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**Trustees:** Kathy Archer\*, Becky Buck, Sabreina Dahab, Dawn Danko<sup>(R)</sup>, Amanda Fehrman<sup>(R)</sup>, Maria Felix Miller, Graeme Noble, Paul Tut, Todd White, Elizabeth Wong<sup>(R)</sup>, Abby Zaitley. Student Trustees Sanad Bizanti<sup>(R)</sup>, Evelyn Watson, and Shakowennakara:tats Daunte Hillen.

\*electronic participation, <sup>(R)</sup> regrets

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### 1. Call to Order

Chair Miller called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

**RESOLUTION #25-114:** Trustees Tut/Buck moved that Trustees Danko, Fehrman and Wong be approved as absent for the December 15, 2025, Board meeting.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

### 2. Approval of the Agenda

**RESOLUTION #25-115** Trustees Tut/Buck moved that the agenda be approved.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

### 3. Confirmation of the Minutes

**RESOLUTION #25-116:** Trustees Tut/Buck moved that the minutes from November 17, 2025, and November 24, 2025, be confirmed.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

### 4. Tribute to former Trustee Judith Bishop, Wards 1 & 2

Trustee White, on behalf of the Board of Trustees, paid tribute to former Trustee Judith Bishop, who was an extraordinary trustee whose dedication and work ethic set her apart. She devoted countless hours to serving students, often working up to 60 hours a week as chair, and consistently prioritized what was best for children above all else. Her contributions were far-reaching, including leadership in special education, childcare, EQAO data analysis, and policy development, as well as initiating major initiatives such as the program committee, field revitalization strategy, and the navigator position. Judith's impact is evident across HWDSB—from the policies that guide the board to the very building it occupies—leaving a legacy that underscores the vital role of publicly elected MPP trustees.

### 5. Director's Annual Report to the Community

The Director presented the [2024–2025 Annual Report](#), highlighting system-wide progress guided by HWDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan and Board Improvement Plan. Key achievements included gains in literacy, numeracy, well-being, future preparedness, and engagement, supported by targeted interventions, professional learning, and expanded student opportunities. The report celebrated staff dedication, community partnerships, and a culture of continuous improvement, with data showing year-over-year growth in student achievement.

### 6. Finance & Facilities Committee

**RESOLUTION #25-117:** Trustees Tut/Buck moved that the Finance & Facilities Committee report from November 25, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## **7. Governance Committee**

**RESOLUTION #25-118:** Trustees Buck/Tut moved that the Governance Committee report from December 1, 2025, be approved and that:

- The Human Resources Committee (reports) be redistributed to the most aligned committees of the board, including standing or committee of the whole as appropriate, until reviewed, and
- That feedback be collected from Trustees and staff regarding the pilot with a summary report be provided to the Governance Committee by June 2026 to inform next steps.

The motion was **CARRIED** on the following division:

In Favour (6): Trustees Archer, Buck, Miller, Noble, Tut and White.

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

Opposed (2): Trustees Dahab and Zaitley.

## **8. Parent Involvement Committee**

**RESOLUTION #25-119:** Trustees Zaitley/Buck moved that the Parent Involvement Committee report from November 11, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## **9. Special Education Advisory Committee**

**RESOLUTION #25-120:** Trustees White/Noble moved that the Special Education Advisory Committee report from November 26, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## **10. Faith Community Advisory Committee**

**RESOLUTION #25-121:** Trustees Dahab/Buck moved that the Faith Community Advisory Committee report from November 25, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## **11. Human Rights & Equity Committee**

**RESOLUTION #25-122:** Trustees Dahab/Buck moved that the Human Rights & Equity Committee report from November 27, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

## **12. Rural Schools Advisory Committee**

**RESOLUTION #25-123:** Trustees Noble/Buck moved that the Rural Schools Advisory Committee report from October 22, 2025, be received.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

### **13. Standing Committee**

**RESOLUTION #25-124:** Trustees Tut/Noble moved that the Standing Committee report from November 24, 2025, be approved including that the Draft 2026-2027 School Year Calendars be approved for public consultation.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

### **14. Appointments to Trustee Special Committee – Governance Committee**

**RESOLUTION #25-125:** Trustees Buck/White moved that Trustee White be appointed to the Governance Committee.

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen voted in favour.

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

Trustee White reported on the recent meeting with City representatives and HWDSB staff. Key updates included:

- Childcare Development Charges: The City amended its development charges by-law to support childcare, and HWDSB expressed appreciation.
- Dundas Valley Secondary School Proposal: A delegation proposed revitalising unused tennis courts into a multi-use space under a shared-use agreement with the City. No financial or operational impact to HWDSB beyond standard agreement terms.
- LRT Construction Updates: The City presented communication plans for ongoing LRT work. HWDSB provided feedback to improve information sharing with schools.
- Bright Side Park: The Chair requested an update on the former Dominion Glass site project, which could provide significant green space for Bernie Custis Secondary School.

### **16. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)**

Trustee Buck provided an update as follows:

- EQAO released 2024–2025 provincial, board, and school-level assessment results; the Ministry announced an expert advisory body to review EQAO testing and student achievement.
- Ontario Legislature has adjourned until March 23, 2026; pre-budget consultations are underway, and OPSBA encourages boards to participate via written submissions and surveys.
- OPSBA award recipients announced, including HWDSB's Judith Bishop, honoured with the Alumni Award for her outstanding contributions.
- OPSBA Board of Directors meeting scheduled for December 18 to consider proposed structural changes.

### **17. Student Trustees Report**

Student Trustee Watson and Shakowennakara:tats Hillen provided the following update:

- Indigenous Student Trustee Council partnered with *Possibility Seeds* to develop consent education initiatives and promote culturally responsive approaches in schools.
- Emphasized the importance of Human Rights Day, advocating for inclusive spaces, reconciliation, and action to uphold Indigenous human rights in education.
- Student Senate provided feedback on HWDSB's website redesign and future preparedness planning to ensure student voice informs system priorities.
- Secondary Senate is preparing leadership workshops for elementary students; high schools continue hosting collaborative events to strengthen engagement.

- Students led Human Rights Day activities, including panel discussions and art displays focused on inclusion and equity.
- Ongoing efforts include amplifying student perspectives through social media and planning for upcoming student trustee elections in January.

#### **18. Director's Report**

Director Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini provided the [monthly update](#) and reflected on system-wide progress and achievements guided by HWDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan and Board Improvement Plan. She expressed gratitude to staff and community partners for their dedication and emphasized the importance of communication, collaboration, and continuous improvement. The report concluded with seasonal greetings and encouragement for rest and renewal over the winter break.

#### **19. Chair's Report**

Chair Miller expressed gratitude to staff and student trustees for their dedication and leadership throughout a challenging fall season. She acknowledged the uncertainty in public education at the provincial level and emphasized the importance of stability, collaboration, and maintaining focus on HWDSB's values. The report concluded with encouragement for rest and renewal over the winter break and appreciation for the continued commitment to student success.

The meeting adjourned at 9:03 p.m.

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