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**Trustees: Kathy Archer, Christine Bingham, Dawn Danko, Penny Deathe, Cam Galindo, Alex Johnstone, Maria Felix Miller, Carole Paikin Miller, Ray Mulholland and Paul Tut. Student Trustees Deema Abdel Hafeez and Aisha Mahmoud.**

**Regrets were received from Trustee Buck and Shakowennakara:tats Tanaya Kagige.**

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## 1. Call to Order

Dawn Danko, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:15 p.m.

## 2. Delegations

Delegations were presented by the following:

A. Lyndon George, Executive Director, Hamilton Anti-Racism Resource Centre re: Elementary Focus Program Review

- Delegate commented on the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board Elementary Focus program review, specifically as it relates to equity. He noted that the goal of equity in education as outlined by the Ministry of Education, is identifying, removing, and preventing systemic barriers and discriminatory practices.
- He requested that during the program review, to consider ways they can improve equity for all students and to help empower students to learn and grow to their full potential.

B. Taylor Riopelle and Sophie Vivian re: Notice of Motion – Student Dress Code

- Delegates noted that the current dress code is primarily non inclusive of two things – the current fashion trends and gender identity.
- The dress code should be updated with gender neutral terms as to not exclude individuals who are non binary, genderfluid or transgender and should be equal for all genders and encouraging for self expression.

## 3. Approval of the Agenda:

**RESOLUTION #21-149: Trustees Galindo/Archer moved: That the agenda be approved.**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour

## 4. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None were declared.

## 5. Confirmation of the Minutes

Minutes from October 4, 2020 were confirmed.

## Reports from Trustee Special Committees

### 6. Finance & Facilities – September 16, 2021

**RESOLUTION #21-150: Trustees Galindo/Johnstone moved: That Finance & Facilities Committee report from September 16, 2021 be received.**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

**7. Governance – September 22, 2021**

**RESOLUTION #21-151:** Trustees Tut/Miller moved: **That the Governance Committee report from September 22, 2021 be received.**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

**8. Audit – September 23, 2021**

**RESOLUTION #21-152:** Trustees Tut/Bingham moved: **That the Audit Committee report from September 23, 2021 be approved including that the annual report to the Board of Trustees for the year ended August 31, 2021 be approved and forwarded to the Ministry of Education.**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

**9. Program – September 21, 2021**

**RESOLUTION #21-153:** Trustees Miller/Deathe moved: **That the Program Committee report from September 21, 2021 be approved including that a review of the HWDSB Elementary Focus Programs be conducted during the 2021-22 academic year.**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

**10. Human Resources – September 28, 2021**

**RESOLUTION #21-154:** Trustees Deathe/Miller moved: **That the Human Resources Committee report from September 28, 2021 be received.**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

**Reports from Legislative Committees:**

**11. Special Education Advisory Committee – September 29, 2021**

**RESOLUTION #21-155:** Trustees Johnstone/Deathe moved: **That the Special Education Advisory Committee report from September 29, 2021 be received.**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

**Reports from Community Advisory Committees:**

**12. French As a Second Language Community Advisory Committee – September 29, 2021**

**RESOLUTION #21-156:** Trustees Galindo/Archer moved: **That the French As a Second Language Community Advisory Committee report from September 29, 2021 be received.**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

**13. Report from the Committee of the Whole: October 18, 2021**

Trustee Johnstone declared a conflict of interest with the Human Resources Committee report from September 28, 2021 and did not participate in the vote.

**RESOLUTION #21-157:** Trustees Galindo/Mulholland moved: **That the Committee of the Whole report from October 18, 2021 be approved including:**

- **That the Finance & Facilities Committee report from September 16, 2021 be approved, including that the following properties enter Phase 2 of the Property Disposition Process and enter into agreements for the same of Beverly Central, Dr. Seaton, Elizabeth Bagshaw, Glen Echo. Green Acres. Mountain View, Queen's Rangers and Spencer Valley.**

- That the Audit Committee report from September 23, 2021 be approved including the approval of the external audit plan for 2020-21
- That the Human Resources Committee report from September 28, 2021 be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

**14. Written Notice of Motion - Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez/Mahmoud re: Student Dress Code**

Whereas: recent events have demonstrated that rape culture is pervasive across educational institutions, and we have a responsibility as public servants to ensure that our policies do not further perpetuate sexist and harmful notions that stigmatize one set of students over any other and;

Whereas: we have a responsibility to ensure that our policies do not place blame or undue responsibility on victims of sexual harassment and/or sexual assault and;

Whereas: we know that victims of sexual harassment and sexual assault often underreport these incidents due to an existing culture that places blame on the victim, and/or a fear of inaction or judgement after reporting an already traumatic experience(s) and;

Whereas: we recognize that our current Appropriate Dress is outdated and does not reflect our dedication to equity, inclusion, and supporting all of our students in their creativity, self-expression, and personal autonomy and;

Whereas: our current policy singles out traditionally “feminine” clothing, creates a double standard for one group, has the potential to be weaponized disproportionately, upholds sexist notions of modesty, and wastes staff resources in its implementation and enforcement and;

Whereas: “Historically, school dress codes have been written and enforced in ways that disproportionately and negatively impact: female-identified students, racialized students, gender diverse, transgender and non-binary students, students with disabilities, socioeconomically marginalized students and Indigenous, First Nation, Métis, and Inuit students. Focused, explicit, persistent and determined action is required to challenge and overcome this history.” (Toronto District School Board, Student Dress Policy, revised 2019) and;

Whereas: the purpose of a student dress code is to ensure a safe school environment, free of systems of oppression, and not to police a student’s individual expression or personal choice.

Be It Resolved: that the Board of Trustees direct staff to revise the current Appropriate Dress, removing sexist and outdated standards, and develop new guidelines that supports a safe school environment based on the principles of an anti-oppressive, non-discriminatory, equitable and inclusive education.

Be It Further Resolved: that similarly to the current student dress code at the Toronto District School Board, the HWDSB revised dress code is “developed to provide students with learning environments that are safe, equitable, welcoming and inclusive and recognizes that decisions about dress reflect individual expression of identity, socio-cultural norms, and economic factors and are personal and important factors to a person’s health and well-being.”

**RESOLUTION #21-157:** Trustees Miller/Deathe moved: **That staff revise the current Appropriate Dress, removing sexist and outdated standards, and develop new guidelines that supports a safe school environment based on the principles of an anti-oppressive, non-discriminatory, equitable and inclusive education.**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

**RESOLUTION #21-158:** Trustees Miller/Deathe moved: **That a revised dress code be “developed to provide students with learning environments that are safe, equitable, welcoming and inclusive and recognizes that decisions about dress reflect individual expression of identity, socio-cultural norms, and economic factors and are personal and important factors to a person’s health and well-being; similar to that of TDSB.**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

## **15. Oral Reports from Liaison Committees:**

### **A. City/School Board Liaison Committee**

No report at this time.

### **B. Hamilton-Wentworth Home & School Association**

The next meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2021 at 7 pm and the association looks forward to the opportunity to invite volunteers back in schools.

### **C. Hamilton Foundation for Student Success**

Student Support Grants

As of October 1, 2021, the Foundation began accepting applications for Student Support Grants for the 2021/2022 year on October 1, 2019. Student Support Grants are available to HWDSB students throughout the school year to help overcome extraordinary or emergency financial obstacles during their education journey. A student is eligible to receive a maximum of \$200.00 per school year and any HWDSB staff may apply on behalf of a student. A total of \$70,000.00 has been budgeted for Student Support Grants for the 2021/2022 year.

In response to the Board of Trustee request for HFSS to support families with school fees in 2021-22, the HFSS Board of Directors unanimously resolved: that the \$75,000.00 from Hamilton Community Foundation intended to support “Critical Student Needs” be transferred to HWDSB to be used towards waiving or subsidizing school fees for 2021/2022 school year. Furthermore, that Foundation staff work with HWDSB to launch a COVID-19 Recovery Campaign to raise funds to be used to assist students facing financial hardship, including subsidizing school fees, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

### **D. Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA)**

Trustee Johnstone noted that the Public Education Symposium which takes places at the end of January will be taking place again in 2022 but as a virtual event. Trustee Johnstone also recognized that October 18 – 22, 2021 is Local Government Week and that OPSBA would be using their social accounts to highlight this event throughout the week.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.