

HWDSB

PIC Meeting
 December 9th, 2025
 Minutes

Members Present (22): Adriana Baker, Mani Bhandari, Kailey Crowther, Andrea Hamilton-Coulson, Heather Lambert-Hillen, Amanda Levesque, Amanda Lloyd, Tim Louks, Amanda Neale-Robinson, Heidi Oglesby, Meghana Oza, Mike Palma, Michele Quinn, Christine Sandor, Leora Sas Van Der Linden, Danielle Schwalm, Emma Simpson, Cindy Stranak, Leigh Ann Sutherland, Jeffrey Sykes, Lisa Veloce, and Terry-Ann Virtue. Trustees Kathy Archer, Amanda Fehrman and Abby Zaitley.

Regrets (9): Matthew Adams, Kristina Collier, Kruti Desai, Cheryl Hue, Mohamed Khamis, Sue-Anne MacQuarrie, Vanessa Ozer, Meagan Shanahan, and Damian Kalu Ude.

Agenda Item	Decision/Action Taken	Person(s) Responsible
Call to Order	The meeting was called to order at 6:35 PM.	Amanda Lloyd
Land Acknowledgment		Paul Denomme
Approval of the Agenda	<p>Heather Lambert-Hillen/Adriana Baker moved to add a moment of silence in honour the passing of former HWDSB Trustee Judith Bishop, who was an advocate for students, children, youth and families across the district. A moment of silence took place.</p> <p>Heather Lambert-Hillen/Amanda Levesque moved that the amended agenda be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>	Heidi Oglesby
Superintendent Lemaire and Team-Overview of Secondary and Elementary Programs e.g. SHSM, Outdoor Education with interactive stations.	<p>Learning Opportunities at HWDSB: K-12 including ESL/ELD Programming, Experiential Learning, FSL/FI Programming, Outdoor Education, STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, Mathematics) opportunities. There are 6 focus programs: Basketball, High Performance, Mandarin, Sage, SageQuest and Hockey. Secondary includes Co-op, Dual Credit, OYAP and SHSM (Specialist High Skills Major). Dynamic & Experiential Learning: HWDSB offers a K–12 approach featuring hands-on, reflective, and land-based learning (e.g., STEAM, Makerspaces, TakeTech, 13 Moons Teachings), engaging 7,000+ students and 200+ educators in 2024–25. Pathway Programs: Students can explore multiple pathways through Co-op, Dual Credit, OYAP, and SHSM—with thousands participating annually (e.g., 2,500+ Co-op students, 540 Dual Credit credits earned, 804 OYAP participants, 701 SHSM graduates). Outdoor & Land-Based Learning: Partnerships with organizations like RBG and Green Venture support</p>	Superintendent Lemaire and Team

experiential, nature-based learning across HWDSB schools, with a new Outdoor Design Manual underway.

Student Pathway Planning: Students in Grades 7–12 use myBlueprint for IPP (Individual Pathway Planner) planning—goal-setting, course selection, portfolio building—with access to the Career Launch Digital Conference.

Program Availability Across Schools: Every secondary school offers Co-op, SHSM, OYAP, Outdoor Ed, Core French, and Experiential Learning, while some schools offer ESL/ELD, French Immersion, IB, ArtSmart, ABPA, and self-paced programs.

Some of the questions/suggestions/comments:

What about robotics and outdoor education?- Robotics is school based. Schools have the ability to apply for outdoor education funds.

What is IPP- Individual Pathway Planner.

Where can parents find information on how to apply for an out of catchment high school (not for specific program but for a specific high school)? - You would apply for programs. Students would go to their catchment secondary schools if they were not looking for a program. Out of catchment information is posted each year on the board web site.

How to access my Blueprint? – Students: Students.hwdsb.on.ca- myblueprint, Parents: Parent Portal.

Is transportation provided to these specific program locations by the system? Transportation is provided to only certain programs.

How do you determine which schools will host these programs? Programs are placed in different areas across the Board based on identified needs over time.

Do you offer transportation for SHSM programs outside of a student’s catchment school? No. Transportation is not provided for SHSM programs located outside a student’s designated catchment area.

Sharing and Accessing Information:

Guidance counsellors can provide families with specific details about available programs—including locations and examples such as SHSM.

Information about school-based programs is shared with families through multiple channels, including:

- A Welcome to High School guide that outlines program offerings
- Updated and current information posted on the HWDSB website
- Information nights hosted by schools
- The Teams school-to-school visits to present program options
- Career fairs and other school/community events

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	The Pathway Team is constantly in conversation with Universities, Colleges, Employers about programing, placements, funding etc.	
Superintendent Smith- Human Rights and Equity Action Plan	<p>An overview was given of the Human Rights and Equity Action Plan and highlighting the Human Rights Policy, which reinforces dignity, respect, acceptance, and freedom from discrimination across all learning and working environments. The plan is grounded in four guiding principles—Indigenous Educational Wellness and Reconciliation, Human Rights, Collective Responsibility, and Accountability and Transparency—and identifies key priorities and commitments.</p> <p>The Committee learned about the paddle and the helm through an Indigenous wellness framework, emphasizing ethical space and collaboration between Indigenous and non-Indigenous worldviews in creating supportive learning conditions. These slides also highlight equity, aligned classroom visuals. HWDSB also has a Top 5 lesson series that promotes safe and inclusive environments, and a reflection tool to support student voice. The section concludes with the Reimagining Wellness initiative, additional human rights focused resources including the Responding to Bias, Prejudice and Hate Tool, and promotional materials for Human Rights Day on December 10, 2025.</p>	Superintendent Smith
Declaration of conflict of interest	None.	Amanda Lloyd
Approval of Minutes	<p>Mike Palma/Tim Louks moved that the PIC Minutes from November 11, 2025, be approved.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>	Heidi Oglesby
Welcome	2025-2026 Trustees Archer, Fehrman and Zaitley.	Amanda Lloyd
Discussion-Formation of Subcommittee to Review PIC Bylaws	<p>The Chair informed the Committee that PIC requires two-thirds vote in favour of a Bylaw review in order to form a subcommittee and proceed with the review.</p> <p>Heather Lambert-Hillen/Tim Louks moved that PIC form a subcommittee to review the Parent Involvement Committee Bylaws.</p> <p>The motion failed: In Favour 17 and Abstained 3.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p>	Amanda Lloyd
PRO Grant Funding	Report PRO Grant 2025-2026	Paul Denomme

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 58 Applications- Asked for \$1000.00- Each Approved at \$806.00- \$46,748.00. • 2 Applications- Asked for \$500.00- Each Approved at \$500.00- \$1000.00. • 1 Application- Asked for \$750.00- Approved at \$750.00 - \$750.00. <p>Totals:</p> <p>Applications- 61 Funding Asks- \$59,750.00 Funding Available- \$48,500.00 Funding Allocated- \$48,498.00 Remaining- \$2.00</p> <p>Top Projects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Family Learning & Engagement Series (Parent Education Sessions, Literacy, and Numeracy) • Community Connections Events (Social Gatherings: Bring Community Together, Socials, and Community Celebrations) • STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art, and Math) & Academic Discovery Nights • Wellness & Well-Being Initiatives • Celebrating Arts & Culture (Arts, Cultural Festivals, and Indigenous Education Activities) 	
Reports	<p>A) Trustees- Trustee Fehrman</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acknowledgement: Former HWDSB Trustee Judith Bishop (1988-2014), Wards 1&2. <p>Board Updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Maria Felix Miller (Ward 3) re-elected as Chair for 2025-2026. <p>• Committee Chairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Policy- Sabreina Dahab ○ Program- Amanda Fehrman ○ Finance & Facilities- Paul Tut ○ Human Resources-Dawn Danko ○ Governance-Trustee Buck <p>• EQAQ Results: Released by the Minister of Education; available on EQAO website. Trustees reviewing results with Superintendents.</p> <p>Program Strategy Review: Initiated in 2024; final report completed by Malatest, to be presented to Program Committee on Dec. 11. Guiding Principles will be drafted and return for further discussion to the Program Committee in February, with recommendations in May 2026.</p> <p>B) Representative Committee Reports</p> <p>French as a Second Language Advisory Committee- Amanda Lloyd- noted that the committee is seeking a</p>	

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	<p>representative from PIC and Kailey Crowther to reach out to the Committee.</p> <p><u>Hamilton-Wentworth Council of Home & School Associations</u></p> <p>Heather Lambert-Hillen noted that the next meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2026. They are pleased to welcome Trustee Graeme Noble as the Board representative.</p> <p>The Association is working on hosting a Conference on May 1, 2026, which will be held in Hamilton.</p>	
Reminders	<p><u>School Council Networking Session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• January 13, 2026, 6:00- 8:00 PM• Education Centre <p><u>PIC Meeting</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• February 10, 2026, 6:30-8:30 pm• Education Centre/MS Teams.	Amanda Lloyd
Adjournment	<p>Amanda Levesque/Heidi Oglesby moved that the meeting be adjourned.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">CARRIED.</p> <p>The meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.</p>	Amanda Lloyd