Lloyd, Tim Louks, Sue-Anne MacQuarrie, Amanda Neale-Robinson, Heidi Oglesby, Meghanna Oza, Mike Palma, Michele Quinn, Leora Sas Van Der Linden, Daneille Schwalm, Meagan Shanahan, Cindy Stranak, Leigh Ann Sutherland, Jeffrey Sykes, Lisa Veloce, and Terry Anne Virtue. Trustees Amanda Ferhman and Abby Zaitley.

**Regrets:** Matthew Adams, Mani Bhandari, Kristina Collier, Erin Copeland, Kruti Desai, Cheryl Hue, Damian Kalu Ude, Vanessa Ozer, and Christine Sandor.

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### MONITORING ITEMS:

#### A. Letter to the Ministry of Education

PIC moved a motion directing the Chair of PIC to submit a letter to the Ministry regarding their concerns with the proposed Bill-33 but noted that this would only take place if time permitted and the bill had not yet passed.

#### B. School Council Networking Session

Chair Lloyd shared that the next session is scheduled for January 13, 2026.

#### C. New Member

The Committee welcomed Vanessa Ozer as a returning member.

#### D. Program Strategy Review

PIC welcomed Malatest to their meeting and participated in discussions to affirm the findings, add clarity and pose questions before the final report is presented to the Board of Trustees. Key discussion points from Committee members included program clarity for families, equity in program access and application process to some elementary programs.

#### E. Trustees Report

Trustee Fehrman shared that Trustees recently engaged in a similar meeting with Malatest and that the final report would be presented at Program Committee on December 11, 2025.

The following updates were also shared:

- Boundary reviews have commenced for the new schools in Binbrook and Waterdown.
- Trustees approved the Boundary Review Policy, Employee Expenses Policy and the Trustee Expenses Policy.
- Chair Miller, Trustee Buck, Student Trustee Watson, Shakowennakara:tats Hillen and herself attended the Remembrance Day Service at the Education Centre.

## **F. Representative Committee Reports**

### Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School Associations:

- The Council held its first meeting, and elections took place
  - Heather Lambert-Hillen - Council President
  - Reasa Diab assumed - Treasurer
- The Ontario Federation of Home School Associations (OFHSA) will be having a conference in May in Hamilton.

### Rural Schools Community Advisory Committee:

- The committee met on October 22, 2025

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Lloyd, Chair

## Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Meeting Date: Monday, December 15, 2025

From: Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Meeting Date: Wednesday, November 26, 2025

The Committee held a meeting in room 181B, Education Centre on Wednesday, November 26, 2025, beginning at 5:39 pm, ending at 6:56 pm, with Chair Judy Colantino presiding.

### Present

Danielle Dion-Broadley, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group, Dawn Danko, Trustee Ward 7, Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton, SEAC Chair, Lindsay Bray, McMaster Children's Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio, SEAC Vice Chair, Melanie Roberts, Association for Bright Children of Ontario, Nancy Silva Khan, Autism Ontario (Central West Chapter), Sarah Pennington, Community Living Hamilton, Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton and Niagara, Vanessa Doslea, Lynwood Charlton Centre

### Regrets

Maria Felix Miller, HWDSB Chair, Trustee Ward 3, Samantha Sweet, Centre for Diverse Learners

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## **MONITORING ITEMS**

### **A. Accessibility Funding**

David Anderson, Senior Manager, Facility Services provided the following update:

- The Ministry of Education has provided \$5,811,583 in one-time funding for accessibility projects within HWDSB to be expended by August 31, 2026
  - \$3,000,000 of this amount will replenish proceeds of disposition funds previously approved through a Minister's exemption
  - Three potential elevator projects (CB Stirling, Norwood Park and Mary Hopkins) have been identified for future consideration. These funds will also cover design and approval costs if additional Ministry funding is not provided
  - Remaining funds will support other accessibility improvements, such as stage lifts, washroom upgrades etc., previously funded through school renewal dollars

### **B. Building Responsive Approaches for Instructional Needs (BRAIN)**

Danielle Buist, Manager, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity: Psychological Services provided the following update:

- BRAIN Guide launched to support staff understanding of learning profiles and reduce cognitive load.
  - Guide provides an overview of key processing areas that impact student learning, such as verbal comprehension, visual memory and executive functioning
  - Committee members are invited to contribute additional resources to enhance the Guide

## **C. MEMBERS' UPDATE**

### Trustee Update

- Organizational Board Meeting complete; Chair Miller and Vice Chair Tut continuing in their roles.
- Bill 33 passed; awaiting implementation details - School Naming will now require Minister approval.
- Draft school year calendar out for consultation.
- Program Review Report going to Program Committee on December 11, 2025.

### Agency Updates

- Lynwood Charlton Centre: New branding and website.
- McMaster Children's Hospital: Universal Design Learning (UDL) strategies to be implemented; students receiving speech and language supports through McMaster published books on stuttering and are available to be shared with schools.

Superintendent's Update

- Ministry funding approved for two initiatives:
  - Speech & Language PD - focus on inclusion and equity for students with diverse communication needs
  - Accessibility Expansion and Integration – to strengthen Student Transitions in the 2025-2026 school year
- Education & Community Partnership Programs (ECPP) - now divided into two groups ECPP and CTEP (Care & Treatment Education Programs)
  - ECPP is for students connected to corrections
  - CTEP is for students whose primary need is treatment.
- COPE PA Day feedback received was positive; more details will be provided at the next meeting
- Educational Assistant (EA) Appreciation Day, November 13, 2026 – recognized the contributions HWDSB EAs provide to supporting student success, inclusion and well-being for learners with special education needs.
- Barrier-Free Physical Learning Environments Policy to Policy Committee on December 4, 2025

Respectfully submitted by  
Judy Colantino, SEAC Chair

# Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Meeting date: December 15, 2025

From: Faith Community Advisory Committee

Meeting date: November 25, 2024

The committee held a meeting at 20 Education Court, Room 308 on December 3rd, 2024, from 6:06-7:38 pm.

Members: Charles Chiarelli, Meaghan Dummer, Pooja Mathuria, Rabbi Miriam Wajnberg, Nick Sahami Mahendra Deonarian and Nabiha Nadeem. Trustees Buck and Dahab attended.

Regrets: Geoffrey Cameron, Ala Mohamad, Sukhi Dhillon and Angelina Hassan.

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## MONITORING ITEMS:

### A. Election of Chair/Co-Chair

Nick Sahami and Charles Chiarelli volunteered to serve as Co-Chairs.

### B. Review of committee Purpose and Governance

Staff reviewed the Committee’s mandate, governance structure, Trustee Governance Manual and HWDSB Code of Conduct policy.

### C. Terms of Office

The list of Committee Members and their terms was reviewed.

### D. HWDSB Board Annual Plan

Staff addressed the five focus areas of the HWDSB Board Improvement Plan - Numeracy, Literacy, Well-Being, Future Preparedness and Engagement – highlighting their relevance to the Committee’s work.

### E. Religious Accommodation

Staff provided the 2025–2026 Faith and Creed Observances and Days of Significance document and reviewed the month-by-month calendar. The discussion reinforced HWDSB’s commitment to improving communication regarding Holy Days and significant observances. The Committee will begin preparing dates for the 2026–2027 calendar. It was also noted that the Religious Accommodation Policy is currently being updated.

### F. Program Review

Staff reported on the ongoing Elementary Program Review, which includes the French Immersion Location Strategy, application processes, and Programs of Choice (Hockey, Basketball, Sage/Sage Quest, and Mandarin). The review aims to align programs with the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and ensure equitable resource distribution.

### G. Trustee Update

Trustee Buck shared that the Trustee Calendar commenced in November with the re-election of the Chair and Vice-Chair and committee assignments. She also discussed the overlap between the School Year Calendar and Days of Significance and noted the passing of Bill 33.

Trustee Dahab emphasized the Trustees’ role in supporting navigation of Board processes and expressed willingness to assist as needed.

Respectfully submitted by,  
Charles Chiarelli and Nick Sahami  
Committee Co-Chairs

## Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Meeting date: December 15, 2025

From: Human Rights & Equity Community Advisory  
Committee

Meeting date: November 27, 2025

The committee held a meeting on November 27, 2025, from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m. via MS Teams with Mesum Ali, Co-Chair presiding.

Members present: Mesum Ali, Sumayyah Satia, Grey Sandilands, Tehreem Zafar, Penny McAndrews, Jordan Fudge, Hina Ahmed, Salma Yesufu, Aimee Eppel, Gurjass Kaur, and Abdullateef Abdul.

Regrets: Rebecca Morikawa; Liav Yakov

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### MONITORING ITEMS:

#### A. Confirmation of New Members

Salma Yesufu (student at Orchard Park Secondary School), Gurjass Kaur (student at Saltfleet Secondary School), Aimee Eppel (Parent at Dundana Elementary School) and Abdullateef Abdul (parent at Tapleystown Elementary School), were unanimously accepted.

Trustee Abby Zaitley was officially welcomed to the table along with Trustee Sabreina Dahab who will be returning for another term.

The Terms of Reference were shared with the new members outlining their roles and responsibilities. It was confirmed that members of the public are welcome to attend as observers.

#### B. Human Rights Complaints Resolution Process

Mouna Bile, Human Rights Early Resolution Supervisor, provided an overview of the human rights complaints' resolution process at HWDSB, including early resolution and investigation processes and the role of the Human Rights Office. The Human Rights Policy and Human Rights Complaints Resolution Procedure were shared.

#### C. Human Rights and Equity Action Plan

Gerry Smith, Superintendent of Safe, Compassionate & Equitable Schools, K-12, shared an update and overview of the Human Rights & Equity Action plan with the Committee focusing on the priority area – Inclusive Classroom Pedagogies and Learning Environments. He provided a highlight of what this work looks like in schools and classrooms by sharing examples of human rights lesson plans implemented through the Reimagining Wellness initiative and the CIR framework (Creating the conditions for learning, Identify affirming curriculum and practices and Responding to student needs). The video that shares information on HWDSB's Responding to Bias, Prejudice and Hate tool was also shared as an example. Staff will bring back updates on the other priority areas of the Human Rights and Equity Action Plan at future meetings.

#### D. Staff Updates

##### Human Rights Information Sessions for parents/ guardians and students (Human Rights Day – December 10)

Yohana Otite, Human Rights and Equity Advisor, shared that as part of observing Human Rights Day 2025, the HWDSB Human Rights Office (HRO) is hosting [two virtual information sessions for students and parents/guardians](#) in HWDSB. The sessions will provide an opportunity to familiarize families and students with their rights and responsibilities in schools, learning about: the Ontario Human Rights Code and how it applies in upholding students' rights in schools, what the HWDSB Human Rights Office is and how it operates, the Board's Human Right, what constitutes discrimination and how to report and address human rights concerns in schools and system navigation supports for students and families.

##### Program Strategy Review Update

Reminder was provided on the launch of the [HWDSB Engage platform](#) where families, students, and community member can review what the consultants has heard about each strategy, share their thoughts and ideas directly and help contribute to the final recommendations to HWDSB on the Program Strategy Review.

**E. Trustee Update**

Trustee Zaitley shared that the Organizational Board was held on November 17, 2025, and Chair/Vice-chair were appointed. Appointments of trustees on committees were also conducted. Trustees Zaitley and Dahab are the trustee liaisons appointed to the Human Rights and Equity Community Advisory Committee.

Trustee Zaitley also commented on the validation stage of the Program Strategy Review and the steps taken so far. Details are located on the Engage platform on the Board's website. Trustee Zaitley also noted at the Board meeting held on November 24, 2025, the Director reported on the newly launched Anti-Black Racism Strategy.

Trustee Dahab shared with the committee that Board/Committee meetings are open to the public, and everyone was welcome to attend.

Respectfully submitted,  
Mesum Ali, Co-Chair

## Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Date of Meeting: December 15, 2025

From: Rural Schools Community Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting: October 22, 2025

The Rural Schools Advisory Committee held a virtual meeting on Wednesday, October 22, 2025, at 6:30 pm.

Members Present: **Balaclava:** Jen McCarney and Krysten Feere; **Flamborough:** Angie Devall; **Greenville:** Sinead McMullen; **Michaëlle Jean:** Suzanne Hall; **Mount Hope:** Meghan Kuyntjes; **Rockton:** Tanya Brouwer and Kim Albers; **Tapleystown:** Kristy Creen.

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### INFORMATION ITEMS:

#### A. Chair Election

Meghan Kuyntjes, Mount Hope School Council Chair, was elected Chair of the Rural Schools Committee.

#### B. Rural Schools Designation/Funding and mandate of the Committee

Associate Director of Business Services, Matthew Gerard, explained to the Committee the background regarding the funding allocation from the Ministry of Education noting that the funding is dedicated for school boards to further improve education for students from rural communities. The funds are used to support schools in the rural areas where it's more difficult to access some of the supports, services, and resources.

#### C. Budget Report Presentation

Associate Director of Business Services, Matthew Gerard, presented the Budget report noting the following:

- Total Funding for 2024 - 2025: \$ 75,911.
- Budget available for 2025 – 2026: \$ 88,147 (includes \$ 16,532 carried over and held as RS program reserve)
- Rural Schools Central Reserve: \$ 16,532

#### D. Updates – Facilities; Health & Safety: Water; and Transportation

Matthew Gerard, Associate Director of Business Services presented the following staff reports:

##### Facilities:

##### Bellmoore

- Boundary review for the new elementary school in Binbrook begin in October

##### Flamborough

- Septic System Replacement project was issued in fall of 2023. The project remains with the Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks (MECP)

##### Mount Hope

- Six classroom and five room childcare addition expected to begin construction early 2026.

##### Rockton

- School has received access to the City owned Community Centre.

##### Tapleystown/New Nash School

- Per Ministry of Education direction, HWDSB will no longer be moving forward with building the new elementary school at the proposed location. More information to be shared.

**Water - Ont. Reg 170 Schools with Drinking Water Systems:**

(Balaclava, Michaëlle Jean, Rockton, Millgrove, Flamborough, Greenville)

- No major changes to the systems this past year and nothing confirmed for the future.
- Staff are reviewing the well at Rockton that is shared with the City but nothing imminent.
- A trained operator monitors the well water system every day to ensure that a variety of safety checks are completed as required, including for turbidity, chlorine levels, filtration and UV operation. Well water sampling continues to occur in accordance with Reg 170/03.
- Most of the UV units and chlorine pumps had been replaced over the years which seems to have helped operational reliability.
- Well water FAQ: [HWDSB-Well-Water-FAQ-Updated-April-2022.pdf](#)

**Transportation:**

- Schools are still experiencing delays because of driver shortages and absences. At meeting time, one operator had six routes without a driver. All operators are actively working to build a pool of spare drivers.
- HWSTS receives weekly updates from all operators and holds weekly calls with operator management to address operational challenges. In November, HWSTS will pilot a new Bus Tracking system, which will feature automated notifications for bus status and delays.

Respectively submitted,  
Meghan Kuyntjes, Chair  
Rural Schools Community Advisory Committee

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Presented to: Board

Date of Meeting: December 15, 2025

From: Standing Committee

Date of Meeting: November 24, 2025

The committee held a hybrid meeting on November 24, 2025, at 7:55 pm with Trustee Tut presiding.

Members: Trustees Kathy Archer\*, Becky Buck, Sabreina Dahab<sup>(R)</sup>, Dawn Danko<sup>(R)</sup>, Amanda Fehrman, Maria Felix Miller, Graeme Noble\*, Paul Tut, Todd White, Elizabeth Wong\*, Abby Zaitley.

Student Trustees: Sanad Bizanti, and Evelyn Watson. Shakowennakara:tats: Daunte Hillen.

\* electronic participation, <sup>(R)</sup>regrets

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**1. Call to Order**

Vice Chair Tut called the meeting to order at 7.55 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

On the motion of Trustees Fehrman/Buck, the Standing Committee **RECOMMENDS that the agenda be approved.**

**CONSENT**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen also in consent.

**3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

None.

**Reports from Staff:**

**4. School Year Calendar 2026-27**

Staff presented the Draft School Year Calendar 2026-2027 report. The 2026-2027 School Year Calendars (Elementary and Secondary) have been prepared in consultation with the School Year Calendar Advisory Committee and endorsed by Executive Council. The Calendars comply with *Ontario Regulation 304, School Year Calendars and Professional Activity Days*. As of the date of this report, the Ministry of Education has not yet released detailed guidance regarding the requirements of Professional Activity Days for 2026-2027. When the HWDSB receives this information, it will be incorporated into the report where the School Year Calendar is brought back for final ratification before submission to the Ministry.

Public consultation will be undertaken from December 17, 2025, to January 15, 2026, to receive community feedback regarding the Draft Calendars.

On the motion of Trustees Fehrman/White, the Standing Committee **RECOMMENDS that the Draft 2026-2027 School Year Calendars be approved for public consultation.**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

Respectfully submitted,  
Trustee Tut, Chair of the Committee

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

# School Year Calendar 2026 – 2027

## Elementary

**Legend** ▶ **H** - Statutory Holiday    **E** Scheduled Examination Day    **P** Professional Activity Day    **B** Board Designated Holiday    Half Day



Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 <sup>st</sup> Week					2 <sup>nd</sup> Week					3 <sup>rd</sup> Week					4 <sup>th</sup> Week					5 <sup>th</sup> Week				
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
August 2026	0	0		3 H	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
September 2026	17	2			1	2 P	3 P	4	7 H	8 F	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30		
October 2026	20	1					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12 H	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26 P	27	28	29	30
November 2026	20	1		2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27 P	30				
December 2026	14				1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21 B	22 B	23 B	24 B	25 B	28 B	29 B	30 B	31 B	
January 2027	19	1						1 B	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22 P	25	26	27	28	29
February 2027	19			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 H	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26					
March 2027	16			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 B	16 B	17 B	18 B	19 B	22	23	24	25	26 H	29 H	30	31		
April 2027	22						1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
May 2027	20			3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24 H	25	26	27	28	31				
June 2027	20	2			1	2	3	4 P	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29 L	30 P		
July 2027							1 H	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	187	7		<p><b>Note:</b> The 2026-2027 calendar provides for 196 possible school days between September 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days</p>																								

# School Year Calendar 2026 - 2027

## Secondary

**Legend** ▶ **H** - Statutory Holiday    **E** Scheduled Examination Day    **P** Professional Activity Day    **B** Board Designated Holiday    Half Day

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 <sup>st</sup> Week					2 <sup>nd</sup> Week					3 <sup>rd</sup> Week					4 <sup>th</sup> Week					5 <sup>th</sup> Week				
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
August 2026	0	0	0	3 H	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31				
September 2026	17	2	0		1	2 P	3 P	4	7 H	8 F	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30		
October 2026	20	1	0				1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12 H	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26 P	27	28	29	30
November 2026	21	0	0	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30				
December 2026	14	0			1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21 B	22 B	23 B	24 B	25 B	28 B	29 B	30 B	31 B	
January 2027	15	0	5					1 B	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25 E	26 E	27 E	28 E	29 E
February 2027	18	1	0	1 P	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 H	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26					
March 2027	16			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15 B	16 B	17 B	18 B	19 B	22	23	24	25	26	29 H	30	31		
April 2027	21	1					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16 P	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
May 2027	20			3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24 H	25	26	27	28	31				
June 2027	15	2	5		1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21 E	22 E	23 E	24 E	25 E	28 P	29 L	30 P		
July 2027							1 H	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30
<b>TOTAL</b>	177	7	10	<p><b>Note:</b> The 2026-2027 calendar provides for 196 possible school days between September 1, 2026 and June 30, 2027. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days</p>																								