

## Alternative Accommodations for School Facilities Procedure

### RATIONALE:

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) will consider possible arrangements with municipalities, School Boards, or other persons or bodies in the public or private sector, including arrangements of a long-term or co-operative nature, which would provide accommodation for the new elementary school pupils and new secondary school pupils who are resident pupils of the Board, subject to the Guiding Principles.

### TERMINOLOGY:

*Forward Buying:* Forward buying is the purchase of a site ahead of the need.

*Joint Partnerships:* A joint partnership is a purchase of adjoining sites by the Board and a second party with consideration of the possible joint use of grounds and/or facilities.

*Lease Buy-Back:* Lease buy-back is the lease of a site with the option or intention to purchase over time whether built-in to the lease arrangement or in future years.

*Option Agreements:* An option agreement is an agreement to purchase a site at a date in the future with terms and conditions set out at the time of entering into the agreement.

*Site Exchanges:* A site exchange is an exchange between the Board and a second party of designated, optioned, or owned lands.

### PROCEDURES:

- 1.1 Alternative accommodations include a variety of strategies such as forward buying, option agreements, purchases, lease buy-back, site exchanges, and joint venture partnerships.
- 1.2 The Board will consider possible arrangements with municipalities, school boards, and persons or bodies in the public or private sector with the following conditions:
  - 1.2.1 the alternative accommodations must be cost-effective and advantageous to the Board compared to other possible arrangements, including an acquisition of a school site and the construction of a free-standing building;
  - 1.2.2 the alternative accommodations shall comply with all Ministry of Education guidelines, regulations, and instructions;

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- 1.2.3 the Board may enter into lease arrangements for school facilities intended to accommodate peak enrolment for a limited time, but shall not entertain such an agreement to accommodate long-term enrolment, unless the agreement allows future ownership at the Board's discretion;
- 1.2.4 the Board shall retain sufficient governance authority over the design and operation of the facility to ensure that it is able to deliver the appropriate educational program to its students and to ensure that its identity, ambience, and integrity are preserved; and
- 1.2.5 prior to approving any new school accommodation, the Board will ensure that it has reviewed a full report setting out the possible arrangements that have been considered.