
Trustees: Kathy Archer*, Becky Buck, Sabreina Dahab^(R), Dawn Danko, Amanda Fehrman, Maria Felix Miller, Graeme Noble, Paul Tut, Todd White, Elizabeth Wong^(R), Abby Zaitley. Student Trustees Oluwafikunayomi (Fikun) Alabi, Victoria Li, and Shakowennakara:tats Daunte Hillen.

*electronic participation, ^(R) regrets

1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

2. Approval of the Agenda

Trustees Danko/Buck moved that the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

3. Confirmation of the Minutes

RESOLUTION #25-15: Trustees White/Zaitley moved that the Minutes from February 10, 2025, be confirmed.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

4. Parent Involvement Committee (PIC)

RESOLUTION #25-16: Trustees Buck/Danko moved that the Parent Involvement Committee report from February 11, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

5. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)

RESOLUTION #25-17: Trustees White/Danko moved that the Special Education Advisory Committee from January 29, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

6. Human Rights & Equity Community Advisory

RESOLUTION #25-18: Trustees White/Tut moved that the Human Rights & Equity Community Advisory report from January 29, 2025, be received.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

7. Standing Committee Report

RESOLUTION #25-19: Trustees Danko/Noble moved that the Standing Committee report from February 10, 2025, be approved including the draft 2025-2026 School Year Calendars be submitted to the Ministry of Education.

CARRIED

Student Trustees Alabi, Li and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

8. Hamilton-Wentworth Student Transportation Services (HWSTS) update:

Associate Director Gerard provided an update from the recent HWSTS Governance meeting:

- Routes and Drivers
 - Open Routes: 1 bus route remains open.
 - Driver Leaves of Absence: 18 drivers currently on leave.
 - Spare Driver Pool: 10 active, plus the 18 on leave, totaling 28.
 - Training: 15 drivers are in various stages of training.
- Overall: The consortium is in a good position, with ongoing work to ensure driver availability does not impact operations.
- CAA Safety Patroller Program:
 - Previously in place but paused for various reasons.
 - Voluntary student program to train student patrollers.
 - Training sessions planned at Ancaster Fairgrounds, supported by CAA and Hamilton Police Services.
 - Program is set to relaunch in Fall 2025.

9. Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School Associations

Trustee Danko provided an updated noting that the Hamilton Wentworth Council of Home and School Associations met on February 6, 2025, and their next meeting is scheduled for April 3, 2025.

Key Discussions from their recent meeting:

- Encouraging the board to increase parent engagement to boost volunteer participation in schools, which has not returned to pre-COVID levels.
- Seeking opportunities to provide feedback on the volunteer policy currently under public consultation.
- Requesting involvement in future consultations on PPM 128, which covers vaping, mobile device use, and parent engagement funding, as they were not included in previous discussions.

10. Hamilton Foundation for School Success

Trustee Fehrman provided an updated noting new members were welcomed at the recent AGM meeting and encouraged others to consider donating to Hamilton Foundation for Student Success. Prom Project takes place on April 5, 2025, with donations currently being accepted.

11. Ontario Public Schools Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Buck provided the following update:

- Trustee Expense Policy: OPSBA is updating the language but did not approve changes yet. Revisions are forthcoming, focusing on clarifications such as how many Board of Director meetings are covered and who is eligible to submit expenses for regional meetings.
- Jordan's Principle: The federal government is tightening their finances and Jordan's Principle is being impacted. This is impacting Indigenous communities and in particular, where Boards have supported work they are coming to learn that their costs will likely not be covered.
- OPSBA's Indigenous Trustee Council: Working with the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nations to improve land acknowledgment language.
- Integrity Commissioner Roster: The Ministry of Education plans to create a roster and will consult school boards and trustee associations in the spring. Until then, OPSBA recommends using informal complaint procedures for minor breaches and formal procedures for severe, repetitive issues.

- OPSBA Awards: Nominations are open for trustees, teachers, education workers, administrators, students, and community members.

12. Student Trustees' and Shakowennakara:tats report

Shakowennakara:tats Hillen provided a verbal update:

- Attended the OSTA-AECO Conference earlier this month alongside Student Trustee Alabi and Li and it was both engaging and impactful for all attendees.
- Attended the John C. Holland Awards on February 22, 2025; it was inspiring to witness the achievements of individuals who are making a significant impact in our community.

Student Trustees Alabi and Li provided a verbal update:

- Student Senate is currently working on the Trailblazer Summit to finalize the logo and schedule.
- During the OSTA-AECO conference, learned about being their authentic self and were encouraged to step out of their comfort zone and try new things.
- Student Trustee Alabi was nominated by her school to speak at the Principals and Vice Principals learning event on the value of dignity and promoted joy, compassion, dignity and trust.
- Currently organizing the first-ever Black History Month Celebration on February 27, 2025 at Orchard Park Secondary.

13. Director's Report

Director Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini presented the [Director's Report](#) which highlighted the following:

- School Visits: Holbrook, Gatestone, Janet Lee, Ray Lewis and Templemead where she enjoyed breakfast, meeting with student leaders, tours, Black History Month displays, music and more.
- Honoured to find her name amongst other leaders showcased in the Black History Month display
- HWDSB success and celebration at the John C. Holland Awards and congratulated Student Alabi for being the recipient of the Immigrants Matter Bursary Award and the Pillar of Empowerment Award.
- Pink Shirt Day February 26, 2025 – a day dedicated to raising awareness and standing up against bullying.
- HWDSB Values Community Voice – We All Count data currently being collected until March 5, 2025.

14. Chair's Report

Chair Miller brought forth her report and acknowledged and thanked the efforts of all who worked diligently to keep our students safe during the recent snowstorms.

- John C. Holland – always fun and always fashionable. She thanked staff that helped prepare students for the various awards.
- Thank you to the communications team working hard to collect videos for the BIG CRUNCH (we take a literal bite out of Ontario apples for our nutritional programs - TASTEBUDS).

The meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.

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