

CITY OF HAMILTON MOTION

General Issues Committee: April 15, 2026

MOVED BY COUNCILLOR T. HWANG.....

SECONDED BY COUNCILLOR J. BEATTIE.....

Supporting the Role of Trustees in Maintaining an Accountable and Transparent Education System - REVISED

WHEREAS, School trustees have existed in Ontario since 1816 and play an essential role in delivering accountability, reflecting local priorities, and ensuring students receive necessary resources;

WHEREAS, the democratic representation provided by trustees has been a central principle of Ontario's public education system since before Confederation;

WHEREAS, in the Summer of 2025, the Government of Ontario appointed supervisors to various school boards, supplanting the role of elected trustees and creating concerns regarding lost transparency, accountability, and local representation;

WHEREAS, trustees serve as essential points of contact for City Councillors to discuss pressing local issues relating to education and school sites, and provincially appointed supervisors are not a replacement for this local knowledge;

WHEREAS, Bill 33, which received Royal Assent in November 2025, grants the Province overriding authority which may be used to eliminate the role of trustees in part or in whole;

WHEREAS, it is crucial for City Council to join other municipalities in reaffirming the importance of trustees to maintaining local representation for parents and students; and,

WHEREAS, Bill 101, introduced in the Ontario Legislature on April 13, 2026, further underscores the Province's intention to reshape school board governance and the role of trustees, making it especially important that any legislative changes preserve meaningful elected local representation, transparency, and accountability to the communities that schools serve; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT:

- (a) That Hamilton City Council SUPPORTS the role of locally-elected trustees in ensuring accountability, representing local priorities, and advocating for the needs of students, and
- (b) That Hamilton City Council REQUESTS that the Province of Ontario conduct an impact assessment of Bill 33 and Bill 101 on the governance role of elected trustees, work collaboratively with school boards, trustees and trustee associations to develop a clear framework defining the role and responsibilities of trustees moving forward, and ensure local accountability and representation are maintained through the implementation of these changes; and
- (c) That this Motion BE CIRCULATED to the HWDSB & HWCDSB Liaison Committees, Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), Ontario Catholic School Trustees' Association (OCSTA), Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA), the Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO), the Members of Provincial Parliament representing ridings in the City of Hamilton, the Minister of Education, and the Premier of Ontario.