

AGENDA: 6:00 pm

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement
2. O Canada
3. Meeting Roll Call
4. Swearing In Ceremony – Trustee Abby Zaitley, Ward 4
5. Approval of the Agenda
6. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
7. [Confirmation of the Minutes: December 16, 2024](#)

Reports from Trustee Special Committees:

8. [Finance & Facilities – December 17, 2024](#)
9. [Human Resources – January 15, 2025](#)

Reports from Legislated Committees:

10. [Parent Involvement Committee – December 10, 2024](#)
11. [Special Education Advisory Committee – December 11, 2024](#)

12. Resolution Into Committee of the Whole (Private Session) as per the Education Act, Section 207.2

Meeting Resumes in Public Session

13. Report from: Committee of the Whole (Private) – January 27, 2025
14. Oral Reports from Liaison Committees:
 - A. City/School Board Liaison Committee
 - B. Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School Associations
 - C. Hamilton Foundation for Student Success
 - D. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)
15. Oral Reports from:
 - A. Student Trustees' and Shakowennakara:tats Report
 - B. Director's Report
 - C. Chair's Report
16. Adjournment

Trustees: Kathy Archer*, Becky Buck, Sabreina Dahab, Dawn Danko, Amanda Fehrman*, Maria Felix Miller, Graeme Noble, Paul Tut, Todd White, Elizabeth Wong*. Student Trustees Oluwafikunayomi (Fikun) Alabi, Victoria Li, and Shakowennakara:tats Daunte Hillen.

*electronic participation, ^(R) regrets

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:32 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Trustees Tut/Danko moved that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes: November 18 and 25th, 2024

RESOLUTION #24-165: Trustees Danko/Buck moved that the Minutes from November 18 and November 25, 2024, be confirmed.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

4. Program Committee

RESOLUTION #24-166: Trustees Fehrman/Danko moved that the Program Committee report from November 14, 2024, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

5. Finance & Facilities

RESOLUTION #24-167: Trustees Tut/Buck moved that the Finance & Facilities report from November 26, 2024, be approved including that the 2024-2025 Capital Budget be revised to a total of \$59.4 million, which includes \$3.5 million for the Eastdale Elementary School portapak and \$8.0 million for capital renewal projects.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

RESOLUTION #24-168: Trustees Danko/Tut moved that the Chair of the Board write to the Ministry of Education to highlight the funding gaps HWDSB is experiencing with respect to capital, renewal, portable and accessibility projects.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

6. Governance

RESOLUTION #24-169: Trustees Buck/Noble moved that the Governance report from December 2, 2024, be approved including the revised 5.1 Electronic Meetings and Meeting Attendance report.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

7. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

RESOLUTION #24-170: Trustees Fehrman/Buck moved that the Parent Involvement Committee report from November 12, 2024, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

8. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

RESOLUTION #24-171: Trustees Danko/Buck moved that the Special Education Advisory Committee report from November 27, 2024, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

9. Human Rights & Equity Community Advisory Committee

RESOLUTION #24-172: Trustees Dahab/Danko moved that the Human Rights & Equity Community Advisory Committee report from November 27, 2024, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

10. Faith Community Advisory Committee

RESOLUTION #24-173: Trustees Buck/Tut moved that the Faith Community Advisory Committee report from December 3, 2024, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

11. Standing Committee

RESOLUTION #24-174: Trustees Tut/Noble moved that the Standing Committee report from November 25, 2024, be approved including the draft 2025-2026 School Year Calendars for public consultation.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

12. Report from Committee of the Whole (Private) – December 16, 2024

RESOLUTION #24-175: Trustees Tut/Buck moved that the Committee of the Whole report be approved including that the Finance & Facilities Committee report from November 26, 2024, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

RESOLUTION #24-176: Trustees Tut/Buck moved that the Committee of the Whole report be approved including that the tentative Collective Agreement between the Hamilton-Wentworth Elementary Teachers Local, Teachers Federation of Ontario (HWETL-ETFO), and Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) for the term of September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2026, be approved and amended as per the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act.

CARRIED

13. Hamilton Foundation for Student Success

Trustee Fehrman provided an update and encouraged others to consider donating to Hamilton Foundation for Student Success as the postal strike presented a challenge in terms of donations being received.

14. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Buck provided an update and encouraged Trustees who haven't yet registered for the 2025 Public Education Symposium (PES), taking place January 24 and 25, 2025 in Toronto. Trustee Buck noted that the OPSBA Board of Directors meeting included discussions on the Trustee Code of Conduct legislative changes coming into effect January 1, 2025, and the Electronic Meetings and Meeting Attendance legislative requirements coming into effect September 2025.

15. Student Trustees' and Shakowennakara:tats Report

Student Trustees Alabi and Li provided a verbal update:

- Partnered with the YMCA and collected 250 items in the multi school charity food drive
- Collaborating with Trustee Dahab and the Director Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini to provide support to International Students.
- April 20, 2025: Secondary Student Senate currently working on securing keynote speakers, organizing workshops and creative schedule for the day.
- Continuing to work on the Flex Day initiative and are hoping to submit a plan to the Ministry within the next school year.

Shakowennakara:tats Hillen provided a verbal update:

- Had the privilege of working with Mountain Kidz Club, an organization that is making a profound impact by supporting families and children across our community.
- Visited the Art Gallery of Hamilton with CC:Rose to see Alex Jacob Blooms in the Shadow of the Eclipse exhibit.

16. Director's Report

Director Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini presented the [Director's Report to the Community](#) which highlighted the following:

- 2023-2024 Director's Annual Report
- HWDSB's Journey; Looking Back Together
- How It All Fits Together
- HWDSB's Culture of Improvement
- Improved Well-Being, Engagement and Improved Preparedness for Every Student
- Improved Literacy and Improved Numeracy Achievement for Every Student
- HWDSB: Public Accountability and Transparency

17. Chair's Report

Chair Miller brought forth her report acknowledging the work done by Trustees in the community and thanked school-based staff for their incredible work in "creating and sustaining magic" at this time of year. She provided well wishes for a peaceful and restorative time over the winter break.

The meeting adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

Reference: [Agenda Package](#) and [Recording](#)

COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board

Date of Meeting: January 27, 2025

From: Finance and Facilities Committee

Date of Meeting: December 17, 2024

The committee held a hybrid meeting on December 17, 2024, at 6:00pm with Trustee Paul Tut presiding.

Members: Trustees Dawn Danko*, Amanda Fehrman, Kathy Archer*, Maria Felix Miller* and Paul Tut. Also in attendance Trustees Sabreina Dahab and Todd White.

*Electronic participation, ^(R) Regrets

MONITORING ITEMS

A. Capital Projects Update

Staff provided an updated summary of all the capital projects in process, by category, in various phases. Staff continue to deliver several capital projects, which include school renewal work and new school construction projects.

In October 2024 staff estimated \$6 million of Proceeds of Disposition (POD) would be required to complete the 2023-24 school year projects, given an increase in market conditions and costs. As a result of year end activities and reconciliation, staff are reporting that \$5.253 million was consumed. This concludes the POD capital expense for the 2023-24 school year.

B. Enrolment Summary – October 2024

Staff provided an update on enrolment. Enrolment is up year-over-year; however, enrolment has decreased approximately 327.25 students from projections. The decrease in enrolment will reduce the Board's CORE Education Funding. Staff will continue to monitor enrolment and expenditures.

C. Key Parameters and Assumptions to Guide 2025-26 Budget Development

Each year key parameters and assumptions are identified and are the basis to begin the development of the next year's budget, which needs to be approved by June 2025. After conversation, support and feedback from the committee, an updated report to follow in January 2025.

D. Priorities for Budget Consultation

In the past, the Board has approved budget priorities to assist in the development of the following years budget and often the Board has done public consultation to affirm the budget priorities. During the last two budget developments, HWDSB has not gone out for public consultation due to the extensive amount of consultation that was undertaken to develop the new multi-year strategic plan. Staff will bring a report in January 2025 with information regarding targeted investment for 2025-26 school year.

Respectfully submitted,
Paul Tut, Chair of the Committee

Reference: [Committee Package](#) and [Recording](#)

COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board

Date of Meeting: January 27, 2025

From: Human Resources Committee

Date of Meeting: January 15, 2025

The committee held a hybrid meeting on January 15, 2025, at 6:00 pm with Trustee Dawn Danko presiding.

Members present: Trustees Amanda Fehrman, Elizabeth Wong

* electronic participation, ^(R) regrets

MONITORING ITEMS

A. Recruitment and Staffing Update

The Recruitment team continues to attend career fairs, further expanding their reach and attracting top applicants to HWDSB. Recruitment has commenced for Elementary Occasional Teachers in all qualifications, with interviews currently in progress. Secondary Occasional Teachers are actively being recruited in all qualifications, with a focus on Technological Studies subjects. Addressing the demand for Educational Assistants, HWDSB continues the recruitment process for Casual Educational Assistants. This approach encompasses successive interview rounds coupled with targeted outreach initiatives directed towards post-Secondary institutions and community partners. The second cohort of the Educational Assistant Pilot Program has completed their Essential Skills training and is currently job shadowing. Research & Analytics and Human Resources will use collected data from cohort 1 and 2 to evaluate the program's impact on Educational Assistants retention within HWDSB. In partnership with Professional Development & Employee Experience, the Recruitment and Staffing Departments successfully hosted a highly engaging and impactful resume writing and interview skills workshop for all OCTU staff members.

B. Employee Attendance Monitoring Report (Sept 2023 – 2024)

The HWDSB attendance rate is a review of personal illness, medical appointments, and dental appointments pursuant to central sick leave collective agreement provisions. From September to October 2024, permanent Board employees utilized an average of 2.59 personal illness days per 1.0 FTE. In comparison, the average was 2.42 days during the 2023-2024 school year. This is an increase of 0.17 days per 1.0 FTE. The Employee Support and Wellness (ESW) Department continues to support staff with early intervention, return-to-work planning and accommodations and continues to monitor attendance rates while working closely with our Employee and Family Assistance Provider (EFAP), Homewood Health, in promoting available resources and services to support HWDSB staff through a variety of avenues.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Danko, Chair of the Committee

Reference: [Committee Package](#) and [Recording](#)

Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Meeting date: January 27, 2025

From: Parent Involvement Committee

Meeting date: December 10, 2024

The committee held a PIC meeting on December 10, 2024, from 6:30 p.m. to 8:02 p.m. with Chair Amanda Lloyd presiding.

Members Present: (In-Person) Amanda Lloyd, Matthew Adams, Amanda Levesque, Heather Lambert Hillen, Tim Louks, Heidi Oglesby, Vanessa Ozer, Mike Palma, Michelle Quinn, Danielle Schwalm, Cindy Stranek, Lisa Veloce, Trustee Amanda Fehrman (Online) Kristina Collier, Alissa Fairley, Andrea Hamilton Coulson, Mohamed Khamis, Laura Mulder.

Regrets: Nikki Carter, Erin Copeland, Jennifer Csele Lynne, Anita Fonseca Becar, Adriana Harris, Emma Haslam Topping, Cheryl Hue, Celine Link, Lorraine Lowry, Meaghan Shanahan, Alissa Shuker, Lisa Zhao

MONITORING ITEMS:

A. Old Business

PRO Funding

Superintendent Goodacre shared an update on PRO funding applications including that there were a record high number of applications. All applications that met the requirements were approved and PRO funding has been exhausted.

Terms of Reference

Chair Lloyd shared that two members have volunteered to support the TOR subcommittee, they hope to bring an update on the TOR to the February meeting.

B. New Business

Math

Superintendent Estella Jones demonstrated a math game, provided an overview of the HWDSB Math Achievement Action Plan and highlighted recent successes.

Volunteer Policy

Superintendent Goodacre shared that the volunteer policy will be going to the Policy subcommittee and HWDSB is seeking feedback from PIC members. Links and codes for feedback were shared with the committee.

January Networking Session

Chair Lloyd shared that in January there will be a networking session for the school council Chair and Vice Chairs which will be held on Tuesday, January 14th. All PIC members are welcome to attend.

C. Trustees Report

Trustee Amanda Fehrman shared organizational board took place in November where Trustee Miller and Trustee Tutt were reelected as Chair and Vice Chair. Trustee Fehrman is the Trustee representative for the Parent Involvement Committee again this year.

Trustee Fehrman and Trustee Buck attended the YMCA Peace Medal breakfast where the Ancaster High Positive Space Club was nominated and won a peace medal for their work in inclusion at Ancaster High.

Trustee Fehrman and Trustee Danko attended the Food 4 Kids breakfast that raised money to support food insecurity for students across Hamilton.

November 10th was the very first HWDSB elementary robotics challenge. Trustee Fehrman attended the event.

Several Trustees will be attending the Public Education Symposium in Toronto in January for two days of learning and advocating with trustees from across the province.

D. Reports from other Committees

Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School

Heather Lambert Hillen shared the council meets again in January and are preparing for Spring Events. Wants to recognize today is International Human Rights Day, important for students to affirm and be heard for dignity and equality.

Rural Schools Community Advisory Committee

Heidi Oglesby shared that the committee met on October 30th. Budget report was presented. 75,763 was the commitment for rural schools. Updates from Facilities, H&S and Transportation. Several schools had updates. Water reports were fine, Transportation challenges continue. No date set for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,
Amanda Lloyd, Chair

Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Meeting Date: Monday, January 16, 2025

From: Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Meeting Date: Wednesday, December 18, 2024

The Committee held a meeting on Wednesday, December 18, 2024, in room 308 at the Education Centre, beginning at 5:34 pm, ending at 6:53 pm, with Chair Judy Colantino presiding.

Present

Dawn Danko, Trustee Ward 7, Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton, SEAC Chair, Julie Armstrong, Centre for Diverse Learners, Lindsay Bray, McMaster Children's Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio, SEAC Vice Chair, Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre, Nancy Silva Khan, Autism Ontario (Central West Chapter), Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton and Niagara

Regrets

Danielle Dion-Broadley, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group, Jessica Malcew, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children Maria Felix Miller, HWDSB Chair, Trustee Ward 3, Melanie Roberts, Association for Bright Children of Ontario, Sarah Pennington, Community Living Hamilton

A. MONITORING ITEMS:

Teaching Deaf Students with Language Deprivation

Heather Morrow, Special Assignment Teacher and Natasha Knechtel, Language Acquisition Support Worker

An overview of what teaching students with Language Deprivation in mainstream education looks like

- Language Deprivation is when a child does not receive access to language input in the first five years of life – this affects a child's cognitive development, such as ability to sequence numbers and sense of time
- The role of the Language Acquisition Support Worker is to enable the student to acquire language skills necessary for effective communication in various forms
- There are only 9 Language Acquisition Support Workers in Ontario – 3 are at HWDSB

B. MEMBERS' UPDATE

Dawn Danko, Trustee Ward 7

- Collective agreement with HWETL is in place
- Director's annual update report for 22-23 will be available online next week

Lindsay Bray, McMaster Children's Hospital Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio, SEAC Vice Chair

- During the robotics competitions the senior team placed first place for robot design and the juniors in 6th place – both competitors were from HWDSB

Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Director of Education on behalf of Superintendent Stephanian

- Pleased to announce that Superintendent Sharon Stephanian will be returning in January, many thanks to Jamie Nunn, Associate Director, School Improvement, Learning Services for filling in on Sharon's behalf
- Dale Hill has been hired as the Principal for Glenwood School – we thank John Forbeck for supporting the school during this time
- In the process of phase two of our branding, which will showcase a variety of students being their authentic self – this will be added to the images we already have

Respectfully submitted by
Judy Colantino, SEAC Chair