



Policy Committee

Thursday, February 5, 2026

6:00 pm

BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.



The Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board acknowledges our presence on ancestral Anishinaabe and Haudenosaunee Confederacy land as determined by the Dish with One Spoon treaty.

The intent of this agreement is for all nations sharing this territory to do so responsibly, respectfully and sustainably in perpetuity.

We respect the longstanding relationships with the local Indigenous communities, the Mississaugas of the Credit First Nation and the Six Nations of the Grand River.

Policy Committee Workplan

| Policy Committee Meeting Date | Policies |
|-------------------------------|--|
| February 5, 2026 | Use of School Board Resources During Elections Student Behaviour & Bias-Free Progressive Discipline |
| March 3, 2026 | Educational Excursions Staff Engagement Indigenous Education |
| April 1, 2026 | Information Session (50 minutes): <i>Shaping Direction: How Policies Reflect Your Leadership</i> Procurement Integrated Accessibility Standards Notice of Motion |



Use of School Board Resources during Elections

**(formerly Political
Activities in Schools)**

Background

- Alignment with Municipal Elections Modernization Act requirements
- Policy updated to reduce ambiguity and reflect current practices
- Includes clearer election-specific constraints

Title Change: “Use of School Board Resources during Elections”

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- New title aligns with provincial legislation
- Consistent with naming conventions used by other boards

Purpose

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- Reinforces fairness, neutrality, and integrity
- Ensures consistency across all elections and user groups
- Supports civic learning while allowing trustees to fulfill their roles

Guiding Principles

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- Maintain a neutral, non-partisan environment
- Avoid disruptions to school operations
- Prohibit use of board resources for campaign purposes

Terminology

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- New key terms added: Campaign Period, Candidate, Registered Third-Party Advertiser.
- Expanded definition of Board Resources

Action Required

- Updated rules for distributing political information
- Clarified expectations for trustees and candidates' use of resources
- Updated guidance for school visits and all-candidate meetings

Action Required

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- Updated language on student/staff involvement
- Provisions for polling stations
- Added compliance and monitoring statement

Action Required

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- Refreshed language on student and staff involvement in campaign activities.
- Updated provisions for schools used as polling stations.
- Added a compliance and monitoring statement.

Recommendation

- That the *Use of School Board Resources During Elections* Policy be recommended for approval.



Student Behaviour and Bias-Free Progressive Discipline

HWDSB
BE YOU. BE EXCELLENT.

Procedures

- Progressive Discipline and Promoting Positive Student Behaviour Procedure
- Suspension Expulsion and Programs for Long-Term Suspended or Expelled Students Procedure

Notice of Motion

Policy review follows a motion made at the June 5, 2023, Program Committee:

"That a policy review of the Student Behaviour and Discipline policy 5.7 be initiated immediately following the 2024 Safe Schools Report for Suspensions and Expulsions."

History of this Policy

- Consultation with students, families and staff (November 2024 – January 2025)
- Draft shared with Trustees in May 2025
- Trustee feedback gathered
- Revisions completed to improve clarity and accountability

Committee Feedback

- Purpose
- Guiding Principles
- Intended Outcomes
- Action Required
- Progress Indicators

Key Updates: Equity and Student Experience

- Reducing disproportionality
- Student voice and ownership
- Trauma-informed and identity affirming approaches
- Strengthened reconciliation and Indigenous inclusion

Key Updates: Accountability and Implementation

- Ongoing staff training
- Consistent procedures across all HWDSB schools
- Improved communication with families
- Restorative approaches with meaningful accountability
- Collaboration between and across departments

Measuring Progress

We will monitor:

- Student safety and discipline
- Discipline trends and disproportionality
- Student and family feedback
- Indigenous partnerships, feedback and outcomes

Recommendation

- That the *Student Behaviour and Bias-Free Progressive Discipline Policy* be recommended for approval.