

### AGENDA: 5:30 pm

1. Call to Order and Land Acknowledgement
2. O Canada
3. Meeting Roll Call
4. Declarations of Conflict of Interest
5. Resolution Into Committee of the Whole (Private Session) as per the Education Act, Section 207.2 (b) the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee

### *Meeting Resumes in Public Session*

6. Report from: Committee of the Whole (private) – February 7, 2022
7. [Election Process – Trustee Vacancy Wards 1 & 2](#)
8. [Candidate Letters of Interest for Trustee Vacancy Wards 1 & 2](#)
9. Adjournment

Meeting times and locations are subject to change. Please refer to our website for the latest information.

<http://www.hwdsb.on.ca/trustees/meetings/>



## EXECUTIVE REPORT TO SPECIAL BOARD

**TO:** SPECIAL BOARD

**FROM:** John Bryant, Interim-Director of Education

**DATE:** February 7, 2022

**PREPARED BY:** Heather Miller, Officer of Trustee Services

**RE:** Election Procedure – Trustee Vacancy Wards 1 & 2

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Action ☒ X

Monitoring ☐

### **Recommended Action:**

That the Election Procedure be approved for the purpose of filling the Trustee Vacancy for Wards 1 & 2.

### **Election Procedure**

The following election procedure is designed to require that the successful candidate receives a majority (6) of the votes cast (except in the case of a tie).

Following the interviews conducted by the Board of Trustees with selected candidates:

- a. Voting be conducted by secret ballot. Due to meetings being electronic, votes will be submitted electronically to the identified scrutineer. All electronic records will be destroyed by the scrutineer at the end of each voting round.
- b. The Chair will announce the results of the vote, (who came first, who came second, etc. and if there was a tie) and there will be no disclosure of the number of votes cast for any candidate.
- c. That the following procedure for resolving tie votes be approved:
  - If no one receives a majority of the votes and a candidate receives no votes, the candidate who received no votes will be dropped from the next ballot.
  - If no one receives a majority of votes cast and there is a tie for last place (the candidate in last place would normally be dropped from the ballot), a draw will be conducted among the candidates who are tied and the candidate losing the draw will be dropped from the next ballot.
  - If there is a tie vote on the final ballot, the vote will be conducted once more before drawing lots (the Education Act requires the drawing of lots, Section 227).

Trustee Vacancy – Wards 1 & 2: Candidate Letters of Interest

\*listed in alphabetical order by first name\*

8A. Aize Smit

8B. Brian Gage

8C. Calvin Murphy

8D. Cameron Prosic

8E. Chelsea MacDonald

8F. Cynthia (Cindy) Stewart

8G. Elizabeth Wong

8H. Gisele Williams

8I. Ian Brisbin

8J. Jennifer Spleit-Landry

8K. Larry Pattison

8L. Megan Dickson

8M. Shari Good

8N. Tarek Jalbout

AIZE SMIT [REDACTED] Granton Street, Hamilton, ON [REDACTED]

Hamilton, January 29, 2022

To the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board  
re: Wards 1,2 Trustee Vacancy

To Whom it may concern,

A few days ago, I read in the Dundas Star that you are looking for a short-term trustee.

My relevant education is listed at the Ontario College of Teachers website:

<https://apps.oct.ca/FindATeacher/memberdetail?id=428787>

I have been a teacher...

- for about sixteen years in publicly funded schools, and also
- for about sixteen years in privately funded schools.

In the Hamilton and Grand-Erie areas I have taught high school classes for 14 years;

Before that, I taught in Alberta, Manitoba, and the Netherlands.

In the summer of 2007, my wife and I moved to Guangdong in China,

where we taught eight years, seven of these in a Manitoba accredited school.

After that we lived and worked for three years in my home town in The Netherlands so that we could give support to my aging parents, there.

Since the Fall of 2018, we live again in our house in West Hamilton (ward 1), purchased in 2001.

As of January, 2020, I have been available as registered on-call teacher with the Six Nations schools. I have been serving there at all levels from K-grade 8. (Recently, I have limited my availability for this to two days per week.) When COVID brought the first lockdown, I worked on a mathematics support website at einsteinhelps.ca.

In fact, I have always tried to make myself available to serve my community. Some other examples of volunteering include:

- as registrar for the Dutch 4-Dy Evening Walk in the Royal Botanical Gardens
- as first president of the Hamilton Missions thrift store
- as Math department head at two high schools
- as health & safety officer with the OSSTF teachers' federation at Grand-Erie schools
- as organizer and coach in various school clubs (like Big Brothers, Arduino)
- offering free language help to recent immigrants and refugees

with my wife:

- providing support and accommodation to an international student and several refugees
- as SISO volunteers for refugees from Liberia and Myanmar
- started a fund to help U.N. registered refugees to come to Hamilton, Canada

I hope to get an opportunity to serve this year as trustee for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

I desire to see that our public schools provide a safe and effective learning place for children/young people of any gender, skin color, ethnic background, and religious persuasion, Etc. All children matter! I have no intention to be a trustee for the long-term and will not run in the Fall election of this year..

Yours truly,

Aize Smit





## Letter of Interest

Let this serve as a letter of interest in serving the remainder of the term of service for the Trustee vacancy in Wards One and Two.

To help in your evaluation I have responded to the individual criteria you have listed.

### Passion for Kindergarten to Grade 12 public education.

I attended Central Public, Ryerson Senior Public and Westdale Secondary Schools. My two children attended Earl Kitchener, Ryerson Senior Public and Westdale SS. All of these schools are within Wards One and Two. There is a history of service to the Hamilton public school board within my family which I value and this is one reason for me to put my name forward for consideration. My great great grandfather Peter Gage taught at Bartonville Public School. My grandfather George Gage and my father Cameron Gage both served on the Hamilton Board. My great great aunt Hazel Gage Roberts was the founding president of the Women's Teachers Federation and my sister-in-law Beth Grosso currently teaches at Central Public. All these individuals were educated in, and believed in, the public education system. I share this belief. My interest is to try to ensure that every child receiving an education within the HWDSB receives the best education available anywhere.

### Interest and insights into Wards 1 & 2 community.

I have always been interested in the welfare of the community as it is where I have lived since I was a child, my children were raised here and I served as trustee in Ward One.

### Commitment to Truth and Reconciliation, as well as Equity, Diversity and Inclusion.

I am concerned that there may never be a true reconciliation but certainly I am committed to exposing the truth and seeking reconciliation. As to Equity, Diversity and Inclusion I am a person with a Scottish, Irish, English and German background who is married to an Italian. I have worked over 40 years in the water and wastewater industry which includes individuals from every nationality and colour and I have learned from experience that there is no justification for discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation, nationality, religion or colour. I do hope that the Board in their review of qualifications does not, by their own criteria for evaluation, discriminate against anyone.

### Diverse lived experience to represent the changing, diverse lived experiences of Hamiltonians.

I am not an immigrant nor a visible minority nor do I have a native background. I have never been homeless or been in want of food or housing but that does not mean I cannot be sensitive to the needs of those who have. Having been educated in public schools I have been exposed to others who have a diverse lived experience. That is perhaps the most important feature of public education and why I believe so strongly in public education.



Married for 38 years, my wife and I have raised two children who have been successfully launched after receiving a public education. My daughter Alessandra took a Bachelor of Arts and Science at McMaster and a MSc at Oxford University graduating with distinction. She now works in Rome for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN, specializing in helping third world countries achieve food and water sustainability. My son Robert completed a degree in Engineering and a Masters in Naval Architecture at UBC. He now works as a naval architect in Vancouver. I completed a degree in science at the U of T and I have been working in the water and wastewater treatment industry since 1979. I have owned and operated my own company, Aqua Technical Sales Inc., for the last 25 years.

I do have experience serving on four different Boards including serving as the Treasurer and President of Houselink Community Homes an organization in Toronto that supplies housing for ex psychiatric patients in a non-medical model. Half of the Board was composed of members of the community who were homeless and required these services. That experience led to a strong belief in the importance of making decisions by seeking consensus wherever possible.

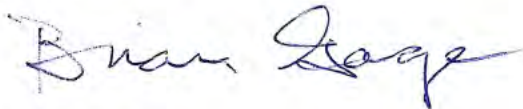
Previous board or public sector governance experience is an asset.

I served as a Trustee for Ward One alongside Judith Bishop in the last term of the Hamilton Board of Education. As only one person could serve for the ward in the following terms on the HWDSB I declined to run as I felt Judith Bishop was by far the best qualified to continue to serve. When Judith decided not to seek another term I ran. There were four men and one woman who ran. I came second ahead of the other men but behind Christine. For a breakdown of the votes see: <https://www.hamilton.ca/city-initiatives/municipal-election/2014-poll-by-poll-results-hwdsb-trustees>

Declaration that you will not run in the fall 2022 Trustee election, to avoid any real or perceived unfair advantage in the next election.

I do not intend to run in the next election but I do reserve the right change my mind.

Respectfully submitted



Brian Gage

Undermount Avenue



**From:** [Calvin Murphy](#)  
**To:** [Trustee Vacancy](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Interest  
**Date:** January 30, 2022 10:38:35 PM

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Dear Board of Trustees,

Thank you for the opportunity to apply to be a member of the board. My name is Calvin Murphy and I was born and raised in East Hamilton. I was fortunate to have grown up in the east end in a survey that was wonderfully diverse and representative of the diversity that is so unique to Canada. I grew up quite poor, but I was fortunate enough to have a loving single mother who took excellent care of me with support from our community. I went to school in French Emersion at Glen Echo and Glen Brae and then switched to the English stream and graduated from Glendale Secondary School. I then went on to attend McMaster University, where I graduated the Nursing program. While in school, I met my beautiful wife. After graduation, we got married and now have 4 wonderful children and recently celebrated our 10th wedding anniversary.

I started my nursing career with McMaster Children's Hospital Child and Youth Mental Health Program. I have been with the CYMHP for almost 12 years, serving youth under 18 on the inpatient unit and Mental Health Assessment Unit as a Charge Nurse. I have thoroughly enjoyed my experience working with youth and seeing how small kindnesses can have massive impacts on their lives. Ensuring youth are listened to, accepted and encouraged by adults can be such a powerful force to assist them towards a positive future. I have worked closely with schools and Mental Health and Addictions Nurses through the school board to assist youth in achieving their goals for their mental health and their education.

I am passionate about working for and with youth to help them achieve the best possible outcome for their health, education and life in general. I feel it is important to have adults that care about their well-being and who are ready and willing to put in the work required to help them achieve their goals in all aspects of their lives.

I feel that my knowledge and experience, both in my life and in my profession, would be excellent assets as a member of the Board of Trustees for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Calvin Murphy RN, BScN

# CAMERON PROSIC

West Ave N, Hamilton L8L5C7 | |

January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Board of Trustees  
Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board  
20 Education Court  
Hamilton, ON L9A 0B9

Dear Board of Trustees:

Thank you for taking the time to consider my application for the Wards 1 & 2 trustee vacancy. After tuning into the January 17<sup>th</sup> board meeting and hearing about Trustee Bingham's resignation, I saw an excellent opportunity to step up and support a community that has been so integral to me throughout my life.

Since my term as student trustee serving on the board from 2018 to 2020, I have continued to be heavily involved in the education system and committed to student voice through the Ontario Student Trustees' Association. Through the organization, I've gained invaluable experience supporting student leadership through my previous role as CEO from 2020-2021 and my current position on the Board of Directors acting as legal, regulatory, and financial support for the corporation.

For 13 out of my 14 years in the public education system, I attended HWDSB schools in Wards 1 & 2, attending Dr. J.E. Davey Elementary School and later Sir John A. Macdonald Secondary School. Through attending some of the most diverse schools in our district, I gained a passion for equity & diversity. I made it my goal to contribute to a learning environment where everyone feels comfortable, safe, and included. I achieved this in various ways, through my involvement at the board and provincial level and by remaining committed to supporting my peers at the school level by organizing spirit events, fundraisers, food drives, cultural fairs, and more.



Growing up below the Canadian poverty line, I gained an immense appreciation for equity in access to education and the contributions of those supporting it. My goal remains clear as it was as a student trustee; to create the best and most equitable education system possible for all Hamilton students. I worked to achieve this goal by becoming involved with both the school board and my local community, including the organizations that support it, such as CityKidz, Good Shepherd, and City of Hamilton Public Health, to name a few. Without the contributions of the dedicated staff at all levels of the HWDSB and those uplifting community support systems, I certainly would not be where I am today.

Through my extensive knowledge of board governance and school board operations, I hope to pick up the baton exactly where Trustee Christine Bingham left off and provide the Ward 1 & 2 community the support it needs to fulfill its full potential. I want to bring back the experiences I have gained since serving on the board, including founding and operating a large student contracting business employing eight full-time students, volunteering with the Ontario Student Trustees' Association, working as a Medical First Responder with St. John Ambulance supporting city emergency planning and the COVID-19 pandemic response for refugees, and working for the City of Hamilton in childcare.

Given my current status as a second-year student and lab support in the Department of Psychology, Neuroscience and Behaviour at McMaster University, while the role of trustee interested me, I do not currently intend to run in the next municipal election as the workload may be unpredictable alongside my academics. I hope to elaborate more on my qualifications, goals, and visions for this position to board trustees in an interview and eagerly await the board's response.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C Prosic', with a horizontal line underneath.

Cameron Prosic

Tuesday January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022**RE: HWDSB Wards 1 & 2 Trustee Vacancy**

To Whom It May Concern;

In the last few years, we have seen unprecedented changes and challenges surrounding our school system, impacting students, families, staff, and our greater Hamilton community. Recognizing the adversity and need to adapt that the HWDSB and our school communities have faced, the posting for HWDSB Wards 1 & 2 Trustee Vacancy serves as an excellent opportunity to bring another dedicated voice to the table. I was born and raised in Ward 1 and have been living in Ward 2 for the past six years.

I attended West dale Secondary Highschool which was the first high school that had a LGBTQ and straight ally alliance club (and one of the first out gay principles!) My lived experience as a non-binary person, in addition to my lived experience with mental illness, allows me to view many issues from a perspective that is outlined as a need in the posting. The resources I had been connected to through the HWDSB, dedicated staff, and community services has brought me to where I am today, and I would be honoured to have the opportunity to generate such an impact for students and those in our school communities today. Addressing barriers to accessible and equitably distributed education is something I hold dear as a priority personally and would extend as a priority as Trustee in this vacancy.

Having grown up as a HWDSB student in a low-income household, I have an acute understanding of how this can impact students and potentially hinder student achievement. My unique life circumstances will bring astute experience towards this position for the next eight months. As I believe any public official should, I pride myself in community engagement, involvement, and action. I have also been working and volunteering in the community for ten years now. Recent experience includes being a Crisis Intervention Worker for the Native Women's Centre. This brought daily learnings of indigenous lands, beliefs, ways of living and practices. I have carried with me these teachings I also gained leadership experience serving on the Sexual Assault Centre of Hamilton and Area's management committee, The Children's International Learning Centre Board of Directors, and the Hamilton Community Legal Clinic's board of directors as well.

As a young person looking to serve their community in big ways, I believe serving as HWDSB trustee for the remainder of the term will provide invaluable experience that would benefit the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board and our greater Hamilton community.

Please see my LinkedIn profile for further details of my experiences:

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/chelsea-m-67ba5583/>

Warmly,

Chelsea MacDonald.

[Redacted signature block]

**From:** [Cynthia Stewart](#)  
**To:** [Trustee Vacancy](#)  
**Subject:** Trustee Vacancy  
**Date:** January 31, 2022 2:57:53 PM

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Good Afternoon

My apologies for such a short notice on my interest in this position.

I'd like to introduce myself to you. My name is Cynthia Stewart. I'm a mother of two children in the HWDSB. One child is hard of hearing and has some delays due to medical reasons. However he's graduating grade 8 this year and I couldn't be more proud of him. My daughter is in grade 6. She's a caring giving child. Always welcoming new classmates. Never leaves a classmate by themselves. True heart of gold. Has won 2 awards this year for her big heart.

I take pride in the community service that we do as a family to give back to our community. I am a single parent who has struggled. And still struggles from time to time. At the end of the day my children have never felt they have ever gone without and that's because our community is amazing. We volunteer for Mountain Kidz Klub for years helping families put a smile on their faces in good times and hard times. I'm also a member of the 999th Legion for Child's Rights who help children and families get through their struggles of bullying.

Empowering children and families that they are loved.

I'm also on the board of directors for the Ear Community which is a global non profit organization that educates families who were born with a loved one who has Microtia (a condition my son was born with). I have hosted 4 picnics here in Hamilton that have brought families together. Hearing aid companies come and show off new hearing equipment. Surgeons explaining medical procedures to help with Microtia. The Hwdsb has always been a huge support and staff have always attended along with Members of Parliament. My children are all active members of all 3 organizations.

My son on his own is Knighted as a junior member of the Knights Templar's. He goes downtown on the last Sunday of the month to help feed the homeless. And the other Sundays he's out with them delivering food and supplies to those who need a little help.

I almost forgot that I've been an active vice chair for my school's parent council for years. Unfortunately not this year due to personal reasons.

I'd love to become a part of the HWDSB trustee family. I would love to help share my insights on how we as a team can help all our families. I'm blessed to be a parent in this amazing board of education. I'd love to give back and help more families.

Thank you so very much for your time and consideration. Look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely  
Cindy Stewart

[REDACTED]

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Cindy Stewart  
Ear Community Board of Directors  
[Earcommunity.org](#)

[REDACTED]



# ELIZABETH WONG

8G-1

Elizabeth Wong

January 30, 2022

To Board of Trustees,

Six years ago, I asked myself the question, why do I want to run for the role of Student Trustee? In my school years, I faced challenges such as school closures, lack of resources, and a lack of support in schools. Back then, I was driven by the desire to advocate for the voices of myself and my fellow students to improve the quality of our education. I realized that if I wanted to see change, I needed to use my voice to advocate for the voice of students.

It's for this reason that I am to be writing this letter to express my interest for the Wards 1 & 2 Trustee Vacancy at the HWDSB. I have grown up in Hamilton for my entire life and attended schools in the HWDSB from junior kindergarten all the way until grade 12. Back then, I recognized that change would not come to those who wait and I found opportunities to share the concerns of students. I want to continue what I started all those years ago and I want to be the mouthpiece of marginalized students and communities in the board.

In 2016-2017, I served as Student Trustee on the board where I represented the voices of students grade 7-12. Through this experience, I was able to gain experience participating in board meetings and understanding the different policies and procedures of the HWDSB. I was also able to gain valuable experience in understanding the structures and processes around the board. I chaired Student Senate with my fellow Student Trustee and implemented elementary Student Senate during my term.

My experiences as a Student Trustee influenced my decision to pursue a Bachelors of Art at McMaster University in Political Science and Labour Studies. My focuses within my areas of study are in gender, race, sexuality, ethnicity, and social inequalities. My focuses in my studies were geared around the experiences and challenges that I faced growing up in Hamilton. I wanted to gain a better understanding of how institutions and society perpetuated inequalities and why students faced a multitude of challenges. My studies have allowed me to gain critical skills and insights of how the social determinants influence education.

I also served as the Speaker of the McMaster Students Union where I chaired meetings of the Student Representative Assembly and acted as a bipartisan member of the McMaster Students Union. I was able to continue my learning in governance through this role and gain an enriched experience in understanding bipartisanship in politics and advocating for marginalized voices.

I believe that my various experiences make me qualified for the position of Trustee Vacancy for Wards 1 & 2. I am committed and want to advocate for students on a higher level. I want to ensure that the voices of marginalized communities are heard and I hope that I have the opportunity to advocate for them again at the board table.

Sincerely,  
Elizabeth Wong



30 January 2022

Hamilton Wentworth District School Board  
20 Education Ct,  
Hamilton, ON L9A 0B9

To the Members of the Board,

RE: Letter of Interest – Trustee for Wards 1&2

Please accept this submission as my letter of interest and my request in consideration for the position of Trustee of Wards 1 & 2 for the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board.

I am a French-Canadian, Métis single mother of two girls, one in university and one in her first (grade 9) year in the Glendale High School Fine Arts programme. I am a graduate of Brescia College at the University of Western Ontario (1983) earning a Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and of Fanshawe College (1984) earning a Legal Office Administration Certificate. I am one of the early ones to attend college after graduating from university and was a litigation law clerk for approximately 17 years, working for prominent trial counsel in Barrie, Hamilton and Burlington. Since 2001, I have been employed with the Ministry of the Attorney General and the Cities of Burlington and Brampton. For the past 18 years, I have worked as the Bilingual Court and Customer Representative for the City of Brampton. I work primarily as a courtroom clerk/monitor at the Ontario Court of Justice, Provincial Offences Court where I have the opportunity to interact with a spectrum of people with varying socio-economic backgrounds, ethnicities and cultures. That is what I do.

Who I am is a hard working individual who also does her best to support the community where I live. I have been a member of Classic Blend Ladies Barbershop Chorus since 2005 and perform throughout the Greater Hamilton Area. I particularly enjoy performing for the elderly in nursing homes and retirement residences. From 2011 to 2018, I was a member of the Board of Directors for the chorus and held the position of Chair of Fundraising. In 2014/2015, I was a member of the Conseil scolaire de district catholique Centre-Sud, comité des parents on behalf of the Mère Theresa family of schools in Hamilton. In February 2017, The Honourable Chad Collins MP, then a city counsellor, asked me to join the East Hamilton Food Centre Group to assist, plan, and execute the opening and operations of a volunteer based, community driven food bank to service those in need in east Hamilton. I was elected to the Executive Committee in late 2017 was appointed as Vice Chair in 2018. The food bank opened its doors to the public in early 2019. Since then, with the assistance of our service partner Mission Services of Hamilton, we continued to serve the community, with a break in services due to COVID-19 for approximately one year. Mission Services of Hamilton has recently assumed the day-to-day operations of the project on a fulltime basis. The



Executive Committee became redundant and was officially disbanded at the end of 2021.

My late father, Jean Felix Desmarais was a trustee with the HWDSB for many years. I am fully aware of the magnitude and scope of work expected from its board members. While I do not live in Wards 1 or 2 at present, I did grow up downtown in Ward 2. I have lived in the east end of the city for more than 35 years and remain a very proud Hamiltonian. I believe that elementary and secondary education provides the foundation to formal learning, the basis by which our children will launch into their adult lives. Whether a graduate continues on to attend university or college or go straight to securing employment, they should have learned the fundamentals that will carry them into adulthood. The children who do not make it through to high school graduation are a concern for the community at large. It is at school that we might learn what is holding the child back from achieving success. It is necessary to be 'in tune' to our children so that we can provide the support they need to ensure their personal success. With over 100 public schools within the governance of the Board and approximately 50,000 students in those schools, there is a significant amount of work required to ensure that each child receives a superior education experience in the time they are with us.

I have reviewed the qualification criteria of a School Board trustee as set out in the Education Act and I believe that I meet those qualifications. It would be my honour to serve the community at large by becoming, albeit on an interim basis, a trustee for the HWDSB. I declare, in accordance to the requirements of the posting, that I will not stand for election in the Fall 2022 election. I will abide by and do my best to meet all the expectations of the Board and be available to the community as their trustee.

If you require further information or wish to receive a comprehensive *curriculum vitae*, please do not hesitate to ask. I would like the chance to meet with the Board and am excited at the opportunity to continue supporting the Hamilton community as a Trustee with the HWDSB.

Respectfully submitted,

*Gisele L. Williams*

[REDACTED] Quigley Road  
Hamilton ON L8K 5N2  
[REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



IAN BRISBIN

Amelia Street, Hamilton, ON L8P 2V4  
[REDACTED]

January 31, 2022

Chair Danko; Vice-Chair Buck; and members of the HWDSB Board of Trustees:

I write to ask for your consideration to fill the Ward 1/2 Trustee vacancy on the current Board.

I have a consistent and extensive track record in the not-for-profit sector in leadership positions. I have the knowledge and ability to execute strong governance in many different settings, including as chair of one board with a budget of over \$13 million. As can be seen on my C.V., which I ask you to find attached, I have enthusiastically and actively participated in my community by working on issues that matter for many years.

My two children are HWDSB students, the elder in high school and the younger in middle school. Their journeys have provided me with a broad view of the challenges which face Ward 1/2.

As a member of the Board of Directors of the Hamilton Foundation for Student Success, and as chair for the past two years, I have developed a deeper understanding of the inequities in publicly-funded education. This is not a challenge unique to Hamilton. However, given systemic inequities such as those seen in the ground-breaking Code Red, Hamilton is a particularly stark case study of the effects of income disparity, race, and gender, amongst other factors upon school success.

I am strongly committed to the furtherance of principles of equity, diversity and inclusion, and if I am selected to fill this vacancy, it is my hope and expectation that this commitment will serve as my lighthouse, and a lens through which I will continually assess my own performance.

I am not a member of a historically disadvantaged group. That said, I have spent the last decade developing a profound understanding of the effects of mental health disability upon one's work. This is an issue of fundamental importance for me. I strongly believe that schools, like other workplaces and systems, must not only respond to outcomes and effects, but must also recognize causes, and translate recognition to policy.

I wish to offer myself for service. I do not seek the position for any other purpose, nor will I run in any capacity on October 24, 2022. I believe my knowledge of the HWDSB, Wards 1 and 2, and my extensive and oft-demonstrated commitment to serve my community through leadership uniquely situates me to fill this vacancy as seamlessly and steadily as possible.

Thank you for the opportunity to address you in writing, and I hope to be granted the opportunity to do so verbally as well.

Yours very truly,



Ian Brisbin

**From:** [Jennifer \[REDACTED\]](#)  
**To:** [Trustee Vacancy](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Intent for the Open Trustee Position - Wards 1 & 2  
**Date:** January 31, 2022 3:50:34 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am interested in applying for the Wards 1 and 2 school Trustee position currently available. As a parent of a school-aged child in the HWDSB, a life-long resident and engaged citizen of Hamilton, and an educator myself, I feel I would be extremely well-suited to this position. I grew up in the Hamilton public school system with my siblings and attended Westdale Secondary in Ward 1. Many of my friends and their families live in the area still and teach at Ward 1 and 2 schools and have their children attending these schools. I currently live just a few minutes away on Upper James and plan to return to the lower central/west city in the near future. I have a vested interest in the growth, success and care of our schools, our students, and our community at large. I care about the future.

As an educator, I have served in a number of roles locally. I was an itinerant teacher for the HWDSB strings program from 2006-2011, teaching at 12 different elementary schools in Wards 1 and 2 on a weekly basis. I am currently the music director of the Bel Canto Strings Academy where I teach music classes to children and youth of all ages. From 2011-2016 my studio was located on York Blvd in Ward 1, and the majority of my students still live in these areas. I also teach part-time at Mohawk College for the music program and at an International private school in ward 2 (Southern Ontario Collegiate) as a highschool English teacher and course creator. I have a strong understanding of the Ministry of Education curriculum guidelines and the "Growing Success" documents which detail differential learning for all learners to demonstrate achievement, the triangulation of assessment and and the embedding of financial literacy and Indigenous history into all courses.

I take a strong stance on the subjects of diversity, inclusion, equity and equal opportunity. I believe all people and all learners are entitled to the supports that will help them achieve their best and feel their best. I support the Indigenous peoples of Canada and the Truth and Reconciliation Act. I have invited Indigenous artists to collaborate with my students and present seminars and I learn and teach about Indigenous music traditions and the disgrace of the Residential schools system. I have been involved with the Hamilton Black History council's annual Black History month events and the John Holland scholarship awards, guiding and providing student performances. I lead annual Black History month lessons in all my classes and strive for diversity in the composers, music, poets, authors we study year-long. In March of 2020, I hosted an event entitled Celebrating Black Composers at Mohawk College's McIntyre Performing Arts Centre, bringing together youth from my music studio, professional staff at Mohawk and college students, and over 1000 audience members.

The future of our schools, our education system, and our children is paramount to me. I would be honoured to be a part of it's development, care and accountability.

Sincerely,  
Jennifer Spleit-Landry

Jennifer Spleit-Landry, Director  
Bel Canto Strings Academy  
[www.belcantostrings.ca](http://www.belcantostrings.ca)





**Letter of Interest for the Position of [Wards 1 & 2 Trustee](#)**

Thank you all for the opportunity to apply for the vacant position of Wards 1 & 2 Trustee.

As a former Ward 3 Trustee from 2014-2018, many of my constituents attended schools within the Wards 1 & 2 boundary whether it was for elementary, secondary, specialized student services, or for french immersion programming.

With one of my schools also falling within the West Hamilton City Pupil Accommodation Review, I had the opportunity to get to know many Wards 1 & 2 schools through this process which would later include discussions around the community hub plan at SJAM, as well as introducing french immersion programming at Bennetto and any post PAR processes related to this move.

Other issues I was involved with included hydro upgrades adjacent to Dr. Davey, the debate about parents on the playground following the abduction at Earl Kitchener, to the issues with principal funding at Glenwood school which was one of the first facilities I toured as a new Trustee advocating for special needs programs and services.

Through these experiences, my step-daughter attended Earl Kitchener, and as a former Ward 1 resident, I have made many connections and am very familiar with the area. I have also lived in the lower city most of my adult life, and Hamilton as a whole for all but five years.

As a Trustee, I sat on many committees during my four years in this position including FNMI, SAL, and the IEC (Indigenous Education Circle) for which I still remain as a community member today.

Post elected life, I have had a lot of time to grow my learning and have read many books that discuss BIPOC and Jewish histories and experiences over the past few years so although I have never had formal EDI training, my committee work and

continued personal development mean I am very familiar with the challenges our families struggle with every day. Phone calls, coffee chats, and one-on-one encounters in the community through my volunteer work, having run two campaigns for office both municipally and federally, and my four years of elected service have also helped open my mind to the gaps that exist across all equity seeking groups across all of our systems.

I imagine it is very likely that most if not all board and committee meetings will be remote for the remainder of this board which has also been the case for my current employment since the pandemic began. I am proficient with technology so that coupled with my previous board experience makes this transition back into this role a fairly smooth one. I have followed the issues closely these past few years; you can take the person out of the role but not the role out of the person.

With three children still active within HWDSB, as a hockey and baseball coach to many HWDSB kids, I care deeply about the outcomes of the children of Hamilton and especially about their mental and physical wellness through lockdowns and disconnections from their peers and the activities they are passionate about.

Aside from my previous board experience, I am employed by Cogeco Connexion and work in Ward 4 in Hamilton. I have been with Cogeco for nearly 24 years now and as part of my role as Fibre Network Administrator, I work with various internal departments and external partners as part of my position of overseeing the Ontario intercity fibre network. I also serve as a point of contact for these partners and support them in their requests to understand and access the information I am the steward of so working with people on a day-to-day basis is already part of my everyday life.

As a former Trustee, I realize the extra pressures put on those that take on this critical role within our community outside of their full-time employment and family responsibilities. You not only engage in two or three public meetings each month, but you also sit on committees, attend community events, spend countless hours reading

over and commenting on materials that exec council prepare for you, work with your colleagues to put together notices of motion, deal with media and social criticisms, and basically fill a role similar to your full-time council counterparts. On top of that, you also have to answer your own phone calls and emails, follow up with staff, and track the process through to ensure, whether there was a resolution or not, that the result has been addressed back to your constituents. It's a lot to take on but once a balance between all of these aspects of the role has been found, the work can be very rewarding and a great personal and professional experience.

In the community, I am a head coach at the Scott Park Baseball Association and the Hamilton Girls Hawks Hockey Association, as well as Managing Editor of The Point Community News. I also started a Halloween event for single families in 2014 so that they could have an opportunity to enjoy a Halloween-like event a week before Halloween when their parenting or work schedules would otherwise mean missing out on these memorable family moments. Many past and current Trustees have been a part of this event over the years as well.

In closing, you won't just be getting past experience including previous connections to many Ward 1 & 2 schools, staff, and families, you would be welcoming someone with a real passion for this work - eager to advocate on behalf of the Ward 1 & 2 community and Hamilton students as a whole, and to build strong relationships with associated elected offices, school and exec staff, and my Trustee colleagues to ensure the best possible outcomes for our students and their families.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Larry Pattison

Linkedin: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/larrypattisonjr/>

Lives in Crown Point West, Ward 3

**Letter of Declaration**

RE: 2022 Municipal Election

This letter is to declare that I, Larry Pattison, will not run for the position of Wards 1 & 2 Trustee in the 2022 Municipal Election. Doing so would mean I would have the advantage of running as an incumbent for a position I was not elected to through a democratic electoral process.

Although I understand that I am not legally bound by this promise, I do respect and support these common asks of candidates applying to fill elected positions left vacant mid-term.

Regards,

Larry Pattison

Candidate for the open position of Wards 1 & 2 Trustee

**From:** [Megan Dickson](#)  
**To:** [Trustee Vacancy](#)  
**Subject:** Letter of Interest - Wards 1 & 2 Trustee Vacancy  
**Date:** January 31, 2022 9:35:21 PM

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To whom it may concern,

I am interested in being considered for the vacant position of Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Trustee for Wards 1 and 2. To assist in your determination of whether I am a suitable candidate for the role, I provide the following information.

As a parent of a young child currently receiving their education in the HWDSB, I am increasingly engaged in the HWDSB system, both at the classroom and school levels, as my child progresses through their education. Through my experience with my child's education, I have recognized the importance of having dedicated, engaged, interested people involved in the HWDSB system at all levels, and I hope to be one of those people, as a Trustee. I am passionate about working with the HWDSB Board of Trustees to ensure that the HWDSB provides a curriculum that is relevant to all students and ensures that all schools, and all classrooms within those schools, have inclusive learning and working environments.

I have lived in Hamilton for the majority of my life and have first hand experience as a HWDSB student, as I completed all of my education from kindergarten to Grade 12 in HWDSB schools.

Although I do not currently live in Ward 1 or Ward 2, at times as an adult, I have lived in both Ward 1 and Ward 2, and therefore have an understanding of the community in both of those wards.

I also have an understanding of the community in Ward 2, through my extensive volunteer experience with Ward 2's North Hamilton Community Health Centre (NHCHC) (now branded Compass Community Health). I was a volunteer, in various roles, with the NHCHC from 2003 to 2015. Every volunteer position that I held with the NHCHC included work in programs with children who resided in Ward 2 and often that work involved extensive interaction with their caregivers. As a result, I have an understanding of many of the needs of Ward 2 children and their caregivers, and the barriers that those children may face which prevent them from participating in an inclusive learning experience, barriers which have heightened during the COVID-19 pandemic.



I also have experience with the residents of Ward 1 and Ward 2 as I was a volunteer fitness instructor with the Hamilton Downtown YMCA from 2012 to 2015. The Downtown YMCA is located in Ward 2 and serves residents of all Wards, especially Ward 1.

I have experience with municipal governance, through my volunteer work on the Hamilton Future Fund Board of Governors, a position which I have held since 2011. The experience that I have gained with the Future Fund Board of Governors has provided me with a knowledge of municipal board process and governance that would benefit me in a role as a HWDSB Trustee.

I have been employed in Investigative positions in public service for the province of Ontario since 2004. My work as an employee of the public service, in investigative roles, has provided me with extensive experience interpreting and enforcing provincial legislation. I am currently employed as an Investigator with the Emergency Health Regulatory and Accountability Branch of the Ministry of Health, and have previously been an Investigator with Ombudsman Ontario and with Ontario's Special Investigations Unit. All of my work as an investigator for the province of Ontario has involved interpreting and enforcing provincial legislation and frequently has also involved interpreting municipal bylaws and municipal practices and procedures governing the same investigated agencies, including municipal police and ambulance services. I have found my work experience valuable in my role on the Future Fund Board of Governors and believe that my work experience interpreting and applying legislation and my awareness of municipal bylaws, practices and procedures has provided me with knowledge and experience which is applicable and valuable to the role of Trustee.

I am committed to Truth and Reconciliation, and have work experience related to concerns raised about provincial residential schools, through my work at Ombudsman Ontario. I am committed to advocating for diversity, inclusion and equity in the HWDSB and to ensuring that the Board continues to work to provide all HWDSB students and employees with safe, supportive, experiences in our educational system.

Thank you for considering me for the position of Trustee.

Sincerely,

Megan Dickson

**From:** [Shari Good](#)  
**To:** [Trustee Vacancy](#)  
**Subject:** Trustee application  
**Date:** January 31, 2022 1:18:04 PM  
**Attachments:** [Resume Shari Good.pdf](#)

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To Whom It May Concern,

I am very interested in speaking with you further about the Trustee position and have attached my resume. I am a highly qualified special education teacher/consultant who has advocated fiercely for marginalized students and their families both within board as well as with outside agencies and social services. My case coordination experiences have trained me to effectively mediate and problem solve extremely challenging situations with all stakeholders - staff, parents, students and administrators. As well, I have received intensive training about mental illness, all disabilities, poverty, safety planning, crisis prevention and threat assessment. I have also done extensive research and training on healthy relationships, abuse prevention, and parenting and worked extensively with impacted students and families. Teaching effective mental health strategies, realistic goal setting and successful transition planning has been a major focus.

I have recently retired from a rewarding career with York Region District School Board as a Special Education Resource Teacher and Intervention Consultant, working with students and families with a range of exceptionalities and circumstances, some unimaginable. I feel exceptionally well suited for this position as my skills and expertise are in case coordination, special needs programming, mental health accommodations, transition support and crisis intervention. Being able to work with students, families, staff and Multi-Disciplinary Teams, including mental health professionals and outside agencies matches your criteria for this position extremely well. I have studied and taken numerous courses and have received specialized training in working with abused, bereaved (by divorce, death, and/or abandonment) children and their families, particularly mothers. I also have suicide prevention (ASIST) training. I have taught parenting classes, emphasizing the importance of healthy partnerships and relationships. The human cost and impact of poor relationships and dysfunctional families has been my focus for decades. I have often assisted mothers with accessing support, food, a women's shelter, and various local services.

In addition, I am able to support and assist individuals of any age with varied teaching strategies and program accommodations as required. Powerful and effective teaching and supporting students are strengths and I am able to do so in an encouraging and supportive manner. I am results-oriented and capable of creating realistic and functional learning goals and accommodations that support individuals in the most effective way possible.

Please see my attached resume and Linked In profile for further details about my work experience. Feel free to contact me if you have any questions or need additional information and references. I have been a Westdale resident since 2018.

Sincerely,  
Shari Good



Linked In: <https://www.linkedin.com/in/shari-good-08a1401a2>

Hello, Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board Trustees and Staff:

Please accept this letter of interest to be the interim Trustee for Wards 1 and 2 for the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board. I would make a strong candidate for Trustee based on my background and upbringing, experience in education and community-building and my qualifications.

### **Background and Upbringing**

My name is Mohammad Tarek Jalbout (I go by Tarek) and I was born in a Palestinian Refugee Camp in Damascus, Syria. When I was seven, my parents' application for refugee status was approved by Canada and my family moved to Canada, settling in Hamilton. As part of my upbringing, education and the focus on studies has been the forefront of priority for my family and me. From a very young age, I was taught that focusing on education would be my path to success in Canada. I'm proud to have attended public schools and feel that the experiences that I had in public school set me up for a life that would later prove to be successful. My goal would be to bring my background and upbringing, mixed with the focus on education with me to my role of interim Trustee to help all students in HWDSB Wards 1 and 2 achieve success for their futures.

My background and upbringing help me bring a unique perspective related to equity, diversity and inclusion. As an Arabic-speaking refugee in a new country, I empathize with the struggles that new Canadians and Immigrants have to deal with. Further, as a long-standing and proud Canadian, I can bring a perspective on what helped me be successful and ensure we're supporting our most vulnerable communities to be successful as well.

I believe that Truth and Reconciliation are verbs and the best way for engagement with first nations is by direct communication. I have been proactive in getting my daughters (ages 10, eight, and six) to communicate and hear directly from first nations people. We visit the Six Nations of the Grand River Reserve often and have dialogue and learn from the community. My experience and engagement with first nations communities will help ensure a lens towards Truth and Reconciliation from me.

### **School and Community Experience**

I believe I would make a strong candidate to be interim trustee based on my community-building efforts along with my professional experience. My community experience spans across both the local community organization in Stinson, where I helped initiate and lead a local community BBQ that brought together the community for a free BBQ and entertainment in Carter Park (located in Ward 2). The BBQ has been a passion of mine for several years and it had been running until the pandemic emerged.

In addition to community experience, I'm active in my daughters' school parent council at Queen Victoria Elementary School, also located in Ward 2. For the past three years I have been co-chair of the parent council focusing on helping grow the number of attendees that come to each meeting, organizing parent meet-and-greets, as well as working to help build a better outdoor play area for the students. I have love and passion for my Stinson and Queen Victoria communities and I'd bring that passion with me, should I serve as interim trustee.

This experience will help me get up to speed fast should I be selected as trustee by understanding HWDSB meeting procedures and protocols.

**Professional Experience**

In addition to my school and community experience, I have a strong work background as a Client Account Director for Salesforce, a fast-growing technology company where I have worked for the past 10 years. At Salesforce I lead a team of Engineers, Success Managers, Business Developers and others to align on a common goal and approach to our jobs. In my role, I need to help hire, motivate and ensure all stakeholders are working towards a common goal. I've learned throughout my professional tenure that every individual is different and I need to differentiate my approach based on the personality of the individual that I'm working with. This experience will be valuable as I understand that as Trustee, I will work with a variety of different people and personalities and I would need to tailor my approach in how I work with folks to ensure a meaningful engagement takes place.

Finally, I declare that should I have the honour to represent Ward 1 and 2 on an interim basis, I would not seek to run in the election this fall for Trustee.

Thank you for reviewing my letter of intent for the Wards 1 and 2 interim Trustee position. I hope to hear from you soon.

Tarek Jalbout