

HWDSB

Media Release

For Immediate Release

Update on Safe Schools: Bullying Prevention and Intervention Review Panel

Hamilton, Ontario – December 16, 2019: Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) Trustees received an update on the public consultation plan and approved an extension to the timelines of the Safe Schools: Bullying Prevention and Intervention Review Panel.

The recommendation comes at the request of seeking additional consultation after an interim report is first received in May. The final report will be submitted to the Board no later than September 30, 2020. The extension creates no additional cost to the Board.

“Trustees approved the panel’s request to extend the timeline to ensure sufficient resources are provided for a highly engaging public consultation process,” said Alex Johnstone, Chair of the Board. “We will not wait to implement changes on revelations that come forward as a result of the public consultation – we will act immediately on emerging themes. For example, we have already introduced changes such as improvements to online reporting and tracking as well as enhanced staff training.”

The independent and specialized panel will co-ordinate, facilitate and gather input and feedback about the broader concern around bullying from students, families, staff and community partners.

From January to May 2020, there will be a minimum of 20 feedback sessions across the city that will solicit public input from students, families, staff and community partners. Information about how to take part in the feedback sessions will be posted to the HWDSB website during the week of January 6, 2020. Online opportunities will also be available to those who prefer digital engagement.

“The panel’s work will provide authentic consultation and timely results to best support our students and staff in feeling safe, supported and accepted,” said Johnstone.

The work of the review panel is possible due in part to the support of the Hamilton Community Foundation. A designated website is now available for the latest news, information, and timelines about the panel: <http://bit.ly/SafeSchoolsPanel>

- 30 -

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