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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, Abby Zaitley. Student Trustees Oluwafikunayomi (Fikun) Alabi, Victoria Li, 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 6:05 p.m.

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

Trustees Wong/Fehrman moved that the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 3. Confirmation of the Minutes

**RESOLUTION #25-20:** Trustees Buck/Danko moved that the Minutes from February 24, 2025, be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 4. Program Committee

**RESOLUTION #25-21:** Trustees Fehrman/Buck moved that the Program Committee report from February 19, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 5. Policy Committee

**RESOLUTION #25-22:** Trustees Dahab/Danko moved that the Policy Committee report from March 6, 2025, be approved, including the Medical Health Supports Policy.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 6. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

**RESOLUTION #25-23:** Trustees Danko/Tut moved that the Special Education Advisory Committee report from February 26, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## 7. Student Trustees 2025-2026 (Election Results)

**RESOLUTION #25-24:** Trustees White/Fehrman moved that the following students be approved as Student Trustees with HWDSB for the term of office from August 1, 2025, to July 31, 2026.

- Sanad Bizanti, Ancaster High Secondary School (Student Trustee)
- Evelyn Watson, Orchard Park Secondary School (Student Trustee)

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

#### **8. Hamilton Foundation of Student Success**

Trustee Fehrman provided an update noting that Prom Project takes place on April 5, 2025, at Sir Winston Churchill. Donations will be accepted until March 28, 2025. Please visit [www.promprojecthamilton.ca](http://www.promprojecthamilton.ca) for more information.

#### **9. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)**

Trustee Buck provided the following update:

- Paul Calandra is the new Minister of Education.
- The Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium is being held May 1 and 2, 2025.
- The Healthy Democracy Student Leadership Award: A \$1,000 grant will be awarded to one graduating English public school student in each of OPSBA's five regions.
- CSBA Congress and National Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education is being held July 2 to 5, 2025, in Winnipeg.
- OPSBA Central West Regional Meeting: Takes place April 5, 2025, and is being hosted by HWDSB at the Education Centre.
- OPSBA Annual General Meeting: Takes place June 12 to 14, 2025, in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

#### **10. Student Trustees' and Shakowennakara:tats report**

Shakowennakara: tats Hillen provided a verbal update:

- Participated in various events recently which highlighted the power of our community, our student voice and equity focus, and education. These experiences have reinforced the importance of fostering inclusive spaces where students feel heard, valued and supported.
- Attended a Grade 8 to 9 progression professional development session where there was discussion about what a holistic approach to education means to students and how it can be implemented in secondary schools. The conversation focused on the importance of recognising students as whole individuals - not just academically, but also socially, emotionally and culturally.
- Attended the Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre Parks International Day for the elimination of racism event on March 21, 2025. Speakers at the event reminded participants that anti racism work requires continuous effort, accountability and collaboration. The event reinforced the need to not only acknowledge systemic injustices but to actively work towards solutions that promote equity and inclusion in all spaces, including schools.
- March 22, 2025, marked World Water Day, and thanks were given to the many indigenous water keepers, water walkers, and water protectors who continue to advocate for clean, safe and accessible water.

Student Trustees Alabi and Li provided a verbal update:

- Attended the YWCA Women of Distinction Awards ceremony, which celebrated the incredible achievements of women across Hamilton.
- A special thank you to the hair stylists and barbers who generously offered free haircuts and styles to those in need at the Excel in Style event on March 15, 2025.
- Currently working with a student from the Niagara District School Board to compile and release a formal document outlining scholarships available to Canadian and non-Canadian students.
- Currently working with Secondary Student Senators to finalize the Trailblazer Summit taking place April 7, 2025.

Director Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini presented the [Director's Report](#) and highlighted the following:

- HWDSB in Action: Westdale's Skill Competition, and visits to Hill Park Learning Centre and Ancaster High School.
- HWDSB in the Community: Excel in Style at Bernie Custis, YWCA Women of Distinction.
- Community Leadership – King Charles III Coronation Medal: Congratulations to Trustee Archer on receiving this award for her work in the community. HWDSB is incredibly proud to celebrate this accomplishment with Trustee Archer, as we have witnessed some of the work that she has done for the community, including, as an example, ensuring students have backpacks and school supplies to return to school each school year start-up.
- ELLevate – A HWDSB Pilot Program:
  - Future readiness for every student
  - Improved literacy and numeracy for every student
  - Every student reaches their potential and builds their own future

### **11. Chair's Report**

Chair Miller acknowledged and thanked the efforts of all our school-based staff for getting our students back into routines, back into the classroom for the remainder of the academic year with full energy following March break. Chair Miller also noted that a new Minister of Education has been appointed, Minister Paul Calandra, and encourages trustees to continue to build relationships with representatives of all levels of government in support of their communities.

The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.

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