

HWDSB

Board Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2023

Trustee Board Room

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

20 Education Court, P.O. Box 2558

Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

Correspondence Received

7B. Letters in response to motion on December 4 agenda re: Anti-Palestinian Racism

- A. Khaja
- A. Mohammed
- A. Nemic-Ball
- A. Purnell
- A. Ragsag
- A. Zahid
- B. Ryan
- C. Cutillo
- C. Bush
- Community Fridges
- C. Scott
- C. Wang
- D. Baumber
- E. Roy
- Equity Network
- E. Huang
- F. Khan
- H. Fahmi
- H. Shamsi
- H. Faraj
- HWDSB Student
- J. Davila
- J. Hompoth
- J. Weresch
- K. King
- K. Stone
- K. Vohra
- L. Lorello
- L. Stephenson
- L. Bakht
- M. Tigchelaar

HWDSB

Board Meeting

Monday, December 4, 2023

Trustee Board Room

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board

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Hamilton, ON L8N 3L1

- M. Reynolds
- M. Alsaqqar
- M. Higginson
- M. Dutt
- M. Macci
- N. Hussain
- N. Ives Peak
- N. Karim
- P. Kerlew
- P. Gonzalez
- R. Bhatti
- R. Pangilinan
- Rev. C. Paradela
- Rev. Dr. K. Williams
- R. Khan
- S. Masood
- S. Ahmed
- S. Amjad
- S. Shafique
- S. Greenwood
- S. Atasever
- S. Bakht
- S. Ahmad
- S. Shakeel
- S. Kyorkis
- S. Sudiacal
- S. Fatah
- S. Bakht
- T. Bakht
- T. Elizabeth
- T. Bergen
- U. Zaman
- V. Pitt

From: Aisha Khaja

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 4:57 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. We are disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I/ we do not accept this silence and negligence.

Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire as is their right.

Instead of supporting students and their steadfast and caring actions during this horrific time, HWDSB has met Palestinian and Muslim students with punishment and discrimination. They have been called “terrorists”, penalised for wearing Palestinian attire and displaying Palestinian symbols and have had their right to assemble and advocate threatened with repression.

We demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Aisha Khaja

--

Aisha Khaja

Founder and Principal Consultant
Red Tree Strategic Consulting Inc.

From: Aisha Mohammed

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 6:30 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

[Fullname]

[Organization]

From: Amanda Nemec-Bakk

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 11:19 AM

Subject: Please add this as correspondence for the upcoming board meeting

Hello all,

Please approve the attached motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism. Students should not experience discrimination and harm in schools. You have the absolute responsibility to take action and make schools safer.

Thank you.

Amanda Nemec-Bakk

RN, RSW, MSW

Hamilton community member

13-1

Notice of Motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism

Submitted by Student Trustee Thomas Lin/Trustee Sabreina Dahab
December 4, 2023

Whereas: Students are citing increased levels of anti-Palestinian racism in schools, including but not limited to the threat of suspensions or other disciplinary action for saying "Free Palestine", and are being asked to remove their Keffiyeh, a symbol of Palestinian culture,

Whereas: Students across HWDSB are citing increased levels of Islamophobia, including but not limited to being called "terrorists" in their schools for wearing a keffiyeh,

Whereas: Approximately 600 students at 5 HWDSB have walked-out of High Schools demanding a cease-fire and an end to the occupation in Palestine (Saltfleet, Ancaster, Glendale, Henderson, Westmount),

Whereas: Students across HWDSB have cited that student initiatives such as fundraisers, spirit days, and walkouts for Palestine, have been shut down and clubs have been threatened with being disbanded for such initiatives.

Whereas all students, including Palestinian students, deserve to be safe in their school without experiencing anti-Palestinian racism or Islamophobia,

Therefore be it further resolved that HWDSB provide training to all school staff on Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism, with the training to include a focus on how this racism informs disciplinary actions.

Be it further resolved that HWDSB provide clarification to all school staff on the updated dress code guidelines, which protects students from discrimination against cultural dress or headwear requirements, including the keffiyeh, to support religious/creed accommodations.

Be it further resolved that HWDSB provide clarification to all school staff on our current fundraising policy which states that "fundraising may be used to support humanitarian or charitable causes that can increase student understanding, empathy and activism in helping to address local, national and international issues".

Be it further resolved that HWDSB staff provide a report back to the Board of Trustees on all of the above actions.

From: Amna Zahid

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:49 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. We are disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I/ we do not accept this silence and negligence.

Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire as is their right.

Instead of supporting students and their steadfast and caring actions during this horrific time, HWDSB has met Palestinian and Muslim students with punishment and discrimination. They have been called "terrorists", penalised for wearing Palestinian attire and displaying Palestinian symbols and have had their right to assemble and advocate threatened with repression.

We demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Amna Zahid

From: Anabelle Ragsag

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:56 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Anabelle Ragsag

Filipinas of HamOnt

From: Andrea Purnell

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:05 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

This email again is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. It is deeply disturbing to hear about the continued increase anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. I am disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I do not accept this silence and negligence. There is a stark contrast in how the HWDSB Leadership and Trustees worked with students during the dress code walkouts. Why is there a difference in treatment?

Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire as is their right.

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I demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so I know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with students, families/caregivers and community,

Andrea Purnell

From: Blake Gregory

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:34 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. I am disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I do not accept this silence and negligence.

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I demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Blake Ryan

From: Carina Cutillo

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 11:51 AM

Subject: Please add this as correspondence for the upcoming board meeting

Hello,

I am emailing you to request that you approve the motion set forth by current HWDSB student re: anti-Palestinian racism. The fact that students need to request from you a cessation of racism and islamophobia that they are facing simply for standing in solidarity with the Palestinian freedom movement is shameful.

I support the motion wholly, and want to point out that these students are so poised, so educated, so respectful, far beyond what I was capable of when I was an HWDSB student. They are not asking for anything but equal treatment and end to anti-Palestinian bias in their schools.

There should be no fear around wanting to understand what is going on around the world, nor repercussions for having an informed understanding as is the case with the 600 students who have participated in walkouts and stood in solidarity with the Palestinian people. Teachers should be adequately prepared for these situations, and must not allow their own personal views to manifest in unequal treatment of students, it is entirely unjust. Teachers should also have the training, and knowledge, to be self-aware enough to see their own bias and target their own prejudices to make sure that they do not impact students.

In my opinion, this motion put forth by HWDSB student is entirely reasonable and well-founded. Further, I am proud of this generation of students, and I believe that you should be too, as they are pushing for an end to propaganda, misinformation, and hate through education and awareness, something that I believe the HWDSB should stand for.

Thank you for your time,

Carina Cutillo

From: Catherine Bush

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 9:40 AM

Subject: Please add this as correspondence for the next board meeting

Hello,

I am a concerned constituent who has been hearing reports of escalating Islamophobia and particularly anti-Palestinian racism in HWDSB schools. To address this, I have attached a motion that I would greatly appreciate being introduced at the upcoming board meeting.

Thank you,

Catherine

13-1

Notice of Motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism

Submitted by Student Trustee Thomas Lin/Trustee Sabreina Dahab
December 4, 2023

Whereas: Students are citing increased levels of anti-Palestinian racism in schools, including but not limited to the threat of suspensions or other disciplinary action for saying "Free Palestine", and are being asked to remove their Keffiyeh, a symbol of Palestinian culture,

Whereas: Students across HWDSB are citing increased levels of Islamophobia, including but not limited to being called "terrorists" in their schools for wearing a keffiyeh,

Whereas: Approximately 800 students at 5 HWDSB have walked-out of High Schools demanding a cease-fire and an end to the occupation in Palestine (Saltfleet, Ancaster, Glendale, Henderson, Westmount),

Whereas: Students across HWDSB have cited that student initiatives such as fundraisers, spirit days, and walkouts for Palestine, have been shut down and clubs have been threatened with being disbanded for such initiatives,

Whereas all students, including Palestinian students, deserve to be safe in their school without experiencing anti-Palestinian racism or Islamophobia,

Therefore be it further resolved that HWDSB provide training to all school staff on Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism, with the training to include a focus on how this racism informs disciplinary actions.

Be it further resolved that HWDSB provide clarification to all school staff on the updated dress code guidelines, which protects students from discrimination against cultural dress or headwear requirements, including the keffiyeh, to support religious/creed accommodations.

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Be it further resolved that HWDSB staff provide a report back to the Board of Trustees on all of the above actions.

From: Community Fridges HamOnt

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 11:29 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

To the HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership, and Trustees,

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. We are disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. We do not accept this silence and negligence.

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We demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Community Fridges HamOnt

From: constance scott

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:55 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Constance Scott
Equity Network

From: kuan yun Wang

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 11:08 AM

Subject: Supporting Motion for anti-Palestinian Racism

HWDSB director, senior leadership and trustees,

I am a parent whose children are attending schools under the HWDSB. I am writing this email in support of the motion re:anti-Palestnian racism.

There has been a rising attacks on students, faculty, staff within HWDSB for their supports to Palestine. The Palestinians in Gaza, especilly children, have been subjected to indiscriminate killings from the Israeli government. Supporting Palestine and its people's rights to self determination, freedom and human rights is a must for every human being in this world. To support Palestine is not anti-Semitic. We are very concerned that neither the school admins, school boards, nor the teachers are doing their best to ensure students' safety in the face of anti-Palestinian, anti-Arab, Islamophobic incidents.

We are troubled by the support from a lot of the senior team and Trustees's stance to defend Israel's rights to defence while totally ignoring the fact that more than 6,000 children in Gaza are killed.

We are also equally concerned that our Jewish students will feel unsafe due to conflation between anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism in our educational and governmental institutionals while the Israeli government continue to conduct indiscrimiante killing that violate all international human rights law and laws of wars.

Therefore, we must urge our school boards to implement propoer education for both the teachers, the staff, the directors and students on the topic of Palestine and the Israeli occupation. The implementation of such education cannot be done without consultation with the Palestinian communities.

It is also important that HWDSB issue a statement to show their supports for students and faculty who are deeply impacted by the rise of anti-Palestinain and Islamophobic incidents.

Most important of all, we need to make sure no one will be harrassed, suspended or punished for supporting Palestine, espially this is also their rights to freedom of speech, protected by the law. Wearing a Keffiyeh, or dressing in clothes in support of Palestine should not be conflated with supporting Hamas, or anti-Semitism.

We are wholeheartedly supporting the motion of anti-Palestinian racism. And we are expecting the HWDSB to act fast before any further harms from anti-Palestinian and Islamophobic rhetoeric are done to our students.

In solidarity,
Cynthia Wang

From: Danielle Baumber

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:50 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

My name is Danielle Baumber and I am a parent of a former HWDSB student and my other child will be entering JK in 2024.

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. We are disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I/ we do not accept this silence and negligence.

Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire as is their right.

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We demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Danielle Baumber

Healthcare worker and Hamilton Resident

From: Ellen Roy

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 9:13 AM

Subject: ***ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING***

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire, as is their right.


Instead of supporting students and their steadfast and caring actions during this horrific time, HWDSB has met Palestinian and Muslim students with punishment and discrimination. They have been called “terrorists”, penalized for wearing Palestinian attire and displaying Palestinian symbols and have had their right to assemble and advocate threatened with repression.

The motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism must be passed without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are long overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so I know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

Thank you for your time,

Ellen Roy


Hamilton ON

From: Equity Network

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:14 PM

Subject: **ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING***

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In care and solidarity with community,

Equity Network

From: Eva Huang

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:42 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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In care and solidarity with community.

From: fatema khan

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 6:13 PM

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In care and solidarity with community,

[Fullname]

[Organization]

From: Halla Fahmi

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:57 PM

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In care and solidarity with community,

Halla Fahmi
Child Advocate

From: Heba Shamsi

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:42 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. We are disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I/ we do not accept this silence and negligence.

Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire as is their right.

Instead of supporting students and their steadfast and caring actions during this horrific time, HWDSB has met Palestinian and Muslim students with punishment and discrimination. They have been called “terrorists”, penalised for wearing Palestinian attire and displaying Palestinian symbols and have had their right to assemble and advocate threatened with repression.

We demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Heba Shamsi, MD

From: huweida faraj

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:55 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. We are disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect a

From: HWDSB Student

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 11:58 AM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

To the trustees of the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board,

I am writing this to you because I am extremely upset and disappointed with the lack of a response to anti-Palestinian racism towards students across Hamilton. I also fear that the school board isn't supporting our students well during these difficult times. Students in elementary, middle, and secondary schools are unrightfully experiencing repercussions for supporting Palestine. Many staff members and students across various schools have been perpetrating these racist acts and they have not been held accountable for it.

Various secondary schools have participated in walkouts, which have been met with wrongful condemnation, anti-Palestinian racism from staff and community members alike. There did seem to be some teachers who were dismissive of the walkouts and did not like our advocacy for Palestine. Anti-Palestinian racism has unfortunately been inflicted against students in elementary and middle schools. Many students have been told that they are not allowed to wear the traditional Palestinian keffiyeh or even the Palestinian flag or its colours because it was deemed as supporting "terrorists". There have been many incidents where students have been called terrorists and girls have been threatened to have their hijabs pulled off, which also has been part of the rise of islamophobia in our schools. I would like to remind you that this language is deeply offensive and should not be allowed in any way whatsoever. In addition, students in elementary, middle, and secondary schools are being called down to the office for what they are wearing despite students having the right to wear their cultural clothing. Some students have even been suspended unjustly. Many students have even experienced first-hand anti-Palestinian rhetoric from other students. While they did raise this to their admin, the admin did not do anything to help and the students who were saying these racist remarks left without any consequences.

That being said, the board should unquestionably address these issues and the discrimination and racism against Palestinian students. There should be appropriate consequences for students and staff who have committed these acts against students. The board should also provide training to prevent more incidents from happening in the future. In addition, there should be education of the difference between anti-Zionism and anti-semitism. We would like you to reaffirm the right for students to wear their cultural clothing. There should also be more safe spaces and resources for Palestinian students. I/we demand that the motion submitted by the student trustees be passed. The resolutions presented are long overdue and it is an obligation/duty for you as the board to implement them.

It is extremely saddening that a school board that prides itself in inclusivity and diversity has barely shown any support or protection for their own Palestinian students. We would like to remind you that, as students, we will continue to walkout, advocate, and be a voice for Palestinians no matter the lengths taken to suppress us/our voices. We refuse to be silenced and will not stop until justice is served. We are choosing to be on the right side of history and encourage you to be as well.

HWDSB Student

From: Javier Davila

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 8:36 AM

To: Subject: ***ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING****

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism (see definition at bottom of email) that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. I am deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. I am disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I do not accept this silence and negligence.

Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire as is their right.

Instead of supporting students and their steadfast and caring actions during this horrific time, HWDSB has met Palestinian and Muslim students with punishment and discrimination. They have been called "terrorists", penalised for wearing Palestinian attire and displaying Palestinian symbols and have had their right to assemble and advocate threatened with repression.

We demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so I know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Javier Davila,
Concerned Community Member and
Student Equity Program Advisor, TDSB

The Arab Canadian Lawyers Association in its 2022 Report, "Anti-Palestinian Racism: Naming, Framing and Manifestations," defines Anti-Palestinian Racism as:

Anti-Palestinian racism is a form of anti-Arab racism that silences, excludes, erases, stereotypes, defames or dehumanizes Palestinians or their narratives. Anti-Palestinian racism takes various forms including: denying the Nakba and justifying violence against Palestinians; failing to acknowledge Palestinians as an Indigenous people with a collective identity, belonging and rights in relation to occupied and historic Palestine; erasing the human rights and equal dignity and worth of Palestinians; excluding or pressuring others to exclude Palestinian perspectives, Palestinians and their allies; defaming Palestinians and their allies with slander such as being inherently antisemitic, a terrorist threat/sympathizer or opposed to democratic values. (See: <https://www.canarablaw.org/>)

From: Jennifer Hompoth

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 11:55 AM

Subject: Anti-Palestinian Racism: Request to Add to Correspondence re: Dec. 4th HWDSB Board of Trustees Meeting

Dear Heather,

Kindly find attached below a written submission to support the motion for the upcoming Board Meeting Dec. 4th, 2023. Please distribute this correspondence to the trustees and post it on the meeting's public agenda. Thank you for your work.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Hompoth

[REDACTED]

Hamilton ON

To the Trustees of the HWDSB:

I hope that this email finds you well. The advent season, and the 51st day of the military conflict in Israel-Palestine is continuing.

My son could not sleep last night. Our guests, a Gazan family of 3 school-aged children, came to visit us. We learned that their 6 year old & 16 year old cousins have been trapped under the rubble of their home, crushed in air strikes over a week ago. They did not die immediately, they were starved, injured, and unable to move below the multi-story home that was hit by bombing. Their grandfather continues to use his hands to move concrete rubble to find the remains of his grandchildren.

My friends older daughters, themselves recent newcomers to Hamilton from Gaza, have been told to not wear kuffiyehs in school. The eldest was called to the Principal's office and interrogated as to whether she was planning any actions or walk-outs. She was threatened that she would be in "big trouble" if she did.

They are suffering from not only the losses of their family in the current conflict, they are made to feel erased, and invisible.

It is with this lived experience that I write to advocate for the inclusion of the motion to discuss *Anti-Palestinian Racism at the next meeting of the HWDSB. *APR is a concept that is perhaps unfamiliar to the Board, and requires serious reckoning if actual deep conversations on equity and student voice are to be protected. Understanding this is a volatile time does not erase our responsibility to protect the HWDSB and its schools as democratic spaces for dialogue, for students' free expression, and for a deep understanding of what hate is, and what it is not. I say these things as someone with a Master's of Education in Theory and Policy Studies from OISE/UT, specializing in Anti-Racism and Equity education, and an undergraduate degree and graduate degrees in Peace Studies (McMaster) and Peace and Conflict Studies (Eastern Mennonite University).

It is imperative that the discourse of "safety" not be used to restrict difficult but honest conversations about perspective-taking, about human rights. I note that the HWDSB has also been lobbied by groups who wish to silence and call out solidarity with Palestine. This is an important step- evaluating the merits of our dialogue, the limits of our knowledge, and listening to those most affected. A cornerstone of anti-racism is attending to voices most marginalized; the Board has done this well in the establishment of your own equity policy. Time

to add and consider the crucial importance of Anti-Palestinian racism, which cannot be done without historical and contextual nuance. It is also acknowledging the bias towards white privilege and towards Western Imperialism that supports war & has been complicit in casting brown and Muslim voices as "uncivilized" and "dangerous"--tendencies which have been historically present in the HWDSB's own Chambers. Anti-racism's ultimate goal is not to create only "safer" spaces, but to transform existing structures towards justice and liberation. As organizations such as Amnesty International and the United Nations' own Secretary General have stated, this is a genocide. You may wish to contextualise your engagement with students in policy with these non-governmental groups' voices, as well- lest we undermine the actual legitimacy of Human Rights institutions globally.

Peace,

Jennifer Hompoth.

Anti-Palestinian Racism: *Anti-Palestinian Racism is a relatively new term accompanied by a framework to understand its uses in legal terminology. It is distinct from Islamophobia. A recent report, "Anti-Palestinian Racism: Naming, Framing, and Manifestations" published by the Arab Canadian Lawyers' Association, 4-25-2002, provides more detail on their work in the Canadian context.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/61db30d12e169a5c45950345/t/627dcf83fa17ad41ff217964/1652412292220/Anti-Palestinian+Racism-+Naming%2C+Framing+and+Manifestations.pdf>

I echo and restate the words of the collective Equity Network here:

We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. We are disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I/ we do not accept this silence and negligence. Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire as is their right. Instead of supporting students and their steadfast and caring actions during this horrific time, HWDSB has met Palestinian and Muslim students with punishment and discrimination. They have been called "terrorists", penalised for wearing Palestinian attire and displaying Palestinian symbols and have had their right to assemble and advocate threatened with repression. We demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld. Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Jennifer Hompoth, B.Ed., M.Ed.,
 [REDACTED], Hamilton, ON
 Ward 1

From: Joshua Weresch
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 10:07 AM
Subject: Written submission for upcoming Board meeting

Dear Heather:

Hope this finds you well. Below, please find a written submission for the upcoming Board meeting on the 4th of December, 2023. Please distribute it to all trustees and post it on the meeting's public agenda. Thanks very much.

Kindly,

Joshua

To the trustees of the HWDSB:

Good morning. I trust this finds each one of you well. I write as a parent of 4 students at [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

I write regarding the motion that students in the HWDSB have been working on that addresses anti-Palestinian racism in schools. I urge that you as elected trustees vote in support of this motion. All students' voices need to be heard and amplified.

Thank you for your time and attention in these regards.

Respectfully,

Joshua Weresch

From: Katie King

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:18 PM

Subject: *** re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. We are disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I do not accept this silence and negligence.

Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire as is their right.

Instead of supporting students and their steadfast and caring actions during this horrific time, HWDSB has met Palestinian and Muslim students with punishment and discrimination. They have been called “terrorists”, penalised for wearing Palestinian attire and displaying Palestinian symbols and have had their right to assemble and advocate threatened with repression.

We demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and **MUST** be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so I know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

Thank you,

Katie King

Ward 2

Hamilton, Ontario

From: Ken Stone
Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:22 PM
Subject: correspondence re resolution on anti-Palestinian racism

Dear Trustees,

Please accept this letter as correspondence in favour of the proposed resolution on anti-Palestinian racism, urging you to vote for it.

The Community Coalition Against Racism has been in operation in Hamilton since 1989, speaking out and organizing against carding and racial profiling, opposing police brutality against people of colour and indigenous origin, and bringing Hamiltonians of all backgrounds together in annual celebrations of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, among many other things.

We support the proposed resolution on anti-Palestinian racism because it addresses in some practical ways the manner in which the Board could deal with the general issue of Islamophobia in schools and the particular issue of the human rights of students of Palestinian and Arabic origin. Developing culturally-sensitive policies towards the wearing of national/cultural symbols, such as the kaffiyeh; using terms, such as "Free Palestine"; and developing guidelines on the subject of fundraising will all help to create an atmosphere of inclusion within the HWDSB.

Sensitivity training for all Board staff on the issues raised in the proposed resolution is another good idea. We know that on-going training and upgrading of skills is a continuing practice of your Board, for which you are to be commended. We hope you will pass this resolution and provide this training rather sooner than later, in terms of the conflict raging now in Israel/Palestine. On this particular issue, it's also important for you, the trustees, to inform yourselves of the historical background to the conflict, which did not begin on October 7, 2023, but rather more than one hundred years ago, with the origin of the Zionist colonial project in Palestine. If we can help you understand the underlying issues by recommending learned local speakers (of Jewish, Arab, and European origin) or academic writings on the subject, we would be happy to do so.

Leadership from the highest levels of the Board is required at moments, such as these, to maintain an atmosphere of understanding, acceptance, inclusion, and social peace among the staff and students of the Board.

Once again, we urge you to pass the resolution.

Yours sincerely,
Ken Stone
Chair, CCAR

November 30, 2023

From: Khushbu Vohra

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:40 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Khushbu vohra

From: Leandra Lorello

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 9:48 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Leandra Lorello

From: Leanne Stephenson

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 12:39 AM

Subject: Please add this as correspondence for the upcoming board meeting

Hello,

I am writing to note my support for the

One thing I love about our Hamilton education system is the diversity, I think supporting anti-racism for all communities in our city is very important. I support this motion on that note and think it is very important to maintain.

Thanks,

Leanne Stephenson - Ward 2 Resident, [REDACTED]

From: Lubabah Bakht

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:51 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Lubabah Bakht

From: Magda Tigchelaar

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:34 PM

Subject: Please add this as correspondence for the upcoming board meeting

Dear HWDSB trustees,

I am writing in support of the HWDSB Students who have drafted a motion that addresses anti-Palestinian racism in schools (attached). I believe that all students deserve to dress as the wish and organize for causes and should not be targeted for their beliefs, race, ethnicity, or religion. Please add this as correspondence for your upcoming board meeting. Thank you for your attention,

Magda Tigchelaar

13-1

Notice of Motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism

Submitted by Student Trustee Thomas Lin/Trustee Sabreina Dahab
December 4, 2023

Whereas: Students are citing increased levels of anti-Palestinian racism in schools, including but not limited to the threat of suspensions or other disciplinary action for saying "Free Palestine", and are being asked to remove their Keffiyeh, a symbol of Palestinian culture,

Whereas: Students across HWDSB are citing increased levels of Islamophobia, including but not limited to being called "terrorists" in their schools for wearing a keffiyeh,

Whereas: Approximately 600 students at 5 HWDSB have walked-out of High Schools demanding a cease-fire and an end to the occupation in Palestine (Saltfleet, Ancaster, Glendale, Henderson, Westmount),

Whereas: Students across HWDSB have cited that student initiatives such as fundraisers, spirit days, and walkouts for Palestine, have been shut down and clubs have been threatened with being disbanded for such initiatives,

Whereas all students, including Palestinian students, deserve to be safe in their school without experiencing anti-Palestinian racism or Islamophobia,

Therefore be it further resolved that HWDSB provide training to all school staff on Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism, with the training to include a focus on how this racism informs disciplinary actions.

Be it further resolved that HWDSB provide clarification to all school staff on the updated dress code guidelines, which protects students from discrimination against cultural dress or headwear requirements, including the keffiyeh, to support religious/creed accommodations.

Be it further resolved that HWDSB provide clarification to all school staff on our current fundraising policy which states that "fundraising may be used to support humanitarian or charitable causes that can increase student understanding, empathy and activism in helping to address local, national and international issues".

Be it further resolved that HWDSB staff provide a report back to the Board of Trustees on all of the above actions.

From: Martha Reynolds
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 11:22 AM
Subject: Please add this as correspondence for the upcoming board meeting

Dear Trustees,

Please find attached my letter concerning the "Notice of Motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism."

I thank you for your service to the community.

Sincerely,
Martha Reynolds

December 1, 2023

Dear Trustee of the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board,

I have learned of the Notice of Motion concerning Anti-Palestinian Racism that has been submitted by Student Trustee Thomas Lin and Trustee Sabreina Dahab. I am urging you to vote in favour of this motion.

We live in a world that is full of divisions, hatred and war. In the face of this, each of us can do something to help bring understanding, compassion and peace to our communities.

A wise person recently said that before there is justice and peace, there must be truth. By passing this motion, you would help all school staff to better understand the current, complex situation. When the staff is well-informed, they can pass this knowledge on to students, who might pass it on to their families. Imagine the positive ripple effect passing this motion could have!

I believe that knowledge and understanding are essential tools that will help change the world to a place where all people experience justice and peace. I also believe that there needs to be education around the human rights of all minorities, including Jewish people.

Please help change your community and the world by voting in favour of this motion.

I thank you with all my heart.

Sincerely,
Martha Reynolds
(Although I have retired to Beamsville, I lived in Hamilton for several years and continue to care for its community.)

From: Marwa Alsaqqar

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 10:58 AM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

9HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. We are disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I/ we do not accept this silence and negligence.

Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire as is their right.

Instead of supporting students and their steadfast and caring actions during this horrific time, HWDSB has met Palestinian and Muslim students with punishment and discrimination. They have been called “terrorists”, penalised for wearing Palestinian attire and displaying Palestinian symbols and have had their right to assemble and advocate threatened with repression.

We demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Marwa Alsaqqar
Resident of Ward 7

From: Matthew Higginson

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 6:05 PM

Subject: ***ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING***

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

I am a parent of two HWDSB students. We have experienced various challenges with ensuring our kids are supported in the system, things we have expressed to our Trustee. We have had the privilege of seeing these issues taken seriously, felt supported by the board, and thankfully come to a resolution. That is not to say there isn't still room for improvement, or that all of our challenges have disappeared. **But this letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. I am asking you to vote yes on the motion.**

My kids both wear pins in solidarity with the Palestinian people, but my oldest was made uncomfortable expressing himself in this way and one day came home with it missing. He told us someone had removed it from his jacket without his consent or knowledge. He has no idea where it went. This is a small example of a greater problem we have witnessed within the HWDSB, but it also indicates how widespread it is. No child should be made to feel ashamed of showing symbols of solidarity with their community. No child should be made to feel like they don't belong. No child should have to stay silent or hide their culture, especially when it is being threatened with erasure.

We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. We are disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. We do not accept this silence and negligence.

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Please reply to this email so I know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Matthew Higginson (He/Him) / Parent
VP-OPS, OPSEU Local 503



From: Monika Dutt

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 4:51 AM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Monika Dutt

Public Health and Family Physician

From: Muzna Macchi

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 8:08 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda. We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. We are disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I/ we do not accept this silence and negligence.

Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire as is their right.

Instead of supporting students and their steadfast and caring actions during this horrific time, HWDSB has met Palestinian and Muslim students with punishment and discrimination. They have been called “terrorists”, penalised for wearing Palestinian attire and displaying Palestinian symbols and have had their right to assemble and advocate threatened with repression.

We demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

[Fullname]

[Organization]

From: Nadeem Hussain

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:56 PM

Subject: December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Nadeem Hussain

From: Ives Peak

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 10:31 AM

Subject: **Add this as correspondence for the December 4th, 2023 Board Meeting**

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 board meeting agenda. We are deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. We are disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I do not accept this silence and negligence.

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Please reply to this email so I know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda. My previous email on this matter was blocked by the Director for some reason, and I received no response from anyone else. I've had to use a different email to ensure this is not blocked as well. As a parent with children in the board this non-responsiveness is hugely problematic.

In care and solidarity with community,

Naomi Ives Peak, MSW

Parent of HWDSB students and concerned community member

From: Naushina

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:16 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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In care and solidarity with community,

Naushina Karim

From: P Kerlew

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:53 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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In care and solidarity with community,

Paula Kerlew

From: Paulina Gonzalez

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 11:04 AM

Subject: Increase of Islamophobia in the classroom

13-1

Notice of Motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism

Submitted by Student Trustee Thomas Lin/Trustee Sabreina Dahab
December 4, 2023

Whereas: Students are citing increased levels of anti-Palestinian racism in schools, including but not limited to the threat of suspensions or other disciplinary action for saying "Free Palestine", and are being asked to remove their Keffiyeh, a symbol of Palestinian culture,

Whereas: Students across HWDSB are citing increased levels of Islamophobia, including but not limited to being called "terrorists" in their schools for wearing a keffiyeh,

Whereas: Approximately 600 students at 5 HWDSB have walked-out of High Schools demanding a cease-fire and an end to the occupation in Palestine (Saltfleet, Ancaster, Glendale, Henderson, Westmount),

Whereas: Students across HWDSB have cited that student initiatives such as fundraisers, spirit days, and walkouts for Palestine, have been shut down and clubs have been threatened with being disbanded for such initiatives,

Whereas all students, including Palestinian students, deserve to be safe in their school without experiencing anti-Palestinian racism or Islamophobia,

Therefore be it further resolved that HWDSB provide training to all school staff on Islamophobia and anti-Palestinian racism, with the training to include a focus on how this racism informs disciplinary actions.

Be it further resolved that HWDSB provide clarification to all school staff on the updated dress code guidelines, which protects students from discrimination against cultural dress or headwear requirements, including the keffiyeh, to support religious/creed accommodations.

Be it further resolved that HWDSB provide clarification to all school staff on our current fundraising policy which states that "fundraising may be used to support humanitarian or charitable causes that can increase student understanding, empathy and activism in helping to address local, national and international issues".

Be it further resolved that HWDSB staff provide a report back to the Board of Trustees on all of the above actions.

From: Rabia Bhatti

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:16 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Rabia Bhatti
Independent

From: Rachel P.

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:14 PM

Subject: ***ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING***

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Rachel Pangilinan

From: Christina Paradela

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 11:08 AM

Subject: Please support the motion for sensitivity training anti Palestinian Racism

Greetings

I am writing as a one who does all I can to promote peace and I am pleading with you that you support the motion being presented by Trustees Thomas Liv and Sabreina Dahab calling for sensitivity training against the racism against Palestinians.

Yes, the rise in anti semitism requires our attention and we are doing a good job is teaching sensitivity in that regard. But Islamophobia is also on the rise and that also must be addressed. Please support this awareness raising by supporting this motion.

peace

Rev. Christina Paradela

From: Kieren Williams

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:11 PM

Subject: Please add this as correspondence for the upcoming board meeting

To All Trustees of HWDSB:

I am writing to urge you to support the attached motion submitted by Student Trustee Thomas Liv, and Sabreina Dahab, trustee in Ward 2 where I live.

Students of all races, ethnicities and religions should always be free to wear symbols and clothing that express their passion and commitment to any issue of social justice. Isn't that what we want to teach students? To be global citizens, to care about the world as a whole, to stand up for what they believe in, and to protest what they cannot support? It sets a dangerous precedent to shut down students from organizing fundraisers and protests in support of Palestine when Jews, Christians, Muslims, Buddhists and Hindus around the world, and the members of the UN, are also supporting the call for a permanent cease-fire, and have condemned the occupation of the Palestinian lands by the Israeli government. Students should be as free to wear a "Free Palestine" t-shirt or wear a keffiyeh as they are a shirt emblazoned with the words, "Not in Our Name" as worn by many Jewish protestors. Both shirts are anti-war, anti-violence, and pro-justice. To wear a t-shirt that says "Free Palestine" is no different than wearing an orange t-shirt that says "Every child matters." Both stand against the actions of governments who have acted and continue to act in ways that oppress a group of people, and do not treat all people as equals.

If we want to teach students about anti-semitism, we need to also teach them about Islamophobia. We need to teach them of the horrible oppression that Jewish people all over the world have endured, and the horrible oppression that Muslim people all over the world have endured, and are (along with Christians) now enduring in Palestine. We cannot invite them into an either/or kind of thinking, but teach them to think critically about the actions of all governments, and judge those governments, including our own, to determine if they are acting in the interest of peace and justice for all people, everywhere in the world. We cannot teach students that China's treatment of the Uigurs, or Canada's treatment of First Nations peoples has been abhorrent if we cannot also allow them to see the similarity between the actions of those governments and the present government of Israel. Don't we want them to stand up for the end of all forms of colonization?

Please support this motion.

Sincerely,

Rev. Dr. Kieren Williams

[REDACTED]

Ward 2

From: Rizwana Khan

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:52 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Rizwana khan

From: Saad Masood

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:46 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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In care and solidarity with community,

Saad

From: Sairish Ahmed

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:42 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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In care and solidarity with community,

Sairish Ahmed

From: Salman Amjad

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:30 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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In care and solidarity with community,

Salman Amjad.

From: Sana Shafique

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:51 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

[Fullname]

[Organization]

From: Sarah Greenwood

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:29 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING.

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In care and solidarity with community,
Sarah Greenwood



From: Seher Atasever

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 6:16 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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In care and solidarity with community,

Seher Atasever

From: Shababa Bakht

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:38 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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In care and solidarity with community,

Shababa Bakht

From: Shabeeh Ahmad

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 8:00 AM

Subject: Please add this as correspondence for the upcoming board meeting

Hello,

I am requesting that you reaffirm your values of anti-racism and anti-oppression by passing the motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism submitted by student trustee Thomas Lin and Trustee Sabreina Dahab.

Students across the HWDSB have been facing increased levels of racism and Islamophobia due to their race, ethnicity, religion and/or support for Palestine. The leadership at the HWDSB must affirm the right of all of your students across the school board to protest, demonstrate, and stand in solidarity against injustice. Reject all efforts to silence and punish students for their background, their religion and/or their demands for a ceasefire and an end to the occupation of Palestine.

Support the safety and the rights of your students facing anti-Palestinian racism and Islamophobia. Pass this motion today.

Thank you,

Shabeeh Ahmad
Ward 8 Resident

From: Shameela Shakeel

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 5:46 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Shameela Shakeel
Community Member

From: Sherly Kyorkis

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 11:57 AM

Subject: Please add this as correspondence for the upcoming board meeting

Dear Trustees,

I support the motion forwarded by HWDSB students to work against anti-Palestinian racism in schools. Students have the right to feel safe and be encouraged to protest as it is their civil duty to do so without fear of repercussion, and to not be forced to protest on the sidewalks, away from schools, where their safety is jeopardized. I am disappointed in the School Board and HWDSB senior staff that have allowed this to happen, and it is alarming that these students are being surveilled from the distance and not being shown support for practicing their rights and being political as that should be a direct extension of learning in this so-called democracy. And to my HWDSB elected trustee Kathy Archer, what exactly are you doing as an elected official? Shame on you for all your complicity in times of stress and genocide.

Thanks for reading.

Sherly Kyorkis

Resident, Ward 9

From: Sid Sudiactal

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 11:40 AM

Subject: RE: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

To the HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership, and Trustees,

This letter is in response to motion re: Anti-Palestinian Racism that is on the December 4, 2023 HWDSB board meeting agenda.

I am deeply disturbed by the continuously increasing anti-Palestinian and anti-Muslim hate that is occurring within HWDSB schools. I am disappointed by the refusal of HWDSB to acknowledge this harm or take action to protect and support Palestinian and Muslim students in the midst of the undeniable genocide of the Palestinian people. I do not accept this silence and negligence. Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire as is their right. Instead of supporting students and their steadfast and caring actions during this horrific time, HWDSB has met Palestinian and Muslim students with punishment and discrimination. They have been called “terrorists”, penalized for wearing Palestinian attire and displaying Palestinian symbols and have had their right to assemble and advocate threatened with repression.

I demand that you pass the motion re: Anti-Palestinian racism without compromising or watering it down. The resolutions within are egregiously overdue and must be implemented so that the human rights of Palestinian, Muslim, Black, Indigenous and racialized students, staff, families and communities are fully honoured and upheld.

Please reply to this email so I know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Dr. Sid Sudiactal

From: Sonya Fatah

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 7:28 PM

Subject: ***ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING***

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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Students have been actively supporting one another, showing pride in and solidarity with Palestinian culture (which is under constant threat of erasure), working together to raise awareness and funds and walking out to demand a ceasefire as is their right.

Instead of supporting students and their steadfast and caring actions during this horrific time, HWDSB has met Palestinian and Muslim students with punishment and discrimination. They have been called “terrorists”, penalised for wearing Palestinian attire and displaying Palestinian symbols and have had their right to assemble and advocate threatened with repression.

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In care and solidarity with community,
Sonya Fatah/ Equity Network

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From: Syed Taseen Bakht

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 6:42 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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In care and solidarity with community,

Syed T Bakht

From: Tanisa Bakht

Sent: Thursday, November 30, 2023 10:50 PM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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In care and solidarity with community,

Tanisa Bakht
Scotiabank

From: Tara Elizabeth

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 2:14 AM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

HWDSB Director, Senior Leadership and Trustees,

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Please reply to this email so I/we know this correspondence has been received and added to the agenda.

In care and solidarity with community,

Tara Elizabeth (local parent)

From: Tim Bergen

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 7:21 AM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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In care and solidarity with community,

Tim Bergen

From: Uroosha Zaman

Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 7:13 AM

Subject: ADD THIS AS CORRESPONDENCE FOR THE December 4, 2023 BOARD MEETING

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In care and solidarity with community,

Uroosha Zaman

From: Valerie Pitt
Sent: Friday, December 1, 2023 10:23 AM
Subject: Anti Palestinian racism

Dear Trustees

I am writing to ask that you support the motion regarding anti- Palestinian Racism that is being brought to the board today. Education and training of staff as well as the safety of all students is imperative today as always.

I trust that you will consider this motion with the best outcome for all students.

Sincerely,

Valerie Pitt