
Trustees: Kathy Archer (electronically), Becky Buck, Sabriena Dahab, Dawn Danko, Amanda Fehrman, Maria Felix Miller, Graeme Noble, Paul Tut and Todd White, Elizabeth Wong (electronically). Student Trustees, Thomas Lin and Harry Wang.

Regrets: Trustee Ray Mulholland

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 7:39 and moved to recess in observation of Ramadan.

RESOLUTION #24-34: Trustees Fehrman/Buck moved that the board move into recess until 7:55 pm.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Student Trustee Lin and Wang voted in favour

2. Land Acknowledgement and Approval of the Agenda

RESOLUTION #24-35: Trustees Buck/Fehrman moved that the agenda be amended to move item #10 the Report from the committee of the whole (private session) be moved to the last item on the agenda.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Student Trustee Lin and Wang voted in favour

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest – None

4. Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLUTION #24-36: Trustees Danko /Fehrman moved that the minutes from February 26, 2024 be approved.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Student Trustee Lin and Wang voted in favour

5. Correspondence

RESOLUTION #24-37: Trustees Danko/Tut moved that the correspondence – E. Biro re: March 8 Protest at the Education Centre be received, filed and be referred to the Human Rights Office.

The motion **CARRIES** on the following division:

In Favour (11): Trustees Archer, Buck, Danko, Fehrman, Miller, Noble, Tut, White, Wong
Student Trustees Lin and Wang

Opposed (1): Trustee Dahab

Reports from Trustee Special Committees:

6. Policy Committee – February 22, 2024

RESOLUTION #24-38: Trustees White/Noble moved that the Policy Committee report from February 22, 2024 be approved including the Use of Board Facilities Policy.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Student Trustee Lin and Wang voted in favour

7. Governance Committee – March 5, 2024

RESOLUTION #24-39: Trustees White/Danko moved that the Governance Committee report from March 5, 2024 be approved including the Board of Trustees Governance Manual.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Student Trustee Lin and Wang voted in favour

8. Oral Reports from Liaison Committees:

A. Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School Associations

Trustee Danko shared that the HWCHSA has been focusing on supporting association with their ongoing business. They are currently waiting to hear from the Policy Committee regarding the Fundraising draft policy. Trustee White shared that he has been in contact with HWCHSA regarding the Fundraising policy and a timeline was confirmed through the Director for the end of April. The next meeting is scheduled for April 11, 2024.

B. Hamilton Foundation for Student Success

Trustee Archer reminded everyone that Prom Project is coming up on Saturday April 13th, 2024. There are 20 locations across town receiving donations and they are still in need of clothing for small to extra-large, plus sizes for young men and women. More information can be found on the Prom Project website.

C. Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA)

- Trustee Buck attended a Board of Directors meeting in Toronto on March 1 and 2 noting presentations were provided from a TDSB teacher who recently published a book titled Black Boys Like Me (Matthew R. Morris) which shares his experience growing up and working in Toronto as a black man. A second presentation was related to OMERS and thinking about pensions as a social infrastructure.
- During reports from the different OPSBA Regions TDSB shared about their call to restrict promotion of gambling in all media, particularly that which is seen or used by a great number of children. The ban they are calling for is like that of cigarettes and alcohol.
- The deadline for the 2023-24 student trustee leadership scholarship is April 29, 2024. The award recognizes outstanding achievement in a leadership role and provides financial support to a graduating public board student trustee to assist with their post-secondary education plans. The scholarship is based on outstanding initiative accomplished during the student trustee's term and how the initiative positively impacted the students in their board. Two scholarships of \$500 each will be awarded. Trustee Buck will share the link if anyone is interested.

9. Oral Reports from:

A. Student Trustees' – Local Activities & Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) Report

- Both Student Trustees are collaborating with staff to organize the Be It Change Conference tentatively scheduled in May. It will focus on preparedness for the future, and the Multi Year Strategic Plan.
- Student Trustee Lin is working with the Public Board cabinet to formulate their strategic directions, which focus on artificial intelligence in education and diversity, equity and inclusion.
- Student Trustees' continue to work with the Student Senate. They have asked them what education means to you and to design their ideal education system. Some areas that came up were inclusive environments, a safe space and teachers who are understanding and compassionate.
- Student Trustee Wang presented a proposal to Executive Council for consideration on Mental Health Today which focuses on giving students time and space to recollect themselves and find out what their priorities are and to take some time to breathe. Provide resources and opportunities to learn about mental health, what stress is and time management and most importantly themselves.

B. [Director's Report](#)

- A welcome was provided to Acting Superintendent Lindsay Snell.
- HWDSB's 2023-2024 Board Improvement Plan has launched and is available on the website. This is a living repository of what we will do and how we plan to improve student achievement and a sense of belonging. The Strategic Directions are the pillars/objectives which is what we want to accomplish through the goals set out in the Board Improvement Plan. The Director shared the circular graphic which is a representation of all the pieces fitting together. Acknowledging in many indigenous cultures the circle is a sacred symbol of interdependence of all forms of life. Acknowledgement to indigenous knowledge and ways of being

elaborates on where we're going as a board, and it is important to see how all the different components of the multi-year strategic plan work together.

- The Director thanked everyone who participated in the Great Big Crunch in support of Taste Buds a local nutrition partner who helps HWDSB students.
- The Director shared Student Trustee Wong joined the Executive Council team to discuss his perspective proposal to further support secondary school students with managing academic stress and feedback from students, indicate that academic responsibilities are the most significant source of stress for students, and so moving forward, Executive Council will take the information and reflect on the ways that we're going to further assist.

C. Chair's Report

- The Chair shared that trustees also participated in the Great Big Crunch and is excited to hear about the challenge to have nutrition programs in all HWDSB schools.
- March 8th, 2024 was International Women's Day. Chair Miller, Trustee Fehrman, the Director of Education and Superintendent Lemaire attended Bellmoore School where they were interviewed for the PodMoore podcast. Other schools are now creating their own podcasts.
- Chair Miller acknowledged Trustee Archer for her 25 years of community leadership and contribution to the Mountain Kids Club.
- Chair Miller acknowledged the work of Trustees around the new Governance manual and that the Trustees collectively are eager to further develop and focus on labour union relationships.

10. Resolution into Committee of the Whole (Private session) – at 8:39 pm

RESOLUTION #24-40: Moved by Fehrman/Dahab That the Board of Trustees move into Committee of the Whole (Private) as per the Education Act, Section 207.2 (b) disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board, a pupil or his or her parent or guardian.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY
Student Trustee Lin and Wang voted in favour

The Board returned to public session at 11:57 pm. Trustee Noble did not return to public session.

11. Report from Committee of the Whole – Private Session – March 25, 2024

RESOLUTION #24-41: Trustees Tut/Buck moved that the tentative local Collective Agreement between the Designated Early Childhood Educators, Elementary Teachers Federation of Ontario (ETFO HWDECE), and Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) for the term of September 1, 2022, to August 31, 2026, be approved and amended as per the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

RESOLUTION #24-42: Trustees Tut/Buck moved that the report of the Committee of the Whole (Private) – March 25, 2024 be received noting that Trustees have considered a proposed breach of the Trustee Code of Conduct. The Board of Trustees confirms the conclusion of a formal inquiry report where Trustee Dahab has been found to have breached the code of conduct, specifically:

Respect for confidentiality

10. Trustees shall keep confidential any information disclosed or discussed at a meeting of the Board of Trustees or committee of the Board of Trustees, or part of a meeting of the Board of Trustees or a committee of the Board of Trustees, that was closed to the public as outlined in the Education Act, and keep confidential the substance of deliberations of such meeting closed to the public, unless required to divulge such information by law or authorized by the Board of Trustees to do so.

The reasoning for the determination of this breach is that confidentiality is important to ensuring public trust when making decisions and as such, must be maintained to protect the decision-making process until matters can be brought forward to the public forum.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Dahab did not participate in the vote.

RESOLUTION #24-43: Trustees Tut/Buck moved that based on the finding of the breach, any public post containing confidential information be removed from their own social media or the Trustee will be barred from private sessions for board and committees until this breach is resolved.

The motion **CARRIES** on the following division:

In Favour (7): Trustees Archer, Buck, Danko, Fehrman, Miller, Tut, Wong

Opposed (1): Trustee White

Trustee Dahab did not participate in the vote.

Meeting adjourned at 12:07 am.

Reference: [Agenda Package](#) and [Recording](#), [Recording 2](#)