

HWDSB AND HCDSB CHAIRS ON THE IMPORTANT ROLE OF TRUSTEES

Please read below the joint statement from the Chairs of HWDSB and HCDSB regarding the importance of Trustees in the Hamilton School System.

Hamilton, Ont. – As Chairs of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board and the Hamilton-Wentworth Catholic District School Board (HCDSB), we are united in our commitment to supporting every student and their families, and we stand together in stating that locally elected Trustees are key to local democracy, advocating parental concerns, and working for accountability and transparency in public education. New legislation: Bill 33 puts that at risk. If passed, it could strip away the role of locally elected trustees, and it could potentially reduce community voice and weaken the connection between families and their schools.

Hamilton is home to two strong and distinct publicly funded English education systems—each offering unique learning environments that reflect the values, traditions, and aspirations of the communities they serve.

At the heart of both systems is Ontario’s Trustee Governance Model. Elected Trustees are essential to the success of public education — serving as community leaders, decision-makers, and the vital link between families and local school boards. Trustees bring diverse perspectives and lived experiences that guide responsive, responsible decision-making and help ensure our schools remain safe, inclusive, and accountable. The work of a Trustee is essential to maintaining strong, sustainable, and inclusive school systems. They focus on policy development, procedural by-laws, financial oversight, academic achievement and completion of the multi-year strategic plan – all aimed at enhancing student success.

“In Hamilton, Catholic education offers a distinct learning experience which upholds the mission of faith-based education, where spiritual development is nurtured alongside academic achievement,” says John Valvasori, Chair of HCDSB. “Trustees with HCDSB play a vital role in upholding this mission, ensuring the values of a Christ-centred Catholic learning culture, dignity of the human person and student faith formation and well-being”.

“Trustees are the bridge between our schools and the communities we serve. Our role ensures that decisions are made with care, accountability, and with the voices of families at the center,” says Maria Felix Miller, Chair of HWDSB. “As Trustees, we are guided by our shared commitment to ensuring every student feels valued, supported, and inspired to succeed.”

We acknowledge the Ministry of Education’s ongoing commitment to support student achievement and well-being across the province. We, too, share in that commitment. But our belief is that the role of Trustees is indispensable in our province.

Together, HWDSB and HCDSB remain committed to serving all learners with respect, compassion, and excellence. We are committed to ensuring that communities have representation in their local public education system. We stand united in our support for the Trustee role and encourage residents to contact their local MPPs to support democracy, transparency, and accountability.



Chair Maria Felix Miller



Chair John Valvasori
HCDSB