

# HWDSB

August 20, 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian/Caregiver/Community Leader

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) is committed to the principles of equity through inclusive programs, curriculum, services, and operations. In addition, HWDSB believes in ensuring high levels of student, parent, community and staff participation, involvement and engagement contributing to student achievement and well-being. In support of our commitments, the Board of Trustees have established the Faith Community Advisory Committee.

HWDSB is currently seeking volunteer members for the Faith Community Advisory Committee (FCAC). The Committee will meet at least once a year with a schedule determined by the Committee. The Committee will be responsible for providing the Board of Trustees with advice on specific areas of Board policy or program consistent with the Education Act and the policies of the Board, and on services that affect the educational success and well-being of HWDSB students.

Criteria for Committee membership is attached. Individuals must be parents/guardians/caregivers or community leaders who have a strong affiliation to one or more HWDSB schools **and** a strong affiliation to one of the identified faith and/or spirituality areas. Membership will be sought across the geography of HWDSB schools. ***At this time we are seeking two parent/guardian/caregiver/community leaders who can represent either Evangelical Faith or Indigenous Spirituality.***

Applications for the Faith Community Advisory Committee will be accepted until **September 14, 2018**. Applications will be accepted online at: <http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/FCAC-Application.pdf> or your school website), email, fax or in person (20 Education Court, Hamilton).

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact my office.

Thank you for your interest in supporting Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board students.

Sincerely

Bob Sim  
FCAC Co-Chair

Anne Pearson  
FCAC Co-Chair

Sharon Stephanian  
Superintendent of Student Achievement, Equity and Well-Being

# HWDSB

## Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board FAITH COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

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**Mandate:** The mandate for Community Advisory Committees is to provide the Board of Trustees with advice from the community on specific areas of Board policy or program consistent with the Education Act and the policies of the Board, and on services that affect the educational success and well-being of HWDSB students. (Trustee Handbook, pg. 53)

**Composition:** Voting membership of the Faith Community Advisory Committee (FCAC) will consist of a **minimum of 7** and a maximum of **13 individuals** reflecting the diversity of the student population in HWDSB schools and each with a strong affiliation to one or more schools.

- a) One parent/guardian/caregiver/community leader with a strong affiliation to HWDSB schools **and** a strong affiliation to one of the following faiths and/or spiritual traditions (10 people):

Bahá'í	Hindu/Jain
Buddhist	Jewish
Eastern Orthodox	Muslim
Evangelical	Protestant (Mainline)
Indigenous Spirituality	Sikh

Note: representation will be sought across all Families of Schools to support balanced representation.

- b) One Community Member at Large  
c) Two secondary students

Non-voting membership will include up to 2 Trustees (appointed annually), a senior staff representative and other staff resources as required.

**Terms of Office:** The term of office for a member of a community advisory committee shall be one or two years commencing on September 1 and ending on June 30.

When a community advisory committee is established the members shall be divided into members willing to serve for a one-year term and those willing to serve for a two-year term in order to initiate staggered terms.

# HWDSB

Under normal circumstances a member who has served for more than two consecutive terms or partial terms shall be replaced by a new member; however the Board may approve that an individual member be appointed for more than two consecutive terms or partial terms.

If a member is appointed mid-term, the committee shall recommend whether the term should end on June 30 of the current year or the following year.

A community advisory committee shall appoint a chair or co-chairs from among its voting members at the first meeting each year.

**Meetings:** A community advisory committee shall meet at least once per year, with quorum (50% +1 of voting members) and provide a committee report to the Board of Trustees.

A community advisory committee shall not meet during July or August unless requested to do so by the Chair of the Board.

A community advisory committee meeting shall be open to the public for observation and notice of the meeting shall be posted on the Board's website.

# HWDSB

## HWDSB Faith Community Advisory Committee

### Application Form

We appreciate your interest in Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's Faith Community Advisory Committee (FCAC). FCAC will meet a minimum of once a year with other dates determined by the Committee. Child care is available if needed. Please complete this application form and return it to either your child's/local school or mail it to the Board office at: 20 Education Court Hamilton, ONT L9A 0B9 c/o Joanne Cravero by **September 14, 2018**. You may also email it to Joanne Cravero (jcravero@hwdsb.on.ca) or submit by fax: 905-521-2507. Applications may also be completed online at [www.hwdsb.on.ca](http://www.hwdsb.on.ca) or through your school's website. All applicants will receive confirmation of receipt by email.

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Date of Application: \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address:

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Ward: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

School(s) Child(ren) Attend or School Affiliation:

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\_\_\_\_\_ Applicant's Signature

**Application deadline is September 14, 2018.**

My faith/spiritual affiliation is (please check one) (note only those listed are vacant at this time):

- Evangelical
- Indigenous Spirituality

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PLEASE PROVIDE A BRIEF SUMMARY OF YOUR:

School Involvement/School Affiliation (current or previous)

Faith/Spiritual Affiliation

Why are you interested in joining the Faith Community Advisory Committee?

**curiosity • creativity • possibility**

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The Canadian Multifaith Federation (CMF) identifies the following multifaith competencies as considerations for school boards when determining membership on Faith Committees. Please indicate “yes” or “no” to each of the following and provide a BRIEF paragraph explaining your answers

- |     |    |   |
|-----|----|---|
| Yes | No | Knowledgeable about religious accommodation and related rights and responsibilities                                   |
| Yes | No | Knowledgeable about your own faith and/or spiritual tradition and respectful of multifaith identities and communities |
| Yes | No | Competent with interfaith dialogue and multifaith support   |
| Yes | No | Knowledgeable about cultural diversity within faith communities   |

Brief paragraph explaining your answers above.

Thank you for your interest in the HWDSB Faith Community Advisory Committee. As a potential future member, we ask that you review the following commitments as part of your application.

As a member of the HWDSB Faith Community Advisory Committee, I am committed to:

- Attending meetings with an open heart and mind and in the spirit of working together for the good of the community.
- Fostering an inclusive environment that values and protects the dignity of all.
- Engaging in open dialogue that promotes understanding and cooperation as the basis of all interactions.

# HWDSB

**curiosity • creativity • possibility**