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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 Sanad Bizanti, 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 7:16 p.m.

## 2. Swearing-In Student Trustees and Shakowennakara:tats 2025-2026

Chair Miller formally welcomed Student Trustees and Shakowennakara:tats for 2025-2026 to the board table. She expressed gratitude to the students, noting the importance of their role in representing the voices and perspectives of students across the system.

Student Trustee Bizanti, Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen all read their Oath of Office before members of the Board, Senior Staff, and those observing in the gallery and online.

## 3. Approval of the Agenda

Trustee Buck requested a re-ordering of agenda items.

**RESOLUTION #25-70:** Trustees Buck/Tut moved that the agenda be approved as amended.

**CARRIED**

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

## 4. Confirmation of the Minutes

**RESOLUTION #25-71:** Trustees Archer/Tut moved that the Minutes from June 16, 2025, be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

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

## 5. Audit Committee

**RESOLUTION #25-72:** Trustees Danko/Archer moved that the Audit Committee report from September 16, 2025, be approved, including:

- Trustee Dawn Danko be appointed as Chair of the Audit Committee for 2025-2026.
- The "Annual Report to the Board of Trustees for the year ended August 31, 2025" be forwarded to the Board of Trustees for information.
- The "Annual Report to the Board of Trustees and Forwarded to the Ministry of Education for the year ended August 31, 2025" be sent to the Ministry.

**CARRIED**

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

## 6. Finance & Facilities

**RESOLUTION #25-73A:** Trustees Buck/Archer moved that staff provide an update to both communities regarding the status of the gym expansions at Queensdale and Billy Green schools.

**CARRIED**

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

**RESOLUTION #25-73B:** Trustees Tut/Fehrman moved that the Finance & Facilities Committee report from September 23, 2025, be approved as amended, including:

- The 2025-2026 Capital Priorities Projects be submitted to the Ministry of Education for funding consideration, as per Memorandum 2025: B04-Launch of 2025-26 Capital Priorities Program.
  - Lake Avenue Elementary School Addition
  - New Hess Street/Strathcona Elementary School on the former Sir John A. Macdonald site.
- That staff provide an update to both communities regarding the status of the gym expansions at Queensdale and Billy Green schools.

**CARRIED**

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

#### **7. Parent Involvement Committee**

**RESOLUTION #25-74:** Trustees Fehrman/Danko moved that the Parent Involvement Committee reports from June 10 and September 9, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

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

#### **8. Special Education Advisory Committee**

**RESOLUTION #25-75:** Trustees Danko/Tut moved that the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) report from September 10, 2025, be approved, including the [HWDSB Special Education Plan 2025-2026](#).

**CARRIED**

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

#### **9. Faith Community Advisory Committee**

**RESOLUTION #25-76:** Trustees Buck/Archer moved that the Faith Community Advisory Committee report from June 10, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

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

#### **10. Back to School Presentation**

Staff provided a Back to School [presentation](#) highlighting enrolment figures for both elementary and secondary schools, capital projects completed over the summer break, HWSTS transportation and Continuing Education Programs – Summer Learning Opportunities.

#### **11. Trustee appointment to Committees (for the remainder of the 2024-25 term)**

**RESOLUTION #25-77:** Trustees Dahab/Buck moved that Trustee Abby Zaitley be appointed to the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) and to the Finance & Facilities Committee for the remainder of the 2024-2025 term.

**CARRIED**

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

#### **12. City/School Board Liaison Committee**

Chair Miller provided an update from the September 25, 2025, meeting. Key discussion items:

- School Streets Feasibility Study: City staff presented findings from the Strathcona Elementary School pilot project.

- Stormwater Fees: Concerns raised by HWDSB about lack of budget provisions for such fees and requested a full exemption from the charge. City staff will report back on the request at the next meeting, scheduled for December 11, 2025.
- Education Development Charges – Childcare Facilities: City staff are exploring options related to EDCs charged for full-day child care spaces in new schools and will report back at a future meeting.

### **13. Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School Associations**

Trustee Danko shared that there is a meeting taking place this week to elect a President and Vice President for the 2025-26 school year and confirm future meeting dates.

### **14. Hamilton Foundation for Student Success**

Trustee Fehrman shared that the first meeting of the 2025-26 school year will take place on October 7, 2025.

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

Trustee Buck provided the following update:

- Local Government Week is October 20-24, 2025
- OPSBA Public Education Symposium will be held January 23-24, 2026, in Toronto, ON. The theme is *What Matters Most: Supporting Ontario's Students*.
- OPSBAs 2026 Awards Program has launched, and nominations are being accepted until November 17, 2025.
- OPSBA continues to support trustees in advocacy efforts related to Bill 33: Supporting Children and Students Act (2025).

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

Shakowennakara:tats Hillen provide a verbal update:

- Attended the OSTA-AECO Leadership meeting with Student Trustee Bizanti in July
- Co-facilitated a civic leadership session with HCCI, spoke at McMaster's "Gear Up" program for incoming Black Students and delivered opening remarks at the System Leaders' Meeting at Sherwood Secondary School.
- September 30, 2025, is National Day of Truth and Reconciliation (Orange Shirt Day) and this day is a reminder that every child matters.

Student Trustees Bizanti and Watson provided a verbal update:

- Participated in OSTA-AGM this past May and learned the roles and responsibilities of the student trustees.
- Actively working to increase student engagement through the HWDSB Student Trustee Instagram account
- Student Trustee Bizanti was appointed as the incoming Vice President, Events for OSTA and is planning the schedule for guest speakers for the Fall General Meeting.

### **17. Director's Report**

Shery Robinson Petrazzini welcomed everyone back and wished all a "Happy New Year". She [presented](#) the Director's Report and highlighted the following key themes:

- Culture of Improvement: Emphasis on continuous progress in transportation, facilities and student engagement.
- Equity & Inclusion: Focus on diverse pathways, student voice, and community partnerships.
- Strategic Communication: Enhanced outreach to families and staff.

September 30, 2025, is National Day of Truth and Reconciliation, and it is an important and solemn day which reminds us that reconciliation is an ongoing journey, to listen, learn and act towards healing and justice.

### **18. Chair's Report**

Chair Miller extended a warm welcome to all students, staff and families for the 2025-2026 school year and acknowledged the work of caretaking and facilities staff over the summer to prepare school sites for reopening. The Chair welcomed the new student trustees and expressed appreciation for their commitment. Chair Miller expressed gratitude for the dedication and leadership shown by Trustees and reaffirmed the importance of advocacy and collaboration in the current challenging climate.

**RESOLUTION #25-78:** Trustees Noble/Wong moved that the board move into private session as per the Education Act, Section 207.2 (b) the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian.

**CARRIED**

### **19. Report from Committee of the Whole (Private)**

**RESOLUTION #25-79:** Trustees Tut/Danko moved that the Committee of the Whole report from September 29, 2025, be approved, including:

- That the Audit Committee report from September 16, 2025, be received.
- That the Finance & Facilities Committee report from September 23, 2025, be approved, including;
  - That a property matter has been approved
  - That staff initiate Step 5 of the Discretionary Disposition Process for the sale of Beverly Central Elementary School and;
  - That the former Barton site be identified as a holding property for potential future use.
- That the terms and conditions for Professional Administrative Support Staff be approved and amended, effective immediately to August 31, 2027.

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 11:33 p.m.

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