

**Pilon, Janet**

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**From:** clerk@hamilton.ca  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 8:29 PM  
**To:** Pilon, Janet  
**Subject:** Fw: Urgent - Protect Our Students HWDSB!

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**From:** Hannah . [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Monday, June 8, 2020 3:35 PM  
**To:** clerk@hamilton.ca  
**Subject:** Fwd: Urgent - Protect Our Students HWDSB!

To the HWDSB Community,

I am emailing to demand the suspension of the Police Liaison Program in the Hamilton Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB) and demanding that the HWDSB end their relationship with the Hamilton Police. With the recent termination of police partnerships in Minneapolis, Portland and in the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), I believe that this is entirely possible and must be done to protect the safety and lives of Black students not only when Black death is viral, but rather at all times. Black, Indigenous and Racialized students deserve to be safe in their schools and the removal of police presence is the first step towards this. I was a student in the HWDSB for 14 years of my life and I have seen how dangerous the Hamilton Police are for our students across the board first hand. My friends and family who are teachers within the board can attest to this as well.

Although the Police Liaison Program is different from the TDSB SRO program, they result in the same type of intimidation tactics. Officers are not *stationed* at schools, but rather they are called into schools at the discretion of the administrators. There is no regulation for how often officers enter schools, and they are often used as the muscle of principals/ teachers. The HWDSB Kids Need Help coalition recently released a report with HCCI that details student experiences of discomfort, intimidation and racism at the hands of police. The group also released demands for the school board to terminate this program on June 2nd with a coalition of Black and Racialized organizers across Hamilton.

The Ontario Human Rights Commission has previously described Hamilton Police as engaging in a "textbook description of racial profiling." It is deeply concerning to me that students are exposed to these practices in their schools and in Hamilton.

**I want to be clear: I am not asking for the regulation of this program -- I am asking for the termination of this program and the termination of the HWDSB's relationship with the Hamilton Police Service.**

Organizers in Hamilton and across Ontario have been advocating for the termination of student liaison programs across the entire province. Just as anti-Black racism has been found to be pervasive in the Peel District School Board. I am confident that the same issues and struggles exist in the HWDSB today. If the HWDSB is serious about protecting their Black, Indigenous and Racialized students, then the HWDSB must terminate this program immediately.

We will be tuning in to both the June 8th and June 22nd board meetings to hold you accountable on your decisions.

Thank you,

Hannah Duckworth

**Pilon, Janet**

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**From:** clerk@hamilton.ca  
**Sent:** Thursday, June 18, 2020 11:26 AM  
**To:** Pilon, Janet  
**Subject:** Fw: Social Workers in Schools

Janet - should this go to council?

M

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**From:** M Gray [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2020 2:23 PM  
**To:** clerk@hamilton.ca  
**Subject:** Fwd: Social Workers in Schools

Begin forwarded message:

**From:** M Gray [REDACTED]  
**Date:** June 7, 2020 at 9:31:31 AM EDT  
**To:** "Nrinder.Nann@hamilton.ca" <Nrinder.Nann@Hamilton.ca>  
**Subject:** Social Workers in Schools

Hello Councillor;

I am a Ward 3 resident and I believe Social Workers not police officers should be working with students in our schools.

Thanks,

Melody Gray  
[REDACTED]

## Pilon, Janet

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**From:** clerk@hamilton.ca  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2020 11:28 AM  
**To:** Pilon, Janet  
**Subject:** Fw: Police Presence in Hamilton Schools

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**From:** Emily Upper [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 5:40 PM  
**To:** hwdsbkidsneedhelp@gmail.com  
**Subject:** Police Presence in Hamilton Schools

To the board of trustees,

My name is Emily Upper. I am a librarian and I live in Ward 2. I am concerned about the presence of police in schools. The board of trustees' decision to not terminate the Police liaison program and further, the decision to not suspend the police liaison program while it is under review despite school closures due to COVID 19, is deeply concerning.

The conversation around needing more data is ignoring the data that racialized and Black students have been collecting for years. It is actively ignoring the voices of some of our most vulnerable students. In the Toronto District School Board (TDSB), following the termination of the SRO (School Resource Officer) program, suspensions for the 2018/2019 school year dropped by 24% with 1,771 fewer suspensions as the previous year and expulsions dropped by 53% with 34 fewer expulsions. Police officers in schools intimidate and harass Black, racialized, poor, immigrant, queer, trans, disabled, poor and immigrant students.

In Hamilton, Black youth in the city are being carded in their schools. Black students are being wrongfully arrested and are unsafe due to police presence. A police force with a history of carding and violence against vulnerable communities should not be allowed to make decisions about student safety. The Ontario Human Rights Commission has previously described Hamilton Police as engaging in a "textbook description of racial profiling." It is deeply concerning to me that students are exposed to these practices in their schools and in Hamilton.

**I want to be clear: I am not asking for a review as a review will only prolong the presence of police in schools. The data is clear. I am asking for the termination of this program and the termination of HWDSB's relationship with the Hamilton Police Service.**

On June 16th, the human rights and equity advisory committee to the Trustee Board voted unanimously to support the call for the termination of the police liaison program. A motion for the termination of the police program will be put forward and I am asking that on June 22nd you vote to terminate the police liaison program.

Thank you,

Emily Upper

## **Pilon, Janet**

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**From:** clerk@hamilton.ca  
**Sent:** Saturday, June 20, 2020 11:28 AM  
**To:** Pilon, Janet  
**Subject:** Fw: Use Your Power for a Better Canada for All

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**From:** Leah Avery [REDACTED]  
**Sent:** Friday, June 19, 2020 7:43 PM  
**To:** cprosic8502@hwdsb.on.ca  
**Subject:** Use Your Power for a Better Canada for All

Hello,

I am emailing you regarding police presence in Hamilton schools. I await your response.

As evidenced by the TDSB studies and their decision to remove police from schools, police directly contribute to the devastating school to prison pipeline and traumatize BIPOC every day. When TDSB removed police from schools, suspensions decreased 24% and expulsions decreased 53%.

You have power which was given to you by this community. It is time to use this power to take direction from Black and Indigenous community leaders who call for the immediate defunding and removal of police from their communities, including schools.

As an educated, middle class, able bodied white woman, I want to also ask you to please realize that everyone in this society has been raised to think that white people know the best solution to every problem. The time is now to override this programming and to finally listen to Black and Indigenous community leaders. Take your lead from people with lived experience and use your power to create a safer Hamilton for everyone, not just for white, middle to upper class, able bodied, heterosexual people.

On June 22nd, will you vote to terminate the police liaison program?

Please advise,  
Leah