

# **Board Minutes Monday October 25, 2021**

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

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

Regrets were received from Trustee Christine Bingham, Paul Tut and Shakowennakara:tats Tanaya Kagige.

#### 1. Call to Order

Dawn Danko, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

# 2. Approval of the Agenda:

RESOLUTION #21-159: Trustees Deathe/Galindo moved: That the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED** 

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour

#### 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

None were declared.

#### 4. Confirmation of the Minutes

Minutes from October 18, 2021 were confirmed.

#### **Reports from Trustee Special Committees**

5. Program – October 14, 2021

<u>RESOLUTION #21-160:</u> Trustees Buck/Miller moved: **That the Program Committee report from October 14, 2021 be received.** 

**CARRIED** 

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

# **Reports from Legislative Committees:**

6. Parent Involvement Committee – October 12, 2021

<u>RESOLUTION #21-161:</u> Trustees Deathe/Buck moved: That the Parent Involvement Committee report from October 12, 2021 be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

# **Report from Staff**

### 7. Mandatory Vaccine Procedure – motion update

Director Figueiredo presented the report noting that staff are still implementing the Ministry policy on mandatory disclosure and rapid testing. Since the motion was approved, the Director of Education and the Superintendent of Human Resource Services has engaged with HWDSB employee groups and management groups, HWDSB experts (Privacy Office, Human Rights Office, Occupational Health & Safety Department), legal counsel, and the Ministry of Education.

Following discussion, the Board of Trustees confirmed that the Mandatory Vaccine Procedure motion still exists and that staff will continue to implement the Ministry of Education Policy on Immunization Disclosure and Testing as they continue to develop the Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Procedure.

# curiosity · creativity · possibility

The next update will be shared with the Board of Trustees at the Board meeting on December 13, 2021.

## 8. Oral Reports from Liaison Committees:

#### A. Student Trustees' Report

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud shared the following updates:

#### OSTA-AECO

- Fall General Meeting registrations and preparation, conference will take place from November 4th-7th
- PBC Student Success survey in review, to be sent out to public board students across Ontario

#### Local Activities

- Dress code review motion was passed, and new guidelines are being developed, staff received interim guidelines in the meantime
- First elementary and secondary senate meeting to take place on Wednesday October 27<sup>th</sup>

#### **B.** Director's Report

The Director shared the following updates:

- Gratitude and thanks to staff as we continue to work through supporting our students with achievement and well-being in addition to managing all the important safety requirements of COVID-19
- School visits and messages of hope visit took place at Viola Desmond Elementary School. It was great to see one of our new schools that's been repurposed, renamed and to see our students in the school for the first time. Great to see the new learning environments in place and there's a lot of growth in that area, so that's exciting to see. And I also had an opportunity to see some of our Indigenous Cultural safety work in action, so I really was thrilled and honored to be welcomed into this space at the Learning Nest program at Hill Park School and I want to acknowledge and thank the work of the team
- As we begin to try and return to what we know as the new normal, there are still challenges with all the other COVID-19 expectations and safety protocols. The framework is still there, so we're hoping and that as things start to move closer to what Ontario's plan is, that some of those other protocols can be removed, but in the meantime we talked to the ministry that we're worried about some of our staff and school leaders who bear that responsibility. A provincial steering committee is talking about what are some of the important critical burden reduction tasks we can do now that that are critical but don't impact student well being, but things that we can remove that are operational that might reduce some of the challenges or school leaders in school staff are dealing with so we can keep our focus on student achievement and well-being.

### C. Chair's Report

The Chair shared the following updates:

- The COVID-19 funding for the second half of the year has not yet been approved. We have asked his
  chairs through the Chair Minister teleconference is to have that approved or confirmed as soon as
  possible. So the Minister of Education did indicate they are working on this and that board should
  expect more information within a few weeks
- Ministry of Education decision is pending regarding the secondary model delivery model for second semester
- The Ministry of Education is completing a consultation on code of conducts for school boards. That consultation ends November 1st and there is an online survey trustees are encouraged to complete the online survey and I will be inviting trustees to provide comments through a collaborative document so that we can also provide a response as a board directly to the ministry

• The Finance and Facilities Committee requested that I, as the Chair, send a letter to the ministry regarding our benchmark strategy and regarding our capital priority submissions – specific to gym expansions and to highlighting the impact that a pause on pupil accommodation reviews had had on our board.

The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.