

AGENDA: 6:15 pm REVISED

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: December 4, 2023](#)
7. [Correspondence:](#)
 - A. [Joshua Weresch re: Self-Paced Learning](#)
 - B. [Joshua Weresch re: Bernie Custis](#)
 - C. [Elena Neiterman re: parent meeting and follow up regarding anti-Semitism](#)
 - D. [Elliot Biro re: response to motion of Anti-Palestinian Racism](#)

Reports from Trustee Special Committees:

8. [Program – November 30, 2023](#)
9. [Special Governance – December 6, 2023](#)

Reports from Legislated Committees:

10. [Special Education Advisory Committee – November 29, 2023](#)

Reports from Community Advisory Committees:

11. [French as a Second Language Advisory Committee – November 29, 2023](#)
12. [Human Rights & Equity – November 29, 2023](#)
13. [Rural Schools Advisory Committee – November 22, 2023](#)

14. Report from: [Standing Committee – December 4, 2023](#)

15. Oral Reports from Liaison Committees:

- A. City/School Board Liaison Committee
- B. Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School Associations
- C. Hamilton Foundation for Student Success
- D. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

16. Oral Reports from:

- A. Student Trustees' Report – Local Activities & Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) Report
- B. Director's Report to the Community – The Year in Review
- C. Chair's Report

17. Adjournment

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 to her experience in relation to the Palestine and Israel conflict.

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](#)

7 December 2023

To the trustees of the HWDSB:

Hope this finds you well. I write as a parent of 4 students at [REDACTED]. I write to ask that the HWDSB expand its system programme of self-paced, self-directed learning, currently only available at Westmount Secondary, to each and every one of its secondary and elementary schools. This programme was celebrated by the *Globe and Mail* in 2016 in its article available at <https://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/toronto/unconventional-self-directed-learning-a-hit-at-hamilton-high-school/article29045081/> and it is time for such celebration to continue as self-directed learning is enfolded into every school in the HWDSB.

Currently, Westmount's catchment boundary is the entirety of the city's boundary. Students apply to attend Westmount and are responsible for finding their own method of transportation to attend the school. The catchment boundary for Westmount itself should be re-drawn so that it enfolds the elementary schools on its property or nearest it, anyway, as well as Buchanan Park, north of it, and James MacDonald, to the south, Ridgemount and Norwood Park to its north-east. Its catchment could be, then, from Garth St eastward, all the way to MacNab's current boundary at Upper Wellington St. This change would allow the students at Westmount, which is currently at 130% capacity, and its community to enjoy the school and its offerings and not to feel cramped. This change will also allow Sir Allan MacNab Secondary an opportunity to gain students as it is currently under-enrolled. Finally, this change will also allow, in general, communities and neighbourhoods to have their own community schools back and for those schools, communities, and neighbourhoods to flourish, a welcome change from the austerities forced upon communities during the Accommodation Review process that pit wealthy schools against poor ones. A change in Westmount's catchment would also help students get transportation to it directly and shrink the ecological footprint of the Board and its students, as less private transit is used from shuttling students from all across the city.

Second, the self-paced learning programme ought to be enfolded into every school, in some capacity. The *Globe & Mail* article is at pains to tell readers that this is not an alternative school, that this is enriched programming available to all students of mathematics and literacy (the two poles between which the province's educational pendulum swings), and this is true. If this is indeed the case, such enriched programming and a programme should not be limited to one school.

I propose 'self-paced learning for all', as a way for all students to flourish and benefit from the climate care and equity that's implied in this boundary change and programme expansion. All students should be welcome to learn at their own pace, if they want to. I look forward to your changes in these regards.

Respectfully,

Joshua Weresch

To the trustees of the HWDSB:

Hope this finds you well. I write as a parent of 4 students at [REDACTED]

On 30 November 2023, Bobby Hristova, a reporter for C.B.C. Hamilton, reported that some parents are calling for metal detectors and more security at Bernie Custis Secondary School ("Some parents call for metal detectors, more security at Hamilton school after 2nd lockdown in 2 days"). I write to ask that you certainly heed these parents' calls, but also that you deny their requests for metal detectors and more security personnel. Instead, I would ask that a peace and restorative justice programme be created, not only but principally at Bernie Custis Secondary. Furthermore, the training of teachers in anti-oppression training must be intensified and held publicly accountable. Finally, the school itself must be a site of community development. These are suggestions which align with many of the recommendations of the *Review of the Roots of Youth Violence* report by the Hon. Roy McMurtry and Dr. Alvin Curling (2008).

Many of the issues that students and staff, community members and neighbours, are encountering, particularly issues of violence and of drug use and sales, can be connected to the province's under-funding of public education and, particularly, the closure of schools in an effort to save money. In 2019, both Sir John A. MacDonald and Delta Secondary Schools were closed and only Bernie Custis Secondary was opened. In the past decade, the Accommodation Review process has also closed elementary schools in many poorer neighbourhoods and kept schools in richer neighbourhoods open. This ought not be the case as every neighbourhood, every community, deserves and needs a school to function as a community hub and as a place for convivial life to flourish as best it can. At the end of the day, the provincial government ought to be funding public education for all citizens, not just the rich.

While funding of public education generally addresses the larger, systemic issues and attempts to create a safety net for all people, the particular installation of metal detectors and presence of security personnel should not be implemented before a robust public inquiry is had and a survey is sought from racialized students and their communities. Bernie Custis Secondary, much like Sir John A. MacDonald and Delta Secondary Schools, has a diverse student population and it is that student population and its caregivers whose voices and experiences need to be centred in these discussions. We are more aware than ever before how racialized students are predominantly the students who are suspended and expelled and how those same students are predominantly arrested by policing services and incarcerated at a higher rate; thus, it is those students, whose experiences which are most affected by the implementation of metal detectors and of security personnel, whose voices should be heard the most, whose own lived experiences with the implications of securing public space in a carceral manner that should carry the most weight.

As a parent of 4 students in an HWDSB school, I am deeply sympathetic to the concerns and justifiable worries that other parents in the Board share for their own families' safety. Instead, however, of creating a place where only some students feel safe, I would urge the Board's trustees to do the longer, harder work of creating a place where all students feel safe, welcomed, and included. Please do not install metal detectors and post more security personnel at Bernie Custis Secondary; ensure that all, not just some, students are safe. I look forward to your actions in these regards.

Respectfully,

Joshua Weresch

8 December 2023

Re: [REDACTED] parents meeting and follow regarding antisemitism

On Dec 13, 2023, at 9:49 PM, Evgeny and Elena Neiterman [REDACTED] wrote:

Dear Ms. Miller,

Thank you for responding to my message. I would be glad to add my letters to the correspondence portion of your next Board meeting and will reach out to your Trustee Officer, Ms. Heather Miller, as per your suggestion. In addition to this new letter, I would also call your attention to all the correspondence that was submitted by the members of Jewish community for the Board meeting on November 20th. This correspondence, which you can find [here](#), includes letters from 30 individuals who raise concerns about rising antisemitism at our public schools and the hurtful comments made by one of your Trustees, Ms. Dahab (please see pages 7-69 to 7-106).

While I am glad that my voice will be added to the voices of the many community members who already raised their concerns with the Board, I am wondering if our correspondence will result in a formal commitment to action from HWDSB? Specifically, I would like to ask that the Board consider the following requests that our group of parents raised during the meeting we had with Superintendent [REDACTED] and the administration of [REDACTED]:

- (1) **We call on HWDSB to strengthen their education on Holocaust and antisemitism.** Antisemitism is the oldest form of hatred, which predates any other form of discrimination and racialization. As educators, you have an obligation to educate our children about Holocaust and antisemitism. Our young people are passionate humans, eager to change the world. It is imperative that they are well-versed in the past and present history of the world, that they know what antisemitism is, and that they are aware that some catchy slogans are, in fact, call for annihilation of Jewish people and Israel.
- (2) **We ask you to ensure that Jewish children feel safe in HWDSB schools.** Our children should not be scared to attend schools. In our recent meeting with [REDACTED], we outlined a number of events where our children were targeted in schools for being Jewish. We are aware that HWDSB takes a strong stand against any type of hate speech. We call on you to recognize that antisemitism is also an act of hate, which should not be tolerated. We ask you to deal with antisemitic incidents in the same way you would deal with any other form of racism or discrimination.
- (3) **We ask you to respond to our concerns and communicate your plan of action for protecting Jewish children within your walls.** Thus far, we found that HWDSB has been acknowledging the validity of our concerns, but has been failing to publicly commit to any action. While we can continue writing letters (and you can continue reading them), we would like to know what is actually being done in response to our correspondence.

Please let us know how we can support you in acting on your commitment to provide a safe school environment to our children.

Sincerely,

Elena Neiterman

On Dec 6, 2023, at 5:34 PM, Maria Felix Miller [Trustee] <mfmiller@hwdsb.on.ca> wrote:

Good evening Elena,

As Chair of the Board, I wanted to reach out to you directly. I was glad to read that you felt supported during your meeting with Superintendent [REDACTED].

Trustee Tut had escalated your letter to myself and we've shared it directly with the Director of Education.

There are many important points in your message but first, I want to thank you for taking the time to advocate for the safety and well-being of all of our HWDSB students – including our Jewish students. I can absolutely respect the one-sided nature of the original motion and the delegations. Those students were speaking to their experiences as Palestinian and Muslim students, however, you are correct that while Anti-Semitism was added, it was late in the process and therefore we did not receive any delegations highlighting the Jewish experience. I will be working with the Director for next steps on this.

I also wanted to share that you would be able to submit a written statement for our Correspondence portion of our next Board meeting. Our Trustee Officer, Heather Miller would be able to support you with that if you choose to do so. Her email is [hmiller@hwdsb.on.ca](mailto:hmillier@hwdsb.on.ca) and the correspondence would be due by Dec 15th at noon.

We are committed to addressing anti-Semitism in our schools and broader communities. Please know that the inclusion of anti-Semitism in the motion passed Monday, does mean that the Director has now been directed to develop staff training and supports to combat anti-Semitism directly.

Please let me know if you would like to speak further or if you have any other questions or comments,

Maria Felix Miller (*she/her*)
Chair of the Board
Trustee, Ward 3
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
20 Education Court, P.O. 2558
Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1
T: 289-775-0859
mfmiller@hwdsb.on.ca

From: Evgeny and Elena Neiterman [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, December 5, 2023 10:22:03 PM

To: [REDACTED] Paul Tut [Trustee] <ptut@hwdsb.on.ca>

Cc: [REDACTED]

Subject: [REDACTED] parents meeting and follow regarding antisemitism

You don't often get email from [REDACTED] [Learn why this is important](#)

Dear Ms. [REDACTED],

Thank you once again for meeting with us this past Friday at [REDACTED] to discuss our concerns about the incidents of antisemitism at [REDACTED]. We found the meeting very encouraging, as it seemed that the school administration and you were committed to repairing some of the injustices and harms experienced by our children in [REDACTED].

In follow up to our conversation past Friday, we are emailing you about the concerning developments that occurred during HWDSB meeting with trustees on December 4th. During the meeting, Trustee Dahab, who had made local [headlines](#) because of her radical views on Israel, was speaking in support of the motion which focused on concerns related to Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism in HWDSB. While the motion was changed at the very last moment to include references to “anti-racism and antisemitism”, there was no presence of these issues on the agenda for the meeting. There was also a complete absence of Jewish voices in support of this motion (which is not surprising given that the nod to antisemitism was added post-factum). As a result, the meeting was dominated by the voices of Palestinian students, creating a very skewed view of the current climate of public schools in our region. Moreover, during her speech Trustee Dahab referred to Israel-Hamas war as a “genocide,” effectively blaming Israel for the crime it did not commit and vilifying Israeli and Jewish students by association.

As Jewish parents, we have been repeatedly asking HWDSB to create a safe community for our children. During the meeting past Friday, we raised concerns about our children’s safety and about rising antisemitism in our schools. Today’s meeting is a testament to the issues we discussed on Friday: our voices are silenced, our concerns are missing from public agenda, and our community is vilified by public officials within the School Board. During our meeting on Friday, you promised to follow up with us about our concerns. We would like to know what can be done to repair the damage done by the meeting on Dec. 4th.

Sincerely,

Elena Neiterman

(on behalf of cc’ed [REDACTED] parents)

Dec 15, 2023

HWDSB Board of Trustees,

I would like to make a submission in response to the [Motion of Anti-Palestinian Racism that was submitted by Student Trustee Thomas Lin and Ward 2 Trustee Sabreina Dahab on the Monday December 4th HWDSB Board Meeting.](#)

I fully agree with point 6 of the motion that “all students, including Palestinian students, deserve to be safe in their school without experiencing anti-Palestinian racism or Islamophobia”. However, this point must be expanded to insist that both antisemitism and anti-Israeli behaviour is also not acceptable. Please remember, that Israel is a pluralistic society where many cultural and religious groups, including: Muslims, Arabs, Christians, Druze, Samaritans, Baha’i and of course Jews, live together. Otherwise, expanding the definition to protect against antisemitism will not necessarily protect all students of Israeli background, and protecting against anti-Israel behaviour will not necessarily protect the Jewish student body. Currently, Jewish students (I cannot speak to Israeli students, as I do not have an Israeli background) are not being protected.

This comes to some of the disingenuous portions of the motion. In point 1, Mr. Lin and Ms. Dahab discuss student discipline in response to saying “Free Palestine” and students are asked to remove they keffiyehs, which are described as a “symbol of Palestinian culture”. It should be known that the phrase “Free Palestine” is sometimes used to intimidate Jewish students. I know this to be true, because my son, an identifiable Jew from his religious attire, has had students yell “Free Palestine” at him in an intimidating manner. This behaviour has been carried-out by many students on a continuing basis since Oct 7th. These incidents have been well documented both by my family, and by [REDACTED], V.P. at [REDACTED], to whom my son has reported the behaviour. On the question of cultural dress and wearing the keffiyeh, again I ask if this point is forthright. Across Canada, we see that the keffiyeh is being sold to and worn by many non-Palestinian people. I would like the HWDSB to be cognisant of its own [policies on cultural appropriation](#), which are communicated every Halloween. Furthermore, wearing the keffiyeh by non-Palestinian students can only be seen as a political statement and a visual representation of the wearers’ politics. Such a visible symbol will result in cementing in-group and out-group behaviour, degrading the communal atmosphere necessary for student well-being and creating an environment that is conducive to learning. Again, the appropriate answer to this would be to only allow wearing of this cultural dress by students for whom this is their cultural dress.

As to the walk-outs mentioned in point 3. These too have served to degrade the feeling of safety within the schools. During the walk-out at [REDACTED] (occurring during school hours), the chanting was so loud that it could be heard from within the school’s main office, where [REDACTED] was. As such, it must have disrupted the learning activities within the school, which is not respectful to students who are trying to learn in class. From [media estimates](#), less than 100 students participated with the protest. This is less than 6% of the student body (from the estimated [REDACTED] student capacity).

Furthermore, included in the students' chants were cries of "Khaybar" a reference to a historical battle in early Islamic history, when the army of Muhammad defeated the Arabian Jews living in Khaybar leading to Jewish subjugation and eventual expulsion from these lands. Referencing this within Canada is not a call for peace but can only be meant to intimidate the local Jewish population. As well, along with the chants of "Ceasefire", students were chanting "No peace on stolen land", which contradicts the claims that the students are advocating for peace. From the perspective of a Jewish student, having your learning environment disrupted by chants referencing the subjection of your ancestors and the support of war outside your classroom creates an environment of fear and is completely contrary to the goals of creating a safe learning environment, which is the purpose of the motion.

In light of the above, I would implore the board to:

1. Include training on antisemitism and anti-Israel racism along with its training on Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism.
2. Formally adopt the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance definition of antisemitism, as adopted by the Government of Canada in 2019 and the Government of Ontario in 2020.
3. Neither approve nor facilitate protests or disruptions of school activities during school hours.

There is currently much turmoil in the world. We all want our children to grow up and contribute to Canadian society and that of the world. We need to teach our children how to understand and respect others, even when we deeply hold conflicting views from each other. Such values of respect will allow our children to grow and gain new perspectives, enabling them to contribute to solving the current problems that the world faces. As the HWDSB Board of Trustees, you must enable the learning environment to mould our children into our future leaders. We have entrusted our children to you. Please make sure that you contribute to an environment that leads to learning and respect for all our children.

Respectfully yours

Elliot Biro (Ward 2)

c.c. 

COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board

Date of Meeting: December 18, 2023

From: Program Committee

Date of Meeting: November 30, 2023

The committee held a meeting from 6:01 p.m. to 6:32 p.m. on November 30, 2023, at 20 Education Court, Room EC-340D with Trustee Fehrman presiding.

Members present: Trustees Amanda Fehrman, Kathy Archer (electronically), and Sabreina Dahab. Also in attendance: Trustee Todd White.

Regrets: Trustee Elizabeth Wong

ACTION ITEMS:

A. Disproportionality Report - Data Communication Plan

Superintendent Denomme provided an overview of the guiding principals used to develop the communication plan for the Disproportionality Data Report. The plan includes five strategies being explored by staff to distribute the report to the HWDSB Community. Staff noted that the disproportionality report is currently on the website and can be translated into multiple languages, however, the graphs need to be removed from the report to be translated and staff are working with IIT on this.

Superintendent Denomme reviewed the five strategies being explored to distribute the report to the HWDSB Community with members of the program committee, noting feedback received from the discussion would be helpful to bring back to staff related to the implementation of the strategies. It was noted that updating and translating of the Safe School Guides (Suspension and Expulsion – strategy #5) will be made available online and in hard-copy format. Staff also advised that the Progressive Discipline policy will be reviewed, following the Safe Schools report to be brought to committee in Spring 2024. This review is a result of a Board motion in June 2023.

On the motion of Trustee Dahab, the Program Committee **RECOMMENDS: 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.

COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board

Date of Meeting: December 18, 2023

From: Special Governance Committee

Date of Meeting: December 4, 2023

The committee held a meeting from 9:45 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. on December 4, 2023, at 20 Education Court, Hamilton, ON, in person and through MS Teams, with Trustee Todd White presiding.

Members present were: Trustees Amanda Fehrman, Dawn Danko (electronically), Maria Felix Miller, Paul Tut (electronically) and Todd White. Also in attendance: Trustee Sabreina Dahab (electronically).

MONITORING ITEM:

I. Trustee Policy Manual – Feedback – related to navigating media requests (carryover item)

The committee members reviewed the proposed language provided for the additional section of the policy manual related to navigating media requests. In discussion, trustees provided feedback for further consideration related to making the language clear and providing some flexibility and noted that portions of the section could be split between the two sections of the manual – some of the statements may be included as part of the Values/Best Practices portion and some may be included in the by-laws portion of the manual.

Staff will compile the feedback and changes requested by the committee in one document, highlighting (through tracked changes) the proposed changes for final consideration at a Governance Committee meeting in the new year.

Respectfully submitted,
Todd White, Chair of the Committee

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

10-1
Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Meeting Date: December 18, 2023

From: Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Meeting Date: November 29, 2023

The Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, via MS Teams and in person in room 308 at the Education Centre, beginning at 5:46 pm ending at 7:16 pm, with Chair Judy Colantino presiding.

Present

Dawn Danko, Trustee Ward 7, Jessica Malcew, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children, Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton, SEAC Chair, Julie Armstrong, Centre for Diverse Learners, Lindsay Bray, McMaster Children's Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio, SEAC Vice Chair, Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre Mark Courtepatte, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group, Melanie Roberts, The Association for Bright Children of Ontario Nancy Silva Khan, Autism Ontario (Central West Chapter), Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton and Niagara, Tracy Sherriff, Community Living Hamilton

Regrets

Sabreina Dahab, Trustee Ward 2

INFORMATION ITEMS

Meeting Protocol

Judy Colantino, Chair of SEAC

- Returning to roundtable format at each meeting
- January – March meetings originally set via MS Teams, will be in person, unless there is bad weather

To be discussed further at next meeting

Roundtable (small groups)

What should Special Education Programing/Classes Look Like in HWDSB

Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent of Specialized Services

- Committee participated in breakout group discussions – to continue at next meeting

MEMBERS' UPDATE

a) Trustees Update

Dawn Danko, Trustee Ward 7

- Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services continues to reduce bus driver shortage
- Updated Copyright and Environment Policies
- New HWDSB Chair and Vice Chair have been elected – Maria Felix Miller (Chair), Paul Tut (Vice Chair)

b) Local Association Updates

Mark Courtepatte, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group

- We will be hosting a hybrid conference on February 10th with various keynote speakers – details will be shared when available

Julie Armstrong, Centre for Diverse Learners

- CDL has opened registration for the 13th Annual Solutions for Learning Conference. A wide range of speakers – four keynotes and 12 breakout sessions. Recorded for 30-day access. Early bird discount of \$187 is open until January 15th for 20+ hours of professional development <https://diverselearners.ca/sf113/>

c) Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent of Specialized Services

- We are meeting with transportation department to review processes in order to streamline process at the beginning of the year
- Our work now is to create a Board Improvement Plan based on strategic directions. Learning Services staff are working together to review objectives and how we action those going forward – not as individual departments but as a collective
- We provided optional virtual learning sessions on Nov. 17th PA Day for all COPE members. There were four sessions provided and every session had over 100 participants. The sessions have been recorded and are available to COPE members

Respectfully submitted by Judy Colantino, SEAC Chair

Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Meeting date: December 18, 2023

From: French as a Second Language Advisory Committee

Meeting date: November 29, 2023

The committee held a meeting on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, from 6:00 to 8:00 pm, chaired by Alyssa Shuker.

Members present were: Ahmad Al Sardi, Faridat Audu, Chris Ezrin, Jeremy Galea, Catherine Roberts, Alyssa Shuker and Ellen Syracopoulos (electronically).

Regrets: Jason Arsenault, Douglas Katembo, Christina McGill, Trustee Todd White and Trustee Graeme Noble.

MONITORING ITEMS:

A. Multi-Year Strategic Plan – update.

Staff provided new members with a short overview of the Board’s new Multi-Year Strategic Plan that is scheduled to launch in the new year. There will be a focus on a culture of improvement, underpinned by four key values of trust, compassion, dignity and joy.

B. Review of the French As a Second Language Three-Year Plan.

Staff provided new members with an overview of the Three-Year Plan and gave an overview of where we are at with respect to our progress in the plan. Staff shared the continued certification and training of educators to incorporate Common European Framework Reference for Languages (CEFR) practices to their secondary-school classrooms. Job-embedded professional learning for classroom and resource Grade 1 and Grade 2 teachers is ongoing with respect to explicit instruction for all students to ensure a solid foundation in their reading. The de-streamed Grade 9 French course was also discussed; professional development for teachers and the offering of academic Grade 9 French as the main offering to all students, with the exception of the Open Grade 9 French course offered to students who have not had any exposure to French. Staff also shared information about the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) non-profit French program offered at two secondary sites that is in its second year of running.

C. Updates

Canadian Parents for French provided an update on how to become a member and after-school programming.

Staff provided an update on the Grade 1 French Immersion Information evening in October that was well attended.

Respectfully submitted,
Alyssa Shuker, Committee Chair

Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Meeting date: November 29, 2023

From: Human Rights & Equity Community Advisory
Committee

Meeting date: December 18, 2023

The committee held a meeting on November 29, 2023, from 4:00 – 5:02 p.m. via MS Teams with Yohana Otite presiding until after Co-Chairs were appointed. Following appointment, Co-Chair Jorja Hagins presided.

Members present were: Tehreem Zafar, Jordan Fudge, Mackenna Andrus, Nicole Mossop, Mesum Ali, Jorja Hagins, Ryver Campanella, Trustee: Sabreina Dahab

MONITORING ITEMS:

A. New Members Welcome

New member appointed are: Jorja Hagins , Student (Sherwood Secondary), Mesum Ali , Student (Orchard Park), Ryver Campanella, Student (Glendale), Mackenna Andrus, Student (Waterdown), Nicole Mossop (Parent) were welcomed.

B. Co-chairs Nomination and Appointment

Jorja Hagins and Mesum Ali nominated themselves. All members were unanimously in favour. Jorja Hagins took over as Chair of the meeting.

C. Trustee Updates

Trustee Dahab explained her role as a Trustee and support as the liaison of this committee to the Board of Trustees. Provided an update on the election of new Board Chair, Trustee Miller and Vice-Chair, Trustee Tut.

D. Terms of Reference

Yohana Otite reviewed the terms of reference for community advisory committees, roles and responsibilities of members and membership expectations.

E. Staff Updates

Yohana Otite:

- Provided an overview of the Human Rights Office and the Equity Department. Mouna Bile, the Human Rights Early Resolution Supervisor introduced herself and provided an overview of her role, in support of implementing the Board's human rights complaints resolution procedure.
- an update on the Board's new Multi Year Strategic plan and shared the new vision, mission and values and the five strategic areas. Committee members appreciated the focus on human rights, wellbeing and Indigenous Education Wellness and shared their interest in seeing the implementation of the plan.
- an update on how the Board is using the Student Census data and inform members that the disproportionality data on achievement, suspensions and expulsions, attendance, and well-Being have been publicly shared. This will be an agenda item for the January meeting for discussion.

Respectfully submitted,
Jorja Hagins, Co-Chair

COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board

Date of Meeting: December 18, 2023

From: Rural Schools Community Advisory Committee

Date of Meeting: November 22, 2023

The Rural Schools Advisory Committee held a meeting from 6:32 p.m. – 7:31 p.m. on Wednesday, November 22nd, 2023, virtually via MS Teams.

Members Present: **Balaclava:** Jacky Small; **Bellmoore:** Raman Rakkar; **Flamborough:** Leah Young; **Michelle Jean:** Paul Hatala; **Millgrove:** Laura Zonta; **Mount Hope:** Heidi Oglesby; **Rockton:** Tanya Brouwer; **Tapleystown:** Chanda Goldsworthy.

Regrets: **Greenville:** Katherine Hamstra, School Council; **Michelle Jean:** Mark Hopkins, Principal; **Mount Hope:** Nancy Radojevic, Principal; Graeme Noble, Trustee, Ward 15; **Budget Department:** Felix Gyimah, Budget Analyst.

INFORMATION ITEMS:

A. Election of Chair

Heidi Oglesby, Mount Hope, self-nominated for the Rural School Committee Chair position. There were no other interested members and no challenge to her nomination.

CARRIED

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

Superintendent J. Macpherson explained to the Committee the background regarding the funding allocation from the Ministry of Education. This funding is dedicated for school boards to further improve education for students from rural communities and support schools where it's more difficult to access some of the supports, services, and resources. The funding expenditures are reported publicly on the [Rural Schools](#) page online. The purpose and mandate of the committee is to provide the board of trustees with advice from the community on specific areas consistent with the Education Act and board policies, program, and services that affect the educational success and well-being of Hamilton Wentworth District School Board students in rural schools.

C. Rural Schools Funding

Superintendent J. Macpherson presented the report provided by the Budget Department noting the following:

- 2023 - 2024: Budget Amount \$ 35,408; 2022 - 2023: Carried forward amount \$ 9,838
- Total Funding for 2023 - 2024: \$ 45,246
- Central Rural Schools Reserve: \$ 5,000
- Current Expenses YTD \$ 4,339 (including rounding)
- Final Budget Available as of meeting date \$ 40,907 (including round)

The Budget Department, from the total budget amount, holds back a reserve to encourage schools to spend their allocated budget. Rural Schools can apply for the central funds and schools are also encouraged to spend their available funds as per Ministry and Board expenditure guidelines.

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

The following staff reports were shared with the committee:

Facilities:

Balaclava:

- Parking lot paving project was initiated in the summer of 2023. Construction scheduled to commence the summer of 2024.

Flamborough:

- Currently in process of a [Temporary Accommodations Strategy](#) with Mary Hopkins to balance enrollment.

Michaëlle Jean:

- Capital Project for Elementary Benchmark work including corridor ceiling with LED lighting, gym renovation, washroom renovations and window and exterior door replacement is complete with deficiencies. Deficiencies will continue after hours and on weekends.

Millgrove:

- Elementary Benchmark project was initiated in the summer of 2023 for the renovations of the student washrooms. Construction scheduled to commence the summer of 2024.

Mount Hope:

- Capital Priorities submission was made in Fall 2023. Currently awaiting Ministry approval.

Tapleystown:

- New Nash School is in for Site Plan Approval with the City. Design is complete with building permit submission ready to be issued once a decision has been made on the current procurement pause. Tendering is tentatively scheduled for Spring 2024, pending building permit, and Board decision.

Water:**Ont. Reg 243 lead testing at all schools**

- All drinking water fixtures in all schools were tested over a 3-year period starting in 2017.
- After all fixtures were tested, we continue annual testing of parts of each school. The annual testing took place in the summer.
- None of the rural schools had an exceedance over the last 2 years and they have their pipes flushed weekly.
- Flamborough's drinking water flushing schedule was changed to daily flushing (each day prior to opening school) from weekly due to an exceedance in a standing (unflushed) sample.
- Should there be an exceedance for lead, this is communicated to the school population, and we work with public health to ensure we are able to provide a remedy.

Ont. Reg 170 Schools with Drinking Water Systems (Balaclava, Michaëlle Jean, Rockton, Millgrove,**Flamborough, Greenville):**

- Daily checks are completed each morning prior to students arriving to ensure we're providing safe drinking water to students and staff.
- Every month we sample water at each of these schools for microbial activity to make sure our systems are working as they should. The last samples continue to be within the standard.
- Quarterly samples are taken for nitrate and nitrites. The latest samples in November 2023 were below the limits. We are scheduled to take quarterly samples again in February 2024.
- Every 5 years (60 months) we test each school for a number of inorganic and organic parameters. Flamborough's new well was tested for these parameters in 2022, whereas the others were tested in 2020 and the results were all within the standard.

Transportation:**Driver Shortage:**

- In general, schools continue to experience delays due to driver shortages and driver absence. Daily book-offs pose a problem with a lack of spare drivers for coverage.
- HWSTS receives weekly updates from all bus operators and engages in weekly calls with operator management to discuss operational shortfalls.
- At this time, further value-added applications associated with GPS technology are being compared. At least one internal pilot for a Parent Delay App is in place. Other trials will include automated bus status/delays, and student ridership tracking.
- Trustee Fehrman indicated to the Committee that this is the best position HWSTS has been in a long time.

New Technology for improved Customer Service and Safety:

- As part of the 2021 Request for Proposal for Transportation Services, HWSTS introduced GPS/Automated Vehicle Location (AVL) on School Bus operators' fleets; starting in February 2022.
- For September 2022, all school buses servicing HWSTS were fully equipped with GPS/AVL which integrates with the HWSTS Transportation Management Software; Busplanner Pro.
- HWSTS has been spending 2022/23 to measure and audit the Bus Operators use for GPS for accuracy and change management. Key focus is to ensure consistent locations reporting from all vehicles and ensuring vehicle/route/GPS device information is accurate.

- Following GPS review and auditing, HWSTS will be reviewing best option for implementing enhanced public facing applications to improve Customer Service
- HWSTS provided the count of delays reasons table:

Reason	Count of Delays	Percentage of Total Delays
-- not specified --	3	1.16%
Accident, bus not involved	1	0.39%
Construction - Road Closure	2	0.77%
Dispatch error	1	0.39%
Driver absence	50	19.31%
Driver Assisting with another Route	103	39.77%
Driver coverage - open route	37	14.29%
Driver error	2	0.77%
Mechanical Issue/Breakdown	12	4.63%
Parent no show - student returned to School	1	0.39%
School caused delay	2	0.77%
Student Behaviour	3	1.16%
Student behaviour issue - returned to school	2	0.77%
Traffic	40	15.44%
Grand Total	259	100.00%

E. Other Business – Future Meetings

The committee discussed potential topics for future meetings. Topics suggested:

- MYSP – Multi-Year Strategic Plan.
- Fundraising Policy.
- Transportation: Inviting the HWSTS.
- Facilities: Inviting someone from FM for an overview.

Respectively submitted,
Heidi Oglesby,
Rural Schools Community Advisory Committee

COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board

Date of Meeting: December 18, 2023

From: Standing Committee

Date of Meeting: December 04, 2023

The committee held a meeting following regular board from 9:58 p.m. to 10:28 p.m. on December 04, 2023, with Chair Paul Tut presiding.

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

Regrets were received from Trustees Wong.

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Tut called the meeting to order at 9:58 pm and requested a motion to extend the meeting by thirty minutes.

On motion of Trustee Danko, the Standing Committee Meeting was extended 30 minutes.

CONSENT

Student Trustees Lin and Wang also consent.

2. Approval of Agenda

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

CONSENT

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

None.

Reports from Staff

4. School Year Calendar 2024-2025 – Elementary & Secondary (for consultation)

Staff presented the Draft School Year Calendar 2024-25 report. The 2024-2025 School Year Calendars (Elementary and Secondary) have been prepared in consultation with the School Year Calendar Advisory Committee and endorsed by Executive Council. The Draft School Year Calendar 2024-2025 will go out for public consultation (Dec 20th – Jan 17th) after ratification at the December 18th board meeting. The current draft does have the Elementary PA Day on November 22nd for parent, guardian and caregiver interviews. Trustees requested that the calendar be reviewed for any election days within the 2024/25 year, that the consultation continue to request specific feedback around the dates proposed for PA Days and that a reminder about the consultation being conducted be sent out a second time in the new year.

On the motion of Trustee Buck, the Standing Committee **RECOMMENDS that the draft 2024 – 2025 school year calendar be approved for public consultation.**

CARRIED

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

5. Transportation Report

Staff shared the Transportation Report with the Committee. This report provided a preliminary overview of the start-up highlights for the 2023-2024 school year and the associated impacts on both consortium member Boards. The biggest challenge for the start of the school year was tackling the consistent driver shortage. The trend is continuing to improve, noting that we're reporting total of 6 open routes at the end of November and strong plans to continue to make sure that this does not persist as a significant issue as it has in prior years.

Staff spoke to highlighted areas of the report including:

- Route and Vehicle Information
- School Bus and Taxi Operators
- Incident Reporting
- 2022-2023 School Year Safety Initiatives
- Bus Driver Professional Development

- Initiatives - GPS

On the motion of Trustee Miller the Standing Committee **RECOMMENDS that the Transportation Report be received.**

CARRIED

Student Trustees Lin and Wang voted in favour.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Tut, Chair of the Committee

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



Ministry of Education **Elementary School Year Calendar 2024 - 2025**

Board

Statutory

Scheduled

Professional Half



Legend ▶

H - Holiday

E - Examination Day

P - Activity Day

B - Designated Day
Holiday

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1st Week					2nd Week					3rd Week					4th Week					5th 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 2024							1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	
September 2024	19	1		2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30					
October 2024	21	1			1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31		
November 2024	20	1						1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	
December 2024	15			2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30	31				
January 2025	19	1				1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31	
February 2025	18	1		3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28						
March 2025	16			3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31					
April 2025	20				1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30			
May 2025	21						1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	
June 2025	18	2		2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30					
July 2025					1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31		

TOTAL	187	7	
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Note: The 2024-2025 calendar provides for 195 possible school days between September 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. 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



HWDSB

Ministry of Education

Secondary School Year Calendar 2024 - 2025

Board

Statutory

Scheduled

Professional Half



Legend ▶

H - Holiday

E - Examination Day

P - Activity Day

B - Designated Day
Holiday

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 st Week					2 nd Week					3 rd Week					4 th Week					5 th 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 2024							1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30					
September 2024	19	1		2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30									
October 2024	22	1			1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31						
November 2024	19	2						1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29					
December 2024	15			2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30	31								
January 2025	14	1	5			1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31					
February 2025	18	1		3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28										
March 2025	16			3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28	31									
April 2025	20				1	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30							
May 2025	21					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30						

HWDSB

June 2025	13	2	5	2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18 LD	19 E	20 E	23 E	24 E	25 E	26 P	27 P	30 B				
July 2025					1 H	2	3	4	7	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31	
TOTAL	177	7	10	Note: The 2024-2025 calendar provides for 195 possible school days between September 1, 2024 and June 30, 2025. 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																								