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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

## 1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:51 p.m.

**RESOLUTION #25-80:** Trustees Tut/Fehrman moved that Trustee Archer be approved as being absent for the October 27, 2025, Board Meeting.

**CARRIED**

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

## 2. Approval of the Agenda

**RESOLUTION #25-81:** Trustees Tut/Zaitley moved that the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

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

## 3. Confirmation of the Minutes

**RESOLUTION #25-82:** Trustees Tut/Fehrman moved that the Minutes from September 29, 2025, be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

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

## 4. Policy Committee

Trustees Dahab/Zaitley moved that the Policy Committee report from October 9, 2025, be approved, including Boundary Review, Employee Expenses and Trustee Expenses policies:

- **RESOLUTION #25-83:** The *Boundary Review Policy* be approved, as amended.

**CARRIED**

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

- **RESOLUTION #25-84:** The *Employee Expenses Policy* be approved.  
The motion **CARRIED** on the following division:  
In Favour (8): Trustees Buck, Dahab, Danko, Fehrman, Miller, Noble, Tut, Wong  
Opposed (1): Trustee White  
Abstain (1): Trustee Zaitley

- **RESOLUTION #25-85:** The *Trustee Expenses Policy* be approved.

**CARRIED**

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

Trustee White left the meeting.

## 5. Special Education Advisory Committee

**RESOLUTION #25-86:** Trustees Danko/Tut moved that the Special Education Advisory Committee report from September 24, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

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

## 6. French as a Secondary Language Advisory Committee

**RESOLUTION #25-87:** Trustee Noble/ Student Trustee Bizanti (Trustee Dahab) moved that the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee report from October 15, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

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

## 7. City/School Board Liaison Committee

Chair Miller noted for the Board that on October 23, 2025, she and Trustee White delegated to the City of Hamilton's Audit, Finance & Administration Committee to seek an exemption to the City's Child Care Centre Development Charges.

**RESOLUTION #25-88:** Trustees Danko/Zaitley moved that a letter be written to the City of Hamilton in support of the City's Audit, Finance and Administration Committee Report Recommendation #2: Exemption for Child Care Centres in Board of Education owned buildings. The Development Charges By-Law could be amended to provide an exemption limited to childcare centres in school buildings owned by a Board of Education, including both new development and re-development of existing space and including both for-profit and non-profit providers.

**CARRIED**

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

## 8. Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School Associations

Trustee Danko shared the following update from the recent meeting held on October 16, 2025:

- Executive elections were held:
  - President: Heather Lambert-Hillen
  - Past President: Sandra Huculiak
  - Treasurer: Reasa Diab
- Meeting dates for the upcoming year were set - January 8, April 9 and May 14
- OSSTF representative provided updates on advocacy work and information on bargaining
- Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) update noted that the council presented at the recent School Council start-up event
- Member associations shared highlights of their fall events and school community support efforts

## 9. Hamilton Foundation for Student Success

Trustee Fehrman shared the following update:

- Student Support Grants opened on October 1, 2025. These grants are intended to respond to the emergency needs of HWDSB students, and a student can receive a maximum of \$200.00 per school year.
- A 2025-2026 Enhancement Grant Program was launched, and schools were invited to apply for a grant up to a maximum of \$1000. Applications have closed and under review with decisions expected soon.
- HFSS Board of Directors is seeking one (1) Community at Large member and one (1) HWDSB staff representative to serve on its Board of Directors.

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

Trustee Buck provided the following update:

- Local Government Week: Trustee Wong, White, Noble and Fehrman participated in school visits and civic engagement activities, helping students understand the roles of different levels of government.
- Advocacy Campaign: OPSBA launched a digital campaign to promote local democracy in education. Visit [democracyisnotoutdated.ca](http://democracyisnotoutdated.ca) to view the campaign and sign the petition.
- Central West Regional Meeting: Scheduled for Saturday, November 1, 2025, in Peel. All Trustees and Student Trustees are invited.

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

Shakowennakara:tats Hillen provided a verbal update:

- Attended the CC:Rose community gathering focused on creating spaces of belonging for Indigenous students and families.
- Participated in Sisters in Spirit Day to honour missing and murdered Indigenous women, girls, and two-spirit peoples.
- Represented HWDSB at the AMO Healthy Democracy Forum, advocating for youth voice in civic participation and leadership.

Student Trustees Bizanti and Watson provided a verbal update:

- Participated in the HWDSB AI Think Tank alongside staff and system leaders to explore responsible integration of artificial intelligence in education and its potential impact on classroom learning.
- Announced the first Student Senate meeting of the school year to be held on October 29, 2025, from 4:00 to 7:30 pm at the board office. All trustees and students are welcome to attend.
  - Shared plans to establish a Student Senate executive team with roles such as Social Justice and Equity Representative and Social Media Coordinator.
- Co-hosted the HWDSB Eco Summit, which brought together approximately 130 students from secondary schools to participate in workshops and hear from keynote speakers on environmental sustainability.

## 12. Director's Report

Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini [presented](#) the Director's Report that shines a light on the exceptional students, families and staff who make up HWDSB community:

- Local Government Week: Trustees visited schools across their region, sharing about the important role school board Trustees play in supporting schools and communities.
- Fall Edition of the 2025 Trustee Newsletter is now live and has been distributed to all HWDSB families, has been posted on our HWDSB website and featured across social media channels.
- This year, one of our overarching themes is going deeper with a focus on the 2025-2026 Board Improvement Plan. We officially launched an outstanding learning opportunity which involved a learning session day for principals, vice principals and system leaders from both Learning Services and Business Services.
- The expertise and dedication of staff and the voices of students, families and communities, HWDSB continues to be guided by a clear and compelling multi-year strategic plan that grounds our direction and aligns our collective efforts.

## 13. Chair's Report

Chair Miller thanked the Trustees who participated in Local Government Week, Trustee Officer Miller for spearheading all the amazing sessions held with students, and to the Communications Community Engagement team for all the work behind the scenes in support of the recently released Trustees' Newsletter. It is a wonderful way to voice the work being done from their own perspective.

She shared her appreciation for the conversations Trustees have had with local union groups and community organizations about advocacy for the Trustee Governance Model and role they hold in school boards.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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