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

*electronic participation, ^(R) regrets

1. Call to Order

Vice Chair Tut called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

RESOLUTION #26-46: Trustees Fehrman/Buck moved that Trustee Wong be approved as absent for the April 13, 2026, Board Meeting.

CARRIED

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

2. Approval of the Agenda

RESOLUTION #26-47: Trustees Zaitley/Dahab moved that the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

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

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLUTION #26-48: Trustees Buck/Fehrman moved that the Minutes from March 30, 2026, be confirmed.

CARRIED

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

4. DELEGATION(S): Artificial Intelligence Policy

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

- A. Katie Schuessler – Spoke about the role AI will play in the lives of her children. She shared concerns about cognitive development, inherent bias, its use for companionship, safety in privacy and data, and asked that HWDSB pause the rollout of these tools until student safety and well-being could be properly assessed.
- B. Chad Chabot – Spoke about the impact AI will have on our students. He shared his experiences with AI as a software professional and asked the Board to consider taking a more measured approach to AI usage within the classroom specifically around privacy and data, the impact on students and their ability to learn and be creative, and the impact AI tools could have for teaching staff and support staff.
- C. Dr. Chantal Mancini – Spoke about her experiences on the use of AI that she and her colleagues are confronted with in classrooms daily. She noted that AI is not just a tool, it is fundamentally reshaping the way humans relate to one another by its integration into the workplace, cultural production, social life, and education. She suggested that the Board consider a comprehensive AI

Policy, one based on in-depth discussions with families, educators, employee groups and community partners.

- D. Evan Ubene – Spoke about why the Board should consider developing an AI policy. He noted that AI in the classrooms can negatively affect students by reducing critical thinking, creativity, and cognitive engagement. He also raised concerns that widespread AI use supports an environmentally harmful industry, increasing energy and water consumption, which conflicts with education systems’ sustainability goals.

5. Correspondence: Special Education Advisory Committee re: Budget for 2026-2027

RESOLUTION #26-49: Trustees Danko/Buck moved that the correspondence from the Special Education Advisory Committee re: Budget for 2026-2027 be received and referred to the Finance & Facilities Committee for their review during budget discussions.

CARRIED

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

6. Program Committee

RESOLUTION #26-50: Trustees Fehrman/Buck moved that the Program Committee report from March 26, 2026, be received.

CARRIED

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

7. Finance & Facilities Committee

RESOLUTION #26-51: Trustees Buck/Fehrman moved that the Finance & Facilities Committee report from March 31, 2026, be approved including the allocation of Proceeds of Disposition funds for Phases 1, 2, and 3, as outlined below.

Immediate Use of Proceeds – Phase 1

Immediate Use (submissions to the Ministry within the next 6 months)	\$34,500,000
Accessibility Projects	\$4,500,000
HVAC / Cooling Projects	\$10,000,000
Offset to Maintenance Operating Costs (one-time)	\$8,000,000
Previous Board commitments to support Program and equity of access	\$10,000,000
Renewal and Accessibility Contingency Value	\$2,000,000
Subtotal	\$34,500,000

Short-term Use of Proceeds – Phase 2

Short-term Use (submissions to the Ministry within the next 24-48 months)	\$25,000,000
Accessibility Projects	\$3,000,000
HVAC / Cooling Projects	\$10,000,000
Previous Board commitments to support Program and equity of access	\$10,000,000
Renewal and Accessibility Contingency Value	\$2,000,000
Subtotal	\$25,000,000

Long-term Use of Proceeds – Phase 3

Long-term Use (submissions to the Ministry within the next 48+ months)	\$17,836,701
Accessibility Projects	\$3,000,000
HVAC / Cooling Projects	\$10,000,000
Previous Board commitments to support Program and equity of access	\$3,000,000
Renewal and Accessibility Contingency Value	\$1,836,701
Subtotal	\$17,836,701

CARRIED

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

8. Student Trustees and Shakowennakara:tats 2026-2027

RESOLUTION #26-52: Trustees Noble/Dahab moved that Cristian Farrugia, Westmount Secondary (Student Trustee), Caitlyn Gong, Ancaster High (Student Trustee), and Charlise Hillen, Sherwood (Shakowennakara:tats) be confirmed to stand as Student Trustees and Shakowennakara:tats with HWDSB for the term of office from August 1, 2026, to July 31, 2027.

CARRIED

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

9. Written Notice of Motion: Artificial Intelligence (AI) Policy (Trustee Zaitley)

Whereas the rapid advancement and integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) technologies in educational settings present both significant opportunities and risks;

Whereas the current HWDSB policies, including the Modern Learning Policy, no longer fully address the unique implications, challenges, and risks associated with AI;

Whereas AI technologies carry environmental impacts, including high energy consumption and resource use, which must align with the Board's sustainability commitments in our Multi-Year Strategic Plan;

Whereas transparency with families and caregivers is essential in maintaining trust regarding how AI tools are used in classrooms;

Whereas the use of AI must uphold the dignity and well-being of all students, ensuring that technology supports rather than replaces human relationships;

Whereas AI systems present risks related to data security and how student data is collected, processed, and protected;

Whereas teaching critical thinking strategies is critical as AI technology has the potential to hallucinate (give incorrect information);

Whereas AI technologies have the potential to perpetuate or amplify systemic biases, raising concerns related to human rights and equity;

Whereas cost uncertainty regarding AI tools/platforms poses a fiscal uncertainty for the future of AI use.

RESOLUTION #26-53: Trustees Zaitley/Dahab moved that HWDSB start the policy development process to investigate the feasibility of developing an AI Policy.

CARRIED

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

The Board moved into private session for the discussion of items related to Section 207 (2) of the Education Act.

Trustee Miller and Student Trustee Watson left for the remainder of the meeting.

10. Report from Committee of the Whole (Private) – April 13, 2026

RESOLUTION #26-54: Trustees Noble/Zaitley moved that the Committee of the Whole report from April 13, 2026, be approved including:

- That the Finance & Facilities Committee report from March 31, 2026, be approved including:
 - Setting Full Day Child Care Program licence rates for 2026–2027 at \$9.86 per square foot, aligned with Ministry of Education benchmark funding and year-round occupancy, from 260 to 365 days.
 - Applying a flat daily space rate for Before and After School Programs for 2026–2027 of \$5 per standard classroom and \$8 per kindergarten classroom.

CARRIED

11. City/School Board Liaison Committee

Trustee White provided the following update:

- Discussion from last Thursday's meeting focused on the former tennis courts at the Dundas Valley property, including community ideas and City's interest in redevelopment.
- Agenda items were deferred to the next meeting: a stormwater report and a report on Brightside Park (north of Bernie Custis), due to city staff requiring additional time to complete reports

12. Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School Association

Trustee Noble provided the following update:

- March 2nd meeting included members and Associate Director Matt Gerard, featuring a presentation on budget priorities and consultation, with discussion on funding allocation, current funding examples, and accessible visual budget materials.
- The Hamilton-Wentworth Chapter proposed an invitation to Superintendent Gerry Smith to a future meeting to provide updates on the Safe, Compassionate, and Equitable Schools portfolio.

13. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Buck provided the following update:

- MPPs returned to Queen's Park following a constituency week and will sit for two weeks
- Bill C-15, including the National School Food Program Act, received Royal Assent and aims to provide nutritious school meals to an additional 400,000 children annually and help reduce costs for parents
- Registration is open for the 2026 OPSBA Annual Meeting in Ottawa June 4-6, 2026 – the theme is *Governing for the Public Good in an Era of Uncertainty*
- The government introduced Bill 101, Putting Student Achievement First Act, 2026; OPSBA delegates and Chairs are scheduled to meet online to discuss Bill

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

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