



# PROGRAM COMMITTEE

June 2, 2016  
Education Centre, Room 308

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## **AGENDA**

5:30 p.m.

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Elementary Program Strategy (draft for consultation)
4. Update on Transitions
5. Next Program Committee Meeting: June 8, 2016
6. Adjournment

# HWDSB Program Committee

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## Topic: Elementary Program Strategy

The Elementary Program Strategy is based on seven (7) vision statements that provide the foundation for decision making regarding Curriculum, Programs, Facilities, Resources, and Special Education Delivery in our Elementary Schools. The vision statements support equity of access and outcomes for all students, supported by a balance of evidence-informed and innovative instructional practices. All schools will be accessible and include flexible and specialized learning environments to support diverse learning needs. Although we are working toward a preferred structure of K-8 schools to reduce the number of transitions that students experience, we recognize local needs as well. Our elementary schools will intentionally build family and community engagement to support students. Core programs will be offered in all schools and some schools in the district will also host programs to meet specialized or interest based learning needs, such as Autism or French Immersion Programs. Schools that are safe, inclusive, and welcoming support environments that promote learning and teaching.

Our Elementary Program Strategy rethinks the way we offer programs and build or renew facilities. While we continue to provide students with foundational knowledge and skills (ie. Mathematics and Literacy), our staff will support students to develop those skills required in life beyond school (eg. problem solving, critical literacy, and higher order thinking).

The Elementary Program Strategy is an overview of our programs and/or supporting strategies that inform our daily work in our schools. It provides the vision the Board has for elementary education in terms of program delivery K – 8. (eg. program offerings, reporting and assessment, positive school climate, special education , French Immersion, English as a Second Language).

The Elementary Program Strategy includes the HWDSB vision statements outlined in the attached report. Program delivery in HWDSB elementary schools is essentially mandated by the Ministry of Education in accordance with curriculum documents. We have also addressed the core conditions for learning and enhancements through a number of focus areas including Special Education, Mental health, Positive School Climate, English as a Second Language Programming, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Programming, Math, Arts, French as a Second Language, and our facilities.

This strategy is in alignment with three of HWDSB's new priorities, Positive Culture and Well-being, Student Learning and Achievement and School Renewal.

Recommendations are outlined in this report in the following areas:

1. Specialized Learning Programs – criteria for continuing a program based on viability criteria
2. Instrumental Music – grade 7/8 – equity of access and facilities to continue support for this programming
3. Interventions/Special Education to ensure Educational opportunities and programming decisions for students will align with principles of:
  - Learning For All
  - Collaborative and Proactive Solutions
  - Tiered and Response To Intervention Model
  - Tiered Conditions of Well Being
4. Facilities – elementary design manual/ LTFMP





## EXECUTIVE REPORT TO PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**TO:** PROGRAM COMMITTEE

**FROM:** Manny Figueiredo, Director of Education

**DATE:** June 2, 2016

**PREPARED BY:** Executive Council

**RE:** Elementary Program Strategy

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Action ☒

Monitoring ☐

### **Recommended Action:**

That the Elementary Program Strategy recommendations for specialized programming, instrumental music, and interventions in special education be approved for consultation.

### **Background:**

As the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) revitalizes elementary schools, we continue to focus our efforts on creating the best learning conditions possible for our students to reach their full potential as life-long learners. While considering what education looks like in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, the Elementary Program Strategy (K-8) will reflect our commitment to strengthening conditions for learning, including building relationships, offering opportunities for all, and engaging students in the learning. Effective programs will be delivered in renewed facilities that reflect spaces for the programs being delivered.

### **Why an Elementary Program Strategy (K-8)?**

Our Elementary Program Strategy rethinks the way we offer programs and build or renew facilities. While we continue to provide students with foundational knowledge and skills (i.e. Mathematics and Literacy), our teachers will support students to develop those skills required in the 21<sup>st</sup> century (e.g. problem solving, critical literacy, and higher order thinking).

The Elementary Program Strategy is an overview of our programs and/or supporting strategies that inform our daily work in our schools. It provides the vision the Board has for elementary education in terms of program delivery K – 8. (e.g. program offerings, reporting and assessment, positive school climate, special education , French Immersion, English as a Second Language).

### **Our Vision**

The Elementary Program Strategy is based on seven (7) vision statements that provide the foundation for decision making regarding Curriculum, Programs, Facilities, Resources, and Special Education Delivery. The vision statements support equity of access and outcomes for all students, supported by a balance of evidence-based and innovative instructional practices. All schools will be accessible and include flexible and specialized learning environments, and although we are working toward a preferred structure of K-8 schools to reduce the number of transitions that students experience, we recognize local needs as well. Our elementary schools will intentionally build parent and community engagement to support students. Core programs will be offered in all schools and some schools in the district will also host programs to which all students may apply, such as French Immersion Language. Schools that are safe, inclusive, and welcoming support environments that promote learning and teaching.

### **ELEMENTARY PROGRAM STRATEGY VISION STATEMENTS**

Vision statements will guide decisions related to HWDSB Elementary Program Strategy:

<b><u>Vision Statement 1</u></b>	<b>All elementary schools provide equity of access and outcome.</b>
<b><u>Vision Statement 2</u></b>	<b>All elementary schools offer a balance of evidence-based and innovative instructional practices</b>
<b><u>Vision Statement 3</u></b>	<b>We will work toward a preferred structure of K-8 in our schools while recognizing local parent, student, and community needs.</b>
<b><u>Vision Statement 4</u></b>	<b>All elementary schools be accessible and include flexible and specialized learning environments.</b>
<b><u>Vision Statement 5</u></b>	<b>All elementary schools intentionally build parent and community engagement to support our students.</b>
<b><u>Vision Statement 6</u></b>	<b>All elementary schools provide core programs and some identified schools across the system will also offer focused programs.</b>
<b><u>Vision Statement 7</u></b>	<b>All elementary schools will be safe, inclusive, welcoming environments.</b>

Motion at Board Meeting on Monday, January 25, 2016:

**RESOLUTION #16-10:** Moved: That the committee report from December 10, 2015 be received and that the report from January 7, 2016 be approved, including: that the revised Elementary Program Strategy Vision Statements be approved to guide the development of the Elementary Program Strategy. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

**HWDSB STRATEGIES TO SUPPORT MINISTRY MANDATED CURRICULUM** - in alignment with three of HWDSB's new priorities, Positive Culture and Well-being, Student Learning and Achievement and School Renewal.



## **RECOMMENDATIONS:**

### **I. FOCUS PROGRAMS:**

**Recommendation:** That the currently existing focus programs listed below are maintained and reviewed every two years according to the criteria listed below.

Focus programs in our elementary schools are optional programs that had a specific criteria attached to them when they originally opened. Students from across the board can apply to enroll in a focus program, and may be accepted if space is available and they meet the criteria. Transportation is not provided for focus programs. HWDSB is not expanding the number of, or enrolment in these programs. The programs may be relocated if space in the host school is needed for in-catchment students. The elementary programs currently in existence are:

<b><u>PROGRAM</u></b>	<b><u>CURRENT LOCATION</u></b>
Hockey Program	Tapleystown
Mandarin (Language Transition Program)	Cootes Paradise
Sage	Strathcona
Sagequest	Ryerson
Sports Academy; Basketball	R.A.Riddell
Sports Academy	Hillcrest

These optional programs were originally based on specific interests with specific criteria. As teaching and learning have changed over the last several years in all of our schools and classes, the enrolments in these programs have varied greatly. HWDSB will conduct a review every two years to determine the continued interest and viability of the programs. The following criteria will be used for the review.

**Viability Criteria for Maintaining Optional Programs:**

- Program maintains the original intent /mandate of the program
- Sufficient student enrolment to assign a teacher
- Ontario Curriculum is embedded in the delivery model
- Feasibility of maintaining on-going operating costs, including fees to external organizations
- Continuation of exemplary program delivery and sustainability

**2. INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC**

**Recommendation:** That we continue to ensure instrumental music programming is offered at the grade 7 and 8 level in all elementary schools\*. This will include the provision of band instruments, appropriate facilities and qualified staff to deliver the program and will allow the equity of access for all intermediate students so that they can make an informed choice for music programming at the secondary level.

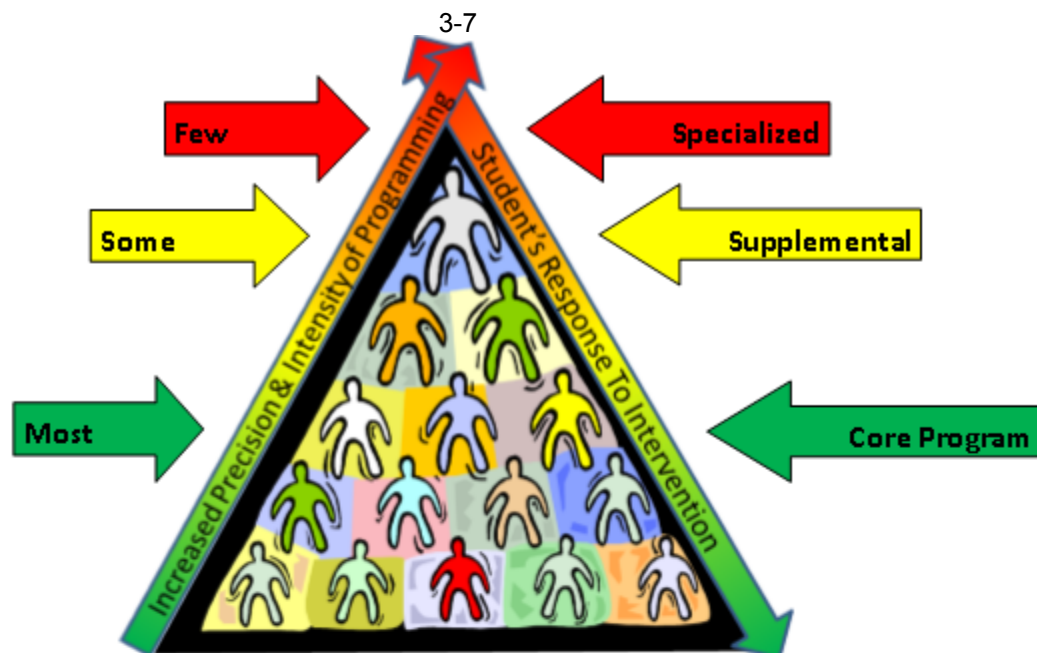
\*As outlined in the HWDSB Arts Strategy 2012-2013.

**3. INTERVENTIONS/SPECIAL EDUCATION:**

**Background:** Educational opportunities and programming decisions for students will align with principles of:

- Learning For All
- Collaborative and Proactive Solutions
- Tiered and Response To Intervention Model
- Tiered Conditions of Well Being

Whenever possible, students' needs will be met within their home school in the most integrated approach possible. Priority will be given to ensuring resources are allocated to supporting the literacy learning needs of our Kindergarten and Primary students.



## “DIVERSITY IS OUR STRENGTH – SPECIALIZATION OUR SERVICE”

We believe in a responsive, tiered and integrated approach where student and staff learning needs are supported and addressed by staff from within the school, district and community. We contribute to the creation of learning environments, opportunities and relationships that promote positive mental health and well-being for the success of all.



**Recommendation:** Specialized Programs, whenever possible, will be available within each family of school and become the “home school” of students placed within them. Pathways will exist within the host school to support the transitions out of a program and across divisions including the transition into a Secondary Program (e.g., Primary, Junior, Intermediate Autism Classes located in one school, feeding into designated Secondary Schools).

**Recommendation:** Every school will have shared spaces designated to support student needs, such as:

- Assessment and Intervention space (System Staff and Community Partners)
- Student Success space (For alternative programming, calming spaces, quiet setting)
- Sensory space
- Fitness space (Gross Motor Development)
- Calming space (Specialized locations only as determined by the Superintendent of Specialized Services)

#### **4. FACILITIES:**

The facilities department continues to refine standards for elementary school renewal and new schools. The goal continues to be to work toward all of our elementary schools reflecting the Ministry benchmarks for schools, including classroom size, gym size with change rooms, rooms for art and science, purpose built FDK spaces, accessibility standards, flexible learning spaces, etc. This will ensure that all schools, over time, will reflect conditions and environments that promote effective and efficient student learning and teaching spaces.

**Recommendation:** That Facilities Management continue to design new and renovated spaces aligned with the Elementary Program Strategy.

**Recommendation:** That Facilities Management use the information derived from the Elementary Program Strategy to assist in the completion and development of an Elementary School Design Manual.

**Recommendation:** That Facilities Management apply the findings of the Program Strategy to develop the Elementary School Facilities Benchmark Strategy that will assist in identifying the benchmark priorities for all elementary schools across HWDSB.