
Trustees: Kathy Archer, Becky Buck, 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.

It was noted that a resignation was received from Shakowennakara:tats Tanaya Kagige.

1. Call to Order

Dawn Danko, Chair of the Board, called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda:

RESOLUTION #22-01: Trustees Tut/Mulholland 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 December 6, 2021 and December 13, 2021 were confirmed.

Correspondence:

- A. Alex Rocca re: Apology For Trustee Buck
- B. Daryl Jerome, President - Teachers'/Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit, OSSTF 21 re: Trustee Buck
- C. Robert Cooper re: Trustee Buck
- D. Bob Maton re: Trustee Buck

RESOLUTION #22-02: Trustees Archer/Deathe moved: **That the correspondence be received and filed.**

CARRIED

Reports from Trustee Special Committees:

5. Finance & Facilities – December 9 and 16, 2021

RESOLUTION #22-03: Trustees Galindo/Tut moved: **That the Finance & Facilities Committee report from December 9, 2021 be received.**

CARRIED

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

RESOLUTION #22-04: Trustees Galindo/Johnstone moved: **That the Finance & Facilities Committee report from December 13, 2021 be received.**

CARRIED

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

6. Human Rights and Equity Committee – December 16, 2021

RESOLUTION #22-05: Trustees Miller/Galindo moved: **That the Human Rights and Equity Committee report from December 16, 2021 be received and that item A3 be referred to the Governance Committee as well as the Wentworth Strategy Group for the Governance Review.**

The motion **CARRIED** on the following division of votes:

In Favour (9): Trustees Archer, Buck, Danko, Deathe, Galindo, Johnstone, Miller, Paikin Miller and Tut.
Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour

Opposed: (1): Trustee Mulholland

Report from Staff:

7. Process to fill Trustee Vacancy, Wards 1 & 2

Staff presented the report noting that all vacancies on the board are required to be filled, under the Education Act, unless the vacancy is within one month of the next Municipal Election [s. 224(a)]. The Board of Trustees will have 90 days to decide how to fill the vacancy whether it be by appointment or by holding a by-election.

RESOLUTION #22-06: Trustees Galindo/Deathe moved: **That Candidates interested in filling the vacancy as Trustee for Wards 1 and 2 submit a letter of interest addressed to trustees that outlines their interest and qualifications to hold the position of trustee.**

CARRIED

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

RESOLUTION #22-07: Trustees Death/Buck moved to: **Invite and interview a short-list of qualified candidates, based on selection criteria at a public special meeting and then vote by ballot for the candidate to fill the vacancy.**

The selection criteria will include:

- **Passion for K-12 Public education**
- **Interest and sights into Ward 1 and 2 community**
- **Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation & Equity, Diversity, Inclusion**
- **Diverse lived experience to represent the changing diverse lived experiences of the Hamilton Community**
- **Experience with Boards of governance in the public or school setting would be an asset.**
- **No interest in running in the fall trustee election to avoid any real or perceived unfair advantage.**

CARRIED

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

8. COVID-19 Update Report #4

Staff presented the report and the presentation can be found here: <https://www.hwdsb.on.ca/wp-content/uploads/meetings/Board-Appendices-1642467158.pdf>

9. Written Notices of Motion

A. Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez/Mahmoud re: Medical Masks for Students

Submitted by Student Trustees Mahmoud & Abdel Hafeez

Sponsored by Trustees Miller/Galindo

Whereas: Provincial reporting shows that schools, and especially elementary schools, account for the bulk of COVID-19 outbreaks in Ontario

Whereas: 37% of Hamilton's students ages 5-11 years are fully vaccinated and 84% of students ages 12-17 years are fully vaccinated meaning that the vast majority of students are only partially vaccinated or not yet eligible to be vaccinated.

Whereas: A tightly fitting mask has been identified by Public Health officials as one of the top lines of protection against COVID-19.

Whereas: Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) has stated for both children and adults that "while non-medical masks can help prevent the spread of COVID-19, medical masks and respirators (such as N95 and KN95 masks) provide better protection."

Whereas: The Ministry provides medical grade level 2 masks to Ontario's education staff free of charge under workplace health and safety requirements and where the Ministry recently recognized the need for enhanced masking in schools and is now provisioning unfitted respirators free of charge to all education staff.

Whereas: The same workplace health and safety protections offered to education staff also need to be extended to students who are required by law to attend school.

Whereas: Masking needs to be considered through an equity lens as affordability and availability of paediatric and adult medical masks and respirators is a significant barrier for many families. Further, many families who cannot afford enhanced masking also do not have the financial privilege of choosing online learning.

Be It Resolved That: The HWDSB write a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting that medical grade level 2 masks and unfitted respirators (such as unfitted N95 and KN95 masks) be fully funded and provided to every student in the province in the same way that unfitted respirators are being fully funded and provided to education staff.

Be It Further Resolved That: Where the Ministry is now providing unfitted respirators (N95) instead of medical masks to education staff, that the HWDSB consider repurposing the remaining supply of medical grade level 2 masks to students using an equity framework.

Be It Further Resolved That: The HWDSB prepare a report on the cost of provisioning every HWDSB student with a medical grade level 2 masks for the remainder of the year and the feasibility of applying COVID-19 related funds including reserves and deficits to pay for masks to ensure that both students and staff are provisioned equally with the PPE needed to safely learn and work.

RESOLUTION #22-08: Trustees Miller/Galindo moved that:

HWDSB write a letter to the Ministry of Education requesting that medical grade level 2 masks and unfitted respirators (such as unfitted N95 and KN95 masks) be fully funded and provided to every student in the province in the same way that unfitted respirators are being fully funded and provided to education staff.

Where the Ministry is now providing unfitted respirators (N95) instead of medical masks to education staff, that the HWDSB consider repurposing the remaining supply of medical grade level 2 masks to students using an equity framework with Ministry approval.

The HWDSB prepare a report on the cost of provisioning every HWDSB student with a medical grade level 2 masks for the remainder of the year and the feasibility of applying COVID-19 related funds including reserves and deficits to pay for masks to ensure that both students and staff are provisioned equally with the PPE needed to safely learn and work.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

B. Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez/Mahmoud re: HWDSB Public Reporting of COVID-19 Cases

Submitted by Student Trustees Mahmoud & Abdel Hafeez

Sponsored by Trustees Johnstone/Miller

Whereas: On January 6, 2022, Hamilton reported the worst COVID-19 case rate in the province and it stated that the reported local numbers are likely only a fraction of the actual cases counts stating that it estimates that only one in seven to one in ten actual cases are being reported.

Whereas: Provincial reporting shows that schools, and especially elementary schools, account for the bulk of COVID-19 outbreaks in Ontario.

Whereas: 37% of Hamilton's students ages 5-11 years are fully vaccinated and 84% of students ages 12-17 years are fully vaccinated.

Whereas: At the height of the pandemic to date, the Ministry is no longer requiring school boards to report COVID-19 cases, Public Health Units are no longer conducting contacting tracing efforts for schools, and where the province has reduced access to publicly funded PCR testing.

Whereas: The Ministry will be providing school boards with a limited number of take-home PCR-tests, however they will only be available to symptomatic students and staff who arrived at school and who need to leave the school during the day as result of new symptoms. Previously, all students and staff could access publicly funded PCR-tests through participating local pharmacies.

Whereas: These changes have significant implications for managing virus spread, disruptions to student learning and achievement and school staffing and operations.

Whereas: These changes also need to be considered through an equity lens, the affordability for students and staff to be able to privately purchase PCR tests and the privilege of being able to stay home.

Whereas: Students, staff and families rely on COVID-19 reporting to make informed decisions about isolating, notifying close contacts and keeping at-risk family members safe.

Whereas: The Ontario Principal's Council has put out a statement highlighting that principals still have a legal

responsibility under the Education Act to report the existence of any communicable disease and to refuse admission to school of any person infected with a communicable disease.

Whereas: HWDSB Trustees requested over the winter break, through the Director to Hamilton Public Health, that priority be provided to staff and students to receive vaccinations and boosters in order to keep schools safely open as schools account for the majority of COVID-19 outbreaks in Hamilton and Ontario. Further more, local and provincial employee groups and The Ontario Principal's Council have also made this request. Further more, this request was originally denied by Public Health as it was not consistent with Government direction and starting January 7th the Ministry has approved priority vaccination clinics for education workers across the province but has not provided the same urgent and targeted vaccine clinics for students in order to afford a safer school reopening.

Be It Resolved That: The HWDSB publicly report suspected COVID-19 Cases as identified through Rapid Antigen Test and continue to publicly report confirmed cases as identified through PCR tests, in accordance with the democratic values of public accountability and transparency.

Staff noted that they could look at a simplified version of reporting as cases would need to be reported by the parents and staff as the Ministry is no longer sharing the reporting. Staff will take it away for further discussion.

RESOLUTION #22-09: Trustees Johnstone/Miller moved that: **HWDSB publicly report suspected COVID-19 Cases as identified through Rapid Antigen Test and continue to publicly report confirmed cases as identified through PCR tests, in accordance with the democratic values of public accountability and transparency.**

CARRIED

Student Trustees Abdel Hafeez and Mahmoud voted in favour.

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 p.m.

The recording of the Board meeting can be found here:

Part 1: [Board Meeting – Jan. 17 2022 Part 1 – HWDSB.tv](#)

Part 2: [Board Meeting – Jan. 17 2022 Part 2 – HWDSB.tv](#)