

Board Meeting

Monday, June 16, 2025 Trustee Board Room

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board 20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558 Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

AGENDA: 6:45 pm

- 1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement
- 2. O Canada
- 3. Meeting Roll Call
- 4. Celebration of Student Trustee Leadership: Appreciation of Your Contributions to the Board of Trustees
 - Fikun Alabi, Daunte Hillen and Victoria Li
- 5. Approval of the Agenda
- 6. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
- 7. Confirmation of the Minutes: June 9, 2025

Reports from Trustee Special Committees:

- 8. Audit June 4, 2025
- 9. Program June 5, 2025
- 10. Finance & Facilities June 10, 2025

Reports from Legislated Committees:

- 11. Special Education Advisory Committee June 11, 2025
- 12. Report from Committee of the Whole (Private) June 16, 2025
- 13. Oral Reports from:
 - A. Student Trustees' and Shakowennakara:tats Report
 - B. Director's Report
 - C. Chair's Report
- 14. Adjournment



Board Minutes June 9, 2025

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board 20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558 Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

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

*electronic participation, (R) regrets

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:36 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Trustees Tut/Zaitley moved that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

Student Trustee Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLUTION #25-53: Trustees Tut/White moved that the Minutes from May 26, 2025, be confirmed.

CARRIED

Student Trustee Li and Shakowennakara: tats Hillen voted in favour.

4. Finance & Facilities Committee

RESOLUTION #25-54: Trustees Tut/Fehrman moved that the Finance & Facilities Committee report from May 27, 2025, be approved, including that:

- The existing childcare per square foot license rate of \$7.60 be maintained for the 2025-2026 school year
- Staff examine increasing the childcare license rate for the 2026-2027 school year and that staff
 provide a status update on the conversation with childcare operators prior to a rate
 recommendation coming to the Finance and Facilities committee in late winter

The motion was **CARRIED** on the following division:

In Favour (8): Trustees Archer, Dahab, Fehrman, Miller, Noble, Tut, White and Zaitley.
Student Trustee Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

Opposed (2): Trustees Buck and Danko

RESOLUTION #25-55: Trustees Tut/Fehrman moved that the Finance & Facilities Committee report from May 27, 2025, be approved, including the 2025-2026 rental rates.

Hourly Space Rates for 2025-2026									
Space Type	Non-profit with no subsidy	Non-profit adult group with subsidy (50%)	Non-Profit youth group with subsidy (75%)	Business Enterprise/ Commercial 150%					
Gym Premium (7,900 sq ft+)	\$102.59	\$51.30	\$25.65	\$153.89					
Gym Class 1 (6,000 to 7,899 sq ft)	\$76.95	\$38.48	\$19.24	\$115.43					
Gym Class 2 (4,000 to 5,999 sq ft)	\$58.62	\$29.31	\$14.66	\$87.94					
Gym Class 3 (3,000 to 3,999 sq ft)	\$40.83	\$20.41	\$10.21	\$61.24					
Gym Class 4 (less than 2800 sq ft)	\$27.49	\$13.75	\$6.87	\$41.24					
Classroom	\$10.13	\$5.06	\$2.53	\$15.19					
Learning Commons - Elementary	\$20.61	\$10.31	\$5.15	\$30.92					
Learning Commons - Secondary	\$51.61	\$25.80	\$12.90	\$77.41					
Cafeteria	\$59.02	\$29.51	\$14.76	\$88.54					
Auditorium Class 1	\$121.09	\$60.54	\$30.27	\$181.63					
Auditorium Class 2	\$84.75	\$42.37	\$21.19	\$127.12					
Auditorium Class 3	\$57.36	\$28.68	\$14.34	\$86.05					
Auditorium Class 4	\$38.23	\$19.11	\$9.56	\$57.34					
	No Subsidy A	Available							
Artificial Turf	\$123.75								
Natural Turf	\$49.49								
Unimproved Field	\$5.25								
Track - Not Available outside of Turf Rental	\$5.25								
Parking Lot	\$5.25								

The motion was **CARRIED** on the following division:

In Favour (6): Trustees Dahab, Fehrman, Miller, Tut, White and Zaitley.

Student Trustee Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

Opposed (4): Trustees Archer, Buck, Danko and Noble.

RESOLUTION #25-56: Trustees Tut/Fehrman moved that the Finance & Facilities Committee report from June 3, 2025, be approved, including that:

- The delegation be referred to staff for a report back to the committee in the fall with information on field options for Westmount including any outstanding commitments made by the previous Ward Councillor.
- Staff provide an updated report on the projected costs of a gymnasium expansion at Queensdale Elementary School, including any changes to site plans, costing assumptions, of Ministry funding

eligibility, and report back at the first Finance & Facilities Committee meeting of the 2025-2026 school year.

CARRIED

Student Trustee Li and Shakowennakara: tats Hillen voted in favour.

5. Policy Committee

RESOLUTION #25-57: Trustees Dahab/Fehrman moved that the Policy Committee report from May 29, 2025, be approved, including the Volunteer Policy.

CARRIED

Student Trustee Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

6. Human Resources Committee

RESOLUTION #25-58: Trustees Danko/White moved that the Human Resources Committee report from June 2, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustee Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

7. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

RESOLUTION #25-59: Trustees Fehrman/Zaitley moved that the Parent Involvement Committee report from May 13, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustee Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

8. Human Rights & Equity Advisory Committee

RESOLUTION #25-60: Trustees Dahab/Tut moved that the Human Rights & Equity Advisory Committee report from May 28, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustee Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

9. Report from Committee of the Whole (Private) – June 9, 2025

RESOLUTION #25-61: Trustees Tut/Fehrman moved that the Committee of the Whole report from June 9, 2025, be approved, including:

- That the Human Resources Committee report from June 2, 2025, be received.
- That the Finance & Facilities Committee report from June 3, 2025, be approved including rescinding Motion #25-07 related to a land severance at the southeast corner of the Sir John A Macdonald site.

CARRIED

Student Trustee Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen were not present for this vote.

10. Hamilton Foundation for Student Success

Trustee Fehrman provided an update noting the following:

- The Student Support Grant program be reopened in a modified format, effective April 14, 2025, with a total of \$60,000 available for distribution. The grant program will remain open until funds are fully allocated or until May 15, 2025, whichever occurs first.
- Prom Project 2025 was a huge success with over 900 students in attendance.
- The 2025 Awards process has been rolled out to schools and staff are currently working with new donors to create new awards both at the school and system levels.
- The final meeting for the 2024-2025 academic year will be held on June 11, 2025.

11. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Buck provided an update and highlighted the following:

- A reminder to Trustees that the mandatory OESC training deadline is August 31
- On May 23, 2025, the government released 2025-2026 Core Education Funding grants with \$30.3 billion in investments for the coming school year.
- OPSBA AGM is this week, June 12 14, 2025, in Niagara-On-The-Lake, ON.
- July 2, 2025, the Manitoba School Boards Association will be hosting the 2025 Canadian School Board Association Congress and Nation Trustee Gathering on Indigenous Education.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

Reference: Agenda Package and Recording

8-1 COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board Date of Meeting: June 16, 2025

From: Audit Committee Date of Meeting: June 4, 2025

The committee held a hybrid meeting from 6:04pm to 6:30pm on June 4, 2025, with Trustee Dawn Danko presiding.

Members: Trustees Dawn Danko, Paul Tut* and Todd White*. External Members: David Marks*, Andrea Eltherington* and Angela Zehr*.

*Electronic participation, (R)Regrets

MONITORING ITEMS:

A. Regional Internal Audit Charter

Andrea Eltherington presented the Regional Internal Audit Charter that outlines the purpose, duties and responsibilities of the Regional Internal Audit Team and Manager with respect to the Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees (Audit Committee). She provided an overview of the Reginal Internal Audit Charter prior to its annual sign off by the Committee Chair and Director.

On the motion of Trustee Paul Tut, the Audit Committee approved the Regional Internal Audit Charter.

B. Regional Internal Audit Team (RIAT) Update

Andrea Eltherington presented the Annual Independence Assertion in compliance with S1110 of the International Standards for the Professional Practice of Internal Auditing.

C. Update on School Board Sector Issues

Staff shared with the committee that the Provincial Government released the CORE Education Funding in late May.

D. Update on Non-Board (External) Member Recruitment

Staff shared that recruiting efforts continue for a Non-Board (External) Member.

Respectfully submitted, Dawn Danko, Chair of the Committee

Reference: Committee Package and Recording

COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board Date of Meeting: June 16, 2025

From: Program Committee Date of Meeting: June 5, 2025

The committee held a hybrid meeting on June 5, 2025, at 2:00 pm with Trustee Amanda Fehrman presiding.

Members: Trustees Kathy Archer*, Becky Buck^(R), Sabreina Dahab, Amanda Fehrman and Elizabeth Wong^(R). Also in attendance: Trustees Maria Felix Miller* and Abby Zaitley.

* electronic participation, (R) regrets

ACTION ITEM(S):

A. Growing Commitment to Indigenous Educational Wellness & Reconciliation

Staff presented the report to the Committee outlining a proposal to establish a new K–I2 Indigenous School within the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB), co-developed with the Indigenous Education Circle (IEC) and Niwasa Kendaaswin Teg, to support Indigenous Educational Wellness, cultural revitalization, and reconciliation. The Learning Nest is the foundation for the new school, offering the relational and continuous intake model, which allows students and families to make informed decisions about their learning, highlighting choice and interest in cultural immersion. Staff noted that the vision for the Indigenous School would be rooted in Indigenous pedagogies, cultural identity and language revitalization, community engagement and academic research, provide Ontario Ministry-mandated curriculum, and serve both Indigenous and non-Indigenous students who choose to engage in revitalized, revillagized and restorative education.

Development of the proposed school will follow a phased approach guided by the Restorative Indigenous Educational Wellness Framework (Two Row Framework), with the Indigenous Education Circle (IEC) being engaged throughout all phases. Monitoring updates will be provided to the Trustees on an ongoing basis, with a projected opening of a K-12 Indigenous School in September 2027.

On the motion of Trustee Dahab, the Program Committee recommends that a Working Group be formed and co-led by the Indigenous Education Lead, to develop the programming and explore the launch of a new K-12 Indigenous School in HWDSB, driven by and alongside the local Indigenous community.

CONSENT

MONITORING ITEM(S):

B. Multi-Year Strategic Plan Progress Report (Student Well-Being, Student Engagement)

Staff presented the report, with a focus on the final two goals within the <u>Board Improvement Plan (BIP)</u> - Student Well-Being and Student Engagement.

Improve Well-Being for Every Student

Staff highlighted what has been done thus far to achieve the goal of improved well-being as well as what staff have learned in implementing the strategies identified in the Board Improvement Plan. Staff are focusing on the next steps, which include:

- Expanding professional learning through increased participation and deepened classroom-level implementation
- Cross-department collaboration to align strong pedagogy with subject-specific professional learning
- Student-led Mental Health initiatives to create a peer-to-peer communication strategy and a student-developed mental health toolkit
- Indigenous Education Runner Model, where one educator from each school will engage in monthly learning with the Indigenous Education Department to learn more about Indigenous education practices.

Improve Engagement for Every Student

Staff have been working on implementing the strategies in support of the goal of improved engagement of every student at HWDSB. Staff are focusing on the next steps, which include:

- Using Indigenous Education Wellness restorative practices to improve conflict resolution, progressive discipline, and increase engagement while being responsive to Indigenous learners, families and communities
- Student Leadership development opportunities for elementary and secondary students, focusing on inclusive representation, specifically for Black, Indigenous, Newcomers, and Two Spirit LGBTQIA+ communities.

C. Caring and Safe Schools Action Plan Update

Staff presented the report to update the Committee on Motion #23-119 (Suspension and Expulsions guides being translated) and the Phoenix Program. Staff noted that in consultation with students and parents, the Safe and Caring Schools Department developed a cue card (produced in 10 language options) that provides families with information on the suspension and expulsion process.

The Phoenix Program is for students who are on suspension for 6 to 20 days or who have been expelled from all HWDSB schools. Students in this program can continue their education with the help of the teaching and support staff and have the opportunity to develop long-term positive attitudes and behaviours to achieve success when they return to a school or program in our Board.

D. Program Strategy Update (Elementary, Secondary, French Immersion location & application)

Staff are currently in Phase 2: Primary Data Collection and are on track to deliver the findings of this review by the end of November 2025. The Program Strategy Review team has learned the following:

- Proactive Communication early and intentional engagement is crucial to build trust and successful collaboration
- Inclusive Participation providing multiple ways for voices to be shared throughout the review process (e.g., Building Futures email page, readily translated surveys that were released in unison with the English version)
- Accessible Survey Design insights from pre-survey focus groups helped refine survey tools to ensure clarity, accessibility, and relevance, improving the quality of data collected for evaluating program strategies.

Over the summer months, Malatest will review data gathered and prepare for follow-up consultation and sharing with the HWDSB community. It is expected that in October, further feedback will be collected based on trends identified through the initial review tools. Staff noted that survey findings will be provided to the Program Committee in late fall.

Respectfully submitted, Amanda Fehrman, Chair of the Committee

Reference: Committee Package, Recording, Presentation

COMMITTEE REPORT

Presented to: Board Date of Meeting: June 16, 2025

From: Finance and Facilities Committee Date of Meeting: June 10, 2025

The committee held a hybrid meeting on June 10, 2025, at 6:08 pm with Trustee Paul Tut presiding.

Members present: Trustees Amanda Fehrman, Kathy Archer* and Maria Felix Miller*.

Also in attendance: Trustees Todd White*and Abby Zaitley*

*electronic participation, (R)regrets

ACTION ITEMS:

A. Notice of Motion: Gym Expansion at Billy Green Elementary School

Trustee Archer presented her Notice of Motion regarding the Gym expansion at Billy Green Elementary School.

On the motion of Trustee Kathy Archer, the Finance and Facilities Committee **RECOMMENDS** that staff provide an updated report on the projected costs of a gymnasium expansion at Billy Green Elementary School, including any changes to site plans, costing assumptions, or Ministry funding eligibility, and report back at the first Finance & Facilities Committee meeting of the 2025-2026 school year.

CARRIED

Refer to Appendix A

B. 2025-2026 Budget Estimates

The fiscal year for all School Boards in Ontario runs from September 1 to August 31. The basic legislated financial requirements of a School Board are to develop and maintain a balanced budget that complies with the Ministry of Education's (Ministry) basic enveloping requirements. The 2025-2026 HWDSB Budget Estimates meet these requirements.

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) is financially responsible with a clear focus on providing the system with the resources and supports necessary to support our Board Priorities. The budget presented for the 2025-2026 school year reflects this approach.

Our Board Strategic Directions include:

- Upholding Human Rights, Safety & Well-Being
- Providing Equitable Quality Education
- Collaborating with Students, Families and Communities
- Building a Sustainable Education System
- Reinforcing Indigenous Educational Wellness and Reconciliation

By aligning our resources through this budget in support of our priorities, we believe that every student will experience a sense of belonging and engage in dynamic learning to reach their potential and build their own future.

On the motion of Trustee Fehrman, the Finance and Facilities Committee **RECOMMENDS**: That the Board approve the 2025-2026 Operating Budget expenditures in the amount of \$750,803,443 and that the Associate Director, Business Services and Treasurer be authorized to proceed with the expenditure of funds. (Appendix C: 2025-2026 Summary of Expenditures by Economic Classification, June 10, 2025)

That the Board approve the 2025-2026 Capital Budget expenditures in the amount of \$95,328,000 and that the Associate Director, Business Services and Treasurer be authorized to proceed with the expenditure of funds. The Associate Director, Business Services and Treasurer is further authorized to secure short-term financing for project expenditures until such time as permanent funding is secured, if required. (Appendix D: 2025-2026 Capital Budget, June 10, 2025)

CARRIED

MONITORING ITEMS:

C. Analysis of Heating, Ventilation and Cooling in Schools

Staff provided an update on the current status of heating, ventilation and cooling (HVAC) in schools, which highlighted a feasibility review which provided a revised estimate of approximately \$180-\$200 million to provide cooling to approximately 95% of the building area in all schools, as per new school construction standards.

On the motion of Trustee Miller, the Finance and Facilities Committee requested that staff bring back an updated version of the Analysis of Heating, Ventilation and Cooling in Schools report to the committee in late fall, early winter.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Tut, Chair of the Committee

Resource: Agenda Package and Recording

10-3 Appendix A

NOTICE OF MOTION: Gym Expansion at Billy Green Elementary School

Submitted by: Kathy Archer

WHEREAS physical education and access to adequate indoor space are essential components of student health, well-being, and academic success;

WHEREAS the existing gymnasium facilities at Billy Green are undersized, due to the growing needs of the school student population, and limit opportunities to deliver dynamic curriculum, accommodate school-wide events, and support equitable opportunities for all students;

WHEREAS previous submissions as a Capital Project have been unsuccessful due to the Ministry of Education eligibility criteria for capital projects, where gym expansions of this nature does not meet the criteria; and

WHEREAS a gymnasium expansion has been previously approved by the Board of Trustees, was designed with a site plan, but has not received Ministry approval to use Proceeds of Disposition.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that staff provide an updated report on the projected costs of a gymnasium expansion at Billy Green Elementary School, including any changes to site plans, costing assumptions, or Ministry funding eligibility, and report back at the first Finance & Facilities Committee meeting of the 2025–2026 school year.

10-4 Appenidx C

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board 2025-2026 Budget Estimates

Summary of Expenditures by Economic Classification

	2025-2026 Budget Estimates	2024/2025 Revised Budget	Increase (Decrease) Over 2024-2025 Revised Budget		
	\$	\$	\$	%	
Remuneration					
Salaries & Wages	539,826,052	526,057,072	13,768,980		
Employee Benefits	100,270,191	95,672,624	4,597,567		
Supply Staff *	16,298,602	16,226,482	72,120		
	656,394,845	637,956,178	18,438,667	2.89%	
Consumables					
Professional Development	3,945,226	3,987,047	(41,821)		
Textbooks & Supplies	28,567,735	30,043,192	(1,475,457)		
Utilities	10,735,000	10,735,000	-		
Repairs & Minor Renovations	3,774,000	3,700,000	74,000		
Computing Equipment	3,711,859	3,248,086	463,773		
Rentals	670,846	986,375	(315,529)		
Fees & Contractual Services	17,251,616	18,384,899	(1,133,283)		
Other Expense	894,696	614,963	279,733		
	69,550,978	71,699,562	(2,148,584)	(3.00%)	
Transportation	23,857,620	22,349,555	1,508,065	6.75%	
Contingency	1,000,000	1,000,000		0.00%	
Total Expenditures	750,803,443	733,005,295	17,798,148	2.43%	

^{*} Teachers, EAs, ECEs

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board 2025-2026 Budget Estimates Capital Budget

Construction in Progress

New Binbrook II Elementary School*
New Nash / Upper Stoney Creek Elementary School*
New Waterdown Elementary School
Mount Hope ES Addition
Janet Lee ES Addition*
Bennetto ES Accessibility Project**
A.M. Cunningham ES Accessibility Project**
Parkdale ES Accessibility Project**
Rosedale ES Gym Addition Project**
Eastdale ES Portapak**
School Renewal
Total

	Expenditures		Funding Source										
Total Estimated Capital Budget		Capital Priorities Childcare Capita		SRA and SCI		EDC		Proceeds of Disposition		Total Funding Allocated in 2025/26			
\$	18,000,000	\$	18,000,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	18,000,000
\$	18,000,000	\$	15,000,000	\$	3,000,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	18,000,000
\$	18,000,000	\$	14,000,000	\$	4,000,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	18,000,000
\$	8,500,000	\$	6,000,000	\$	2,500,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	8,500,000
\$	4,500,000	\$	3,000,000	\$	1,500,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	4,500,000
\$	400,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	400,000		
\$	400,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	400,000		
\$	400,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	400,000		
\$	250,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	250,000		
\$	250,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	-	\$	250,000		
\$	28,328,000	\$	-	\$	-	\$	27,328,000	\$	-	\$	1,000,000	\$	28,328,000
\$	97,028,000	\$	56,000,000	\$	11,000,000	\$	27,328,000	\$	-	\$	1,000,000	\$	95,328,000

^{*}Actual spend considers additional funding supported by the Ministry

^{**} Values identified for Proceeds of Disposition were previoulsy approved under the 2024/2025 school year

Committee Report

Presented to: Board Meeting Date: Monday, June 16, 2025

From: Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

Meeting Date: Wednesday, June 11, 2025

The Committee held a meeting in room 308, Education Centre on Wednesday, June 11, 2025, beginning at 5:33 pm, ending at 7:35 pm, with Chair Judy Colantino presiding.

Present

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, 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. Also in attendance: Trustee Abby Zaitley, Trustee, Ward 4,

Regrets

Danielle Dion-Broadley, FASD Parent & Caregiver Support Group, Dawn Danko, Trustee Ward 7, Susi Owen, CNIB Hamilton and Niagara

ACTION ITEM:

A. SEAC Representative - Lynwood Charlton Centre

• On the motion of Julie Armstrong, seconded by Nancy Silva-Khan, the SEAC Committee recommends that Vanessa Doslea be approved to represent Lynwood Charlton Centre on SEAC.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Colantino, SEAC Chair