

Trustee Graeme Noble

Ward 15 Newsletter



Graeme Noble

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ENGAGE
HWDSB

Register at engagehwdsb.ca
to learn about projects and
consultations in your
school community.

Hi Families of Ward 15,

With all the people I've connected with so far, I'm pleased to announce another avenue for us to communicate with one other: the Trustee Newsletter! A few times a year, trustees will be reaching out to the families and friends of our school community to keep everyone updated on what's going on and how we can shape the future of our school board together.

Here's a bit of what I've been up to since the election this past fall:

- As both Chair of the Board's Program Committee and a member of our HR Committee, I've been working with administration to review our special education supports and address inequities in our enrichment programs (e.g., International Baccalaureate), among other important topics (e.g., transportation, policy changes, etc.).
- As of February 3, I've officially finished touring all our area's schools with vice-/principals and our family of school's Superintendent, Gerry Smith!
- Over the last few months, I've attended a series of professional development workshops with several other trustees, both those hosted in the HWDSB and by the Ontario Public School Board Association.

Here are a few things we can work on together soon:

- In March, trustees will begin developing HWDSB's multi-year strategic plan and we want your input! Stay tuned for how to get your voice included.
- You know what they say: it takes a village—in this case, a Water-down (and Flamborough) Village. School Council meetings continue to make schools better by bringing our communities together in support of students: please contact your family's School Council(s) to bring that touch of local love to our learning centres.
- Don't be a stranger! If you're a parent/guardian/caregiver, a student, or just an active community member: I'll make the time to chat with you. Even just a quick "Hello" can go a long way and helps me to improve the ways I can advise, support, or represent you and our community's students.

That's all for now! If you ever need a guide an advocate, or a question answered about all things HWDSB, I'm always just a call, text, or email away to help point you in the right direction.

Sincerely,
Trustee Graeme Noble

School Renewal Updates

Mary Hopkins Elementary - Design is underway for HVAC renovations, with the intent to commence construction in spring/summer 2024 due to lead times of equipment.



March Break in the Ward

[Family Fun Day: What's Living Under There?](#)

March 18 from 2 – 4 p.m.

RBG Arboretum

16 Old Guelph Road, Hamilton

[Frogs! A Ribbiting Exhibit](#)

Jan 20 – April 16

RBG Centre

680 Plains Rd W, Burlington

[Westfield Maple Syrup Season](#)

March 5 - April 7, 10 a.m. – 4 p.m.

Westfield Heritage Village

1049 Kirkwall Road, Rockton

[March Break Craft Camp with Food](#)

March 14 – 16, 10 a.m. – 1 p.m.

Boston Pizza

4 Horseshoe Crescent, Waterdown



Board Highlights

Sharing news about Board of Trustee work and activities is important to keeping you informed!

Emphasis on Human Rights

At HWDSB, we believe that all students need to be safe, supported, and included in schools. Trustees passed a collection of policies that support this direction. Policies approved include the [Human Rights Policy](#), [Anti-Black Racism Policy](#), [Whistleblower Policy](#), and [Bullying Prevention and Intervention Policy](#).

School Environments

Indoor and outdoor school environments are important to student learning and well-being. Trustees have approved investments that will support students during severe weather.

- **Snow Clearing:** In response to feedback from families and staff, the Board of Trustees approved the removal of snow from sections of blacktop areas. This change will improve student safety and increase accessibility for students with mobility challenges during snowy or icy conditions.
- **High Heat/Humidity:** Trustees approved the investment in new monitoring units that allow measurement of indoor school conditions when there is extreme heat with high humidity. Schools have plans to reduce activities and provide access to cooler spaces when needed. In extreme circumstances, severe heat and humidity in a school may result in a school closure under the Inclement Weather Policy.

Strategic Directions

Trustees are preparing to set a renewed vision and focus for HWDSB to best serve students and school communities now and in the future. We will be seeking your input on HWDSB's strategic directions in the coming months. We are excited to set new priorities, and look forward to hearing from students, staff, families, and the community this spring. Please watch for further information.