



Let's talk about **bullying!**

June 29, 2020

Dear Families, Community Members and Partners,

Communities across the globe are standing up for social justice and equity and the Safe Schools: Bullying Prevention and Intervention Review Panel has continued its work during the COVID-19 pandemic to ensure that it is contributing to positive change in our communities.

The Safe Schools Review Panel has had the opportunity to engage and consult with existing HWDSB stakeholders, as well as student, parent, staff, and community voices that are less likely heard, through five general sessions and ten group specific public sessions, scheduled through February and March of 2020.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the remaining community sessions, Racialized Community and General Review Panel, were postponed.

These sessions will be held at a later date and will be considered in the final report's findings to ensure that it is reflective of all voices in the HWDSB community. The remaining community sessions are confirmed to take place virtually or in person as follows:

- General Session at Waterdown District High School: September 22, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.
- Racialized Community Session: September 29, 2020 at 6:00 p.m.

To ensure the sessions are aligned with recommendations from Public Health, the format of these sessions and how to register will be confirmed at the end of August. In addition, online surveys for students, parents and staff, as well as multiple staff and student sessions will take place in the fall

The combination of information from surveys, previous sessions, the remaining fall sessions and research will help the Safe Schools Review Panel to build collaborative solutions that further contribute to safe learning environments, equity and social justice for all HWDSB students.

As many of you know, as part of the Safe Schools Panel's continued work, on Monday, May 25, 2020, the Safe Schools: Bullying Prevention and Intervention Review Panel interim report was presented at HWDSB's virtual board meeting.

In this report, key themes identified from community input, in the four focus areas of, bullying prevention, intervention, reporting, and responding, were outlined. These key themes will help to inform the final report, which will expand on the lived experience and stories told during the consultation, contain specific recommendations and feedback from the panel members.



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Please read and provide feedback to the interim report, which can be found on the Safe Schools Review Panel website at <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/about/safe-schools-review-panel/>.

The final report from the Review Panel will be submitted to the Director of Education and shared with the Board of Trustees no later than December 16, 2020.

Thank you for your continued support. Further updates will be provided to the community as the Review Panel's work continues in the fall months.

Sincerely,

The Safe Schools Review Panel