

**AGENDA: 6:00 pm**

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement
2. O Canada
3. Meeting Roll Call
4. Approval of the Agenda
5. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
6. Confirmation of the Minutes: February 10, 2025

Reports from Legislated Committees:

7. Parent Involvement Committee – February 11, 2025
8. Special Education Advisory Committee – January 29, 2025

Reports from Community Advisory Committees:

9. Human Rights & Equity – January 29, 2025

10. Report from: Standing Committee – February 10, 2025

11. Hamilton Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) Update (verbal)

12. 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)

13. Oral Reports from:

- A. Student Trustees' and Shakowennakara:tats Report
- B. Director's Report
- C. Chair's Report

14. Adjournment

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

\*electronic participation, <sup>(R)</sup> regrets

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair Designate Danko called the meeting to order at 6:17 p.m.

**2. Approval of the Agenda**

Trustees White/Buck moved that the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

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

**3. Confirmation of the Minutes**

**RESOLUTION #25-09:** Trustees Buck/White moved that the Minutes from January 27, 2025, be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

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

**4. Policy**

**RESOLUTION #25-10:** Trustees Dahab/Zaitley moved that the Policy Committee report recommends that the Code of Conduct Policy be approved.

**CARRIED**

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

**5. Governance**

**RESOLUTION #25-11:** Trustees Buck/Wong moved that the Governance Committee report from January 20, 2025, be approved including the Trustee Code of Conduct Procedure.

**CARRIED**

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

**6. Finance & Facilities**

**RESOLUTION #25-12:** Trustees Fehrman/White moved that the Finance & Facilities Committee report from January 28, 2025, be approved including the East Hamilton & Lower Stoney Creek Boundary Review and the Budget Priorities:

East Hamilton and Lower Stoney Creek Boundary Review

- A. That the geographic area described below is moved from Eastdale's English program boundary to Collegiate's English program boundary: Commencing at the corner of Barton Street East and Lake Avenue North moving east along Barton Street East to Bow Valley Drive, then south along Bow Valley Drive along the back of the property lines on the East side of street capturing all homes fronting onto the Bow Valley Drive to Vittorito Avenue. East along the centre of Vittorito Avenue then south along the centre of Highridge Avenue then east along Swan Street to Berkindale Drive. At Berkindale Drive, the boundary extends along the north side of 355 Berkindale Drive property and runs south along the back property lines on the east of Berkindale Drive to Federal Street, then east along the centre of Federal Street to Gray Road. The boundary continues south along the centre of

Gray Road to Queenston Road where it runs west along the centre of Queenston Road to Lake Avenue Drive and moves north along the centre of Lake Avenue Drive to Lake Avenue North concluding at Barton Street East.

- B. That the boundary change is effective September 1, 2025.
- C. That all new and existing grade JK to 4 English students in the identified boundary change area move from Eastdale to Collegiate.
- D. That existing grade 5, 6 and 7 English students attending Eastdale and residing in the identified boundary change area may remain at Eastdale until the completion of grade 8. As of ratification of this motion, all younger siblings of existing grade 5, 6, and 7 students residing in the identified boundary change area and attending Eastdale may choose to attend either Eastdale or Collegiate in September 2025, and younger siblings who remain at Eastdale will be treated as out-of-catchment Eastdale students.
- E. All existing out-of-catchment students attending Collegiate may continue to attend Collegiate under the out-of-catchment practice. All siblings of existing out-of-catchment students may attend Collegiate in accordance with Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's Out-Of-Catchment Process.
- F. That a Transition Committee is struck upon approval of a boundary change by the Superintendent of Equity Student Achievement.
- G. All student transportation will be provided in accordance with Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board's Transportation Policy No.3.10.

Budget Priorities for Public Consultation:

Feedback will be collected on the following strategic goals:

- Improve literacy achievement for every student
- Improve numeracy literacy for every student
- Improve preparedness for the future of every student
- Increase well-being for every student
- Increase engagement for every student

**7. French as a Second Language Advisory Committee**

**RESOLUTION #25-13:** Trustees Noble/Buck moved that the French as a Second Language Advisory Committee report from January 15, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

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

**8. Report from Committee of the Whole (Private) – February 10, 2025**

**RESOLUTION #25-14:** Trustees Fehrman/White moved that the Community of the Whole report from February 10, 2025, be approved including a property matter (Finance & Facilities Committee Report – January 28, 2025).

**CARRIED**

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

The meeting adjourned at 6:48 p.m.

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

## Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Meeting date: February 24, 2025

From: Parent Involvement Committee

Meeting date: February 11, 2025

The committee held a PIC meeting on February 11, 2025, from 6:31 p.m. to 7:58 p.m. with Chair Amanda Lloyd presiding.

**Members Present:** Amanda Lloyd, Amanda Levesque, Andrea, Hamilton-Coulson, Mohamed Khamis, Heather Lambert-Hillen, Tim Louks, Heidi Oglesby, Vanessa Ozer, Mike Palma, Michele Quinn, Christine Sandor, Danielle Schwalm, Meaghan Shanahan, Cindy Stranek, Kristina Collier, Emma Haslam Topping, Alissa Fairley, Adriana Harris

**Regrets:** Matthew Adams, Nikki Carter, Erin Copeland, Jennifer Csele Lynne, Amanda Fehrman, Anita Fonseca Becar, Cheryl Hue, Amy Leaming Cote, Celine Link, Lorraine Lowry, Laura Mulder, Alissa Shuker, Lisa Veloce, Lisa Zhao, and Trustee Amanda Fehrman.

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### MONITORING ITEMS:

#### A. Old Business

##### Terms of Reference

Chair Lloyd shared that the subcommittee will be meeting at the end of February. They hope to provide an update to the committee for review.

##### Budget Consultation

Superintendent Goodacre shared that the HWDSB will be putting out a public budget priorities consultation in the Spring.

##### Volunteer Policy Consultation

Superintendent Goodacre shared that the Volunteer policy came to PIC in December, where there was an opportunity to provide feedback. The policy will be shared with school councils and on the HWDSB Engage site starting February 13<sup>th</sup> and closing April 17<sup>th</sup>.

#### B. New Business

##### Medical Health Supports

Matthew Kwan shared that the Medical Health Support Policy is currently under review and HWDSB is seeking feedback from PIC members and the parent community. A QR code was shared with the committee and being sent out to parents through the schools.

##### System Navigation-Human Rights

Fayrouz Fakhereddin shared information on her new role as the Human Rights Officer. Working in collaboration with Human Rights and Equity. The position was put into place to eliminate barriers between the parent community and schools. Helping to provide safe, trusting relationships.

##### Parent Conference Update

Angela Ayeni shared information from the latest meeting. The updated date and plan for the parent conference was presented to the Executive Council and settled on one main event to serve families. Transportation will be provided. Communications will be sending out a survey and flyer for the event.

#### C. Trustees Report

Chair Amanda Lloyd shared the Trustee Report on behalf of Trustee Fehrman. The board meeting took place on January 27, 2025, where Trustee Abby Zaitley was sworn in as Ward 4 Trustee. Prom Project is underway

and is set up at various locations. They are in need of boys' suits in size small. The boundary review for Eastdale and Lower Stoney Creek area was approved.

**D. Reports from other Committees**

Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School

Heather Lambert Hillen shared the council met virtually in January and they are recognizing the greater need for Nutrition and Volunteers in the schools. The Ontario Federation of Home School Association Convention is happening in May 2025.

Rural Schools Community Advisory Committee

Heidi Oglesby shared that the committee has not met and no report available. No date set for the next meeting.

Respectfully submitted,  
Amanda Lloyd, Chair

## Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Meeting Date: Monday, February 24, 2025

From: Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Meeting Date: Wednesday, January 29, 2025

The Committee held a hybrid meeting on Wednesday, January 29, 2025, beginning at 5:33 pm, ending at 7:45 pm, with Chair Judy Colantino presiding.

### **Present**

Danielle Dion-Broadley, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group, Jessica Malcew, VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children  
Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton, SEAC Chair, Lindsay Bray, McMaster Children's Hospital  
Developmental Pediatrics and Rehabilitation Portfolio, SEAC Vice Chair, Lynn Vanderbrug, Lynwood Charlton Centre, Maria  
Felix Miller, HWDSB Chair, Trustee Ward 3, Melanie Roberts, Association for Bright Children of Ontario, Nancy Silva Khan,  
Autism Ontario (Central West Chapter), Sarah Pennington, Community Living Hamilton, Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton and  
Niagara.

### **Regrets**

Dawn Danko, Trustee Ward 7, Julie Armstrong, Centre for Diverse Learners.

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### **A. MONITORING ITEMS:**

Medical Health Support Policy Consultation

Sharon Stephanian, Superintendent of Special Education, Inclusion & Equity

- The committee reviewed the policy and provided feedback

IPRC Exceptionality Criteria

Danielle Buist, Manager, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity, Psychological Services

- The committee reviewed and provided feedback on two of the exceptionality criteria – will be completed at the next meeting

### **B. MEMBERS' UPDATE**

Maria Felix Miller, HWDSB Chair, Trustee Ward 3

- Abby Zaitley was sworn in as the new Trustee for Ward 4
- Director's Board Annual Plan will be posted on the website shortly

Judy Colantino, Down Syndrome Association of Hamilton, SEAC Chair

- Judy Colantino received a request to sign a letter from Ottawa Catholic School Board that will be sent to the Minister of Education on behalf of SEAC Chairs of Ontario, requesting support for increased funding for training of educational staff working with students with disabilities/special education needs

Sharon Stephanian, Superintended, Special Education, Inclusion & Equity

- The Special Education, Inclusion & Equity Leadership Team is planning for summer learning – at a future meeting will share the sessions provided last year for feedback
- The Annual Accessibility Report is posted on the Board website – a desk audit was conducted in the summer by Accessibility for Ontarians with Disability Division of the Ministry of Seniors and Accessibility, focusing on transportation, procurement and training
- Mohawk College tour took place on January 14th with 50 students, learning resource teachers and guidance counsellors attending to learn about the support provided by Mohawk College
- Entry to School hybrid parent meeting took place January 28th Judy and Lindsay presented on behalf of SEAC and Ron Joyce – approximately 54 individuals attended
- EA update: in December interviewed and hired over 62 new staff

Respectfully submitted by  
Judy Colantino, SEAC Chair

## Committee Report

Presented to: Board

Meeting date: February 24, 2025

From: Human Rights & Equity Community Advisory Committee

Meeting date: January 29, 2025

The committee held a meeting on January 29, 2025, from 5:00 – 6:30 p.m., in-person. Tehreem Zafar, Co-chair, presided.

Members present: Mesum Ali, Jordan Fudge, Penny McAndrews, Sumayyah Satia, Inbal Chaimovitz, Hina Ahmed, Liav Yakov, Emily Geleyn, Joyce Maina and Trustee Sabriena Dahab

Regrets: Rebecca Morikawa, Catlyn Abigail Erazo Maldonado

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### MONITORING ITEMS:

#### **A. New Members Confirmation/Appointment**

The committee welcomed new members Liav Yakov, student from Westmount Secondary School and Hina Ahmed, a parent member. Resignations from the committee were accepted from Grey Sandilands, student, Haniyya Ali, parent, and Gopal Banerjee, Hamilton Community Legal Clinic representative. The Hamilton Community Legal Clinic will appoint a new representative.

#### **B. Policy Consultation– Student Behaviour and Bias-free Progressive Discipline**

Gerry Smith, Superintendent of Safe, Compassionate and Equitable Schools, shared the draft Student Behaviour and Bias-free Progressive Discipline policy with committee members. Superintendent Smith shared how this policy will allow us to support our current and future students in response to behaviours requiring discipline. He shared the consultation plan to specially hear from students with experience. The policy is updated using the Human Rights Impact Assessment tool to ask probing questions to ensure that systemic barriers are identified and mitigated. Committee members provided feedback and asked questions to be considered. The draft policy will soon be open for public consultation and feedback. Committee members will also be to provide further feedback during the public consultation period.

Respectfully submitted,  
Tehreem Zafar, Co-Chair

**COMMITTEE REPORT**

Presented to: Board

Date of Meeting: February 24, 2025

From: Standing Committee

Date of Meeting: February 10, 2025

The committee held a hybrid meeting on February 10, 2025, from 6:49 to 7:04 pm with Trustee Designate Danko presiding.

Members: Trustees Kathy Archer\*, Becky Buck, Sabreina Dahab, Dawn Danko, Amanda Fehrman, Maria Felix Miller<sup>(R)</sup>, Graeme Noble\*, Paul Tut<sup>(R)</sup>, Todd White, Elizabeth Wong\*, Abby Zaitley.

Student Trustees: Oluwafikunayomi (Fikun) Alabi and Victoria Li. Shakowennakara:tats: Daunte Hillen.

\* electronic participation, <sup>(R)</sup>regrets

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**1. Call to Order**

Chair Designate Danko called the meeting to order at 6:49 pm.

**2. Approval of Agenda**

On the motion of Trustee Fehrman, the Standing Committee **RECOMMENDS that the agenda be approved.**

**CONSENT**

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen also in consent.

**Reports from Staff:****3. School Year Calendars 2025-2026**

The Draft School Year Calendar 2025-2026 was approved in December for public consultation. There were over 1700 responses with 94% of the respondents being parents, caregivers and guardians. Overall, there was support for the proposed draft calendars, with most respondents indicating that they prefer Professional Activity Days on a Friday rather than at the beginning of a work week. The Ministry has not yet provided information on the topics for the required Ministry priority Professional Activity Days and requested that school boards hold October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025, and June 5<sup>th</sup>, 2026, as Federal and Provincial Election dates. For the 2025-2026 school year, Professional Activity days are aligned with the coterminous board except: January 28<sup>th</sup> (secondary only), June 24<sup>th</sup> (secondary only), and June 26<sup>th</sup> (both elementary and secondary).

On the motion of Trustees White/Buck, the Standing Committee **RECOMMENDS that the Draft 2025-2026 School Year Calendars be approved for submission to the Ministry of Education.**

**CARRIED**

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

Respectfully submitted,  
Trustee Danko, Chair Designate of the Committee

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



Ministry of Education **School Year Calendar 2025 – 2026 (Elem)**

### Legend



H-

Statutory  
Holiday

**E**

Scheduled  
Examination Day

**P**

Professional  
Activity Day

**B -**

Board  
Designated  
Holiday

Half  
Day[illegible]

## School Year Calendar 2025 – 2026 (Sec)

**Legend**     **H -** Statutory Holiday

**E -** Scheduled Examination Day

**P -** Professional Activity Day

**B -** Board Designated Holiday

 Half  
Day

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 <sup>st</sup> Week					2 <sup>nd</sup> Week					3 <sup>rd</sup> Week					4 <sup>th</sup> Week					5 <sup>th</sup> Week					
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	
August 2025								1	4 H		6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	
September 2025	20	1		1 H	2 F	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19 P	22	23	24	25	26	29	30				
October 2025	21	1				1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13 H	14	15	16	17	20 P	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31	
November 2025	19	1		3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21 P	24	25	26	27	28						
December 2025	15			1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B	B		
January 2026	14	1	5				1 B	2 B	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16	19	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	30	
February 2026	19			2	3	4	5	6	9	10	11	12	13	16 H	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27						
March 2026	16	1		2	3	4	5	6 P	9	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	B	B	B	B	B	30	31				
April 2026	20					1	2	3 H	6 H	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30		
May 2026	20							1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18 H	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29	
June 2026	13	2	5	1	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	E	E	P	25	26	29	30				
July 2026						1 H	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31	
TOTAL	177	7	10	Note: The 2025-2026 calendar provides for 196 possible school days between September 1, 2025 and June 30, 2026. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days																									