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**Trustees:** Kathy Archer\*, Becky Buck, Sabreina Dahab, Dawn Danko<sup>(R)</sup>, Amanda Fehrman, Maria Felix Miller, Graeme Noble, Paul Tut, Todd White, Elizabeth Wong\*, Abby Zaitley. Student Trustees Sanad Bizanti<sup>(R)</sup>, 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 6:05 p.m.

**RESOLUTION #26-33:** Trustees Tut/Fehrman moved that Trustee Danko be approved as absent for the March 30, 2026, Board Meeting.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

**RESOLUTION #26-34:** Trustees Dahab/Buck moved that the agenda be approved as amended (change in order of items).

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

### 3. Confirmation of the Minutes

**RESOLUTION #26-35:** Trustees Tut/Zaitley moved that the Minutes from March 9, 2026, be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

### 4. Correspondence: Township of Rideau Lakes re: School Board Trustees in Ontario

**RESOLUTION #26-36:** Trustees Tut/Zaitley moved that the correspondence from Township of Rideau Lakes regarding School Board Trustees in Ontario be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

### 5. Governance Committee

**RESOLUTION #26-37:** Trustees Buck/Tut moved that the Governance Committee report from March 2, 2026, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

### 6. Policy Committee

**RESOLUTION #26-38:** Trustees Dahab/White moved that the Policy Committee report from March 3, 2026, be approved including the Indigenous Education Policy, Educational Excursions Policy and Staff Engagement Policy.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## **7. Audit Committee**

**RESOLUTION #26-39:** Trustees White/Noble moved that the Audit Committee report from March 10, 2026, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## **8. Parent Involvement Committee**

**RESOLUTION #26-40:** Trustees Fehrman/Zaitley moved that the Parent Involvement Committee report from March 10, 2026, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## **9. Special Education Advisory Committee**

**RESOLUTION #26-41:** Trustees Miller/Buck moved that the Special Education Advisory Committee report from February 25, 2026, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## **10. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee**

**RESOLUTION #26-42:** Trustees Noble/Buck moved that the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee report from February 26, 2026, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## **11. Human Rights & Equity Advisory Committee**

**RESOLUTION #26-43:** Trustees Dahab/Noble moved that the Human Rights & Equity Advisory Committee report from February 26, 2026, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## **12. Student Trustees Report**

Student Trustee Watson provided the following update:

- Student Senate continued preparations for April 17 Leadership Conference
- Schools recognized Pi Day with math-focused activities and celebrated World Down Syndrome Day through Crazy Sock Day and inclusive, student-led events.
- Students supported Prom Project Hamilton throughout March through donation drives, volunteering, and awareness campaigns, culminating in the March 28 event at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School.

Shakowennakara:tats Hillen provided the following update:

- Expressed gratitude for witnessing a historic moment with the approval of the Indigenous Education Policy.
- CC:Rose held a meeting said good-bye to Christina Zito upon completion of her term; her significant contributions and legacy were acknowledged, and Kayla Stewart was welcomed into her role.
- Student Senate participated in advocacy efforts at Queen's Park, including speaking at a rally hosted by the Ontario Autism Coalition on the importance of funding public education and the role of trustees in supporting democracy.

- Facilitated a workshop titled “Youth and Democracy” as part of the YWCA Hamilton’s Reaching Together for Power Campaign School.
- Noted that March 31 marks National Indigenous Languages Day, recognizing that Indigenous languages are living expressions of culture, identity, history, and ways of understanding the world.

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

Student Trustee Watson left for the remainder of the meeting.

**13. Standing Committee**

**RESOLUTION #26-44:** Trustees Tut/Fehrman moved that the Standing Committee report from March 9, 2026, be approved including:

- That pursuant to O. Reg 412/00, the Board does not designate any municipality within the Board’s area of jurisdiction as a low population Municipality.
- And that pursuant to O. Reg 412/00, and based on the completed Trustee Determination and Distribution calculations, the Board confirm a total of 11 Trustees for the 2026 HWDSB Election, and approve the following geographic distribution:

<i>Area</i>	<i>Trustees</i>
Ward 1	1.0
Ward 2	1.0
Ward 3	1.0
Ward 4	1.0
Wards 5 & 10	1.0
Wards 6 & 9	1.0
Ward 7	1.0
Wards 8 & 14	1.0
Wards 11 & 12	1.0
Ward 13	1.0
Ward 15	1.0

**CARRIED**

Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.  
Trustee White was not in the room for this vote

**14. Report from Committee of the Whole (Private) – March 30, 2026**

**RESOLUTION #26-45:** Trustees Tut/Buck moved that the Committee of the Whole report from March 30, 2026, be approved including:

- That the Audit Committee report from March 10, 2026, be received.
- That the Finance & Facilities Committee report from March 24, 2026, be approved including the preliminary allocation of the following full-time equivalent positions for the purpose of 2026-27 school-based staffing.

Elementary Teachers	2,085.00
Secondary Teachers	892.81
Early Childhood Educators	250.00
Educational Assistants	686.00

Communication Disorder Assistants	9.00
Child & Youth Care Practitioners	58.00
Principals/Vice Principals	159.00
School Office Administration	199.50
School Custodial	349.00

And noting that these staffing levels represent a reduction of 124.34 FTE school-based staff from the 2025-26 revised estimates staffing levels.

**CARRIED**

Trustee White was not in the room for this vote

### **15. Director's Report**

The Director provided her [monthly report](#) to the Board. She noted that March 31, 2026, marks National Indigenous Languages Day and highlighted the importance of Indigenous languages in relation to culture, identity, and reconciliation. The Director outlined system goals supporting student achievement, engagement, and well-being, including experiential learning, pathway development, literacy, nutrition, extracurricular programming, and community partnerships. Recognition was given to Raquelle McIntosh, recipient of the 2026 Music Counts Teacher of the Year Award, for her contributions to music education at Adelaide Hoodless Elementary School.

### **16. Chair's Report**

Chair Maria Felix Miller acknowledged staff for their work during March Break and highlighted recent community engagement activities. Recognition was given to Raquelle McIntosh for being named Music Counts Teacher of the Year. The Chair also noted the successful delivery of the Prom Project in partnership with staff and community volunteers.

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

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