

REVISED AGENDA: 6:00pm

1. Call to Order/Roll Call
2. HWDSB Land Acknowledgement
3. Approval of the Agenda

Delegations (5 minutes each)

- Dan Zaitzow re: Student Support Concerns following operational changes
- Kristin Penteluke re: Student Support Concerns following operational changes

4. Review of the Committee Workplan
5. Child Care Licence Rate Update
6. 2026-2027 Budget Update
7. Adjournment and Resolution into Private Session as per the *Education Act*, Sub Section 207(2)
 - b) the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;

Finance and Facilities Committee Work Plan	
Meeting Date	Public Agenda Items
Sept. 23	Review annual work plan
	Average Secondary Class Size
	Capital Projects Update
	2025 Capital Priorities Projects Submission
	Queensdale Gymnasium Project Update
	Billy Green Gymnasium Project Update
Oct. 21	Elementary Enrolment Update
	Secondary Enrolment Update
Nov. 25	Average Elementary Class Size
	Final Financial Report - August 31, 2025
	Consolidated Financial Statements
Dec. 16	Analysis of Heating, Ventilation, Cooling in Schools
	Enrolment Summary as at October 31, 2025
	Interim Financial Status Report as of November 30, 2025
	Capital Projects Update
	Key Parameters and Assumptions to Guide the Development of the
	2026-2027 Budget (Generative Discussion)
	Budget Priorities to Guide the Development of the 2026-2027
Budget Consultation	
Jan. 13	Key Parameters and Assumptions to Guide the Development of the
	2026-2027 Budget
	Budget Priorities to Guide the Development of the 2026-2027
	Budget Consultation
	Waterdown Boundary Review Final Recommendation
	Proceeds of Disposition Update
Feb. 24	Binbrook II Boundary Review Final Recommendation
	Budget
	Proceeds of Disposition Update
	Employee Recruitment and Staffing Update
Mar. 31	Capital Projects Update
	2026-2027 School Based Staffing Projections
	Interim Financial Status Report as of February 28, 2026
	Employee Recruitment and Staffing Update
	Employee Attendance Monitoring Report (FIN & HR)
Apr. 14	Long Term Facilities Plan Update - Accommodation Strategy
	Schedule
	2026-2027 Non-School Based Staffing Projections
	2026-2027 Core Education Funding (if released)
May. 5	2026-2027 Budget Development
May. 26	2026-2027 Community Use of Schools Rental Rates
	2026-2027 Budget Update
	Employee Attendance Monitoring Report (FIN & HR)
	2026 Long-Term Facilities Plan
	Recruitment and Staffing Update
	Enrolment Summary as at March 31, 2026
Jun. 2	Interim Financial Status Report as of May 27, 2026
	2026-2027 Budget Update
	Resolution#26-49 - SEAC Letter
	Capital Projects Update
Jun. 9	2026-2027 Budget Update
	Child Care Licence Rate Update
Jun. ?	2026-2027 Budget Approval



FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

June 9, 2026

Child Care Licence Rate Update

Submitted By: Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Chief Executive Officer & Secretary of the Board

Prepared By: David Anderson, Senior Manager, Facility Services

Recommendation

That the following Early Learning and Child Care and EarlyON program space licence rates be approved by:

- a) Setting Early Learning and Child Care Program licence rates for the **2026-2027** school year at **\$5.95 per square foot**, which represents a **10% increase** to the current rate per square foot.
- b) Setting the **annual** Early Learning and Child Care Program licence rate increase to **5%**, beginning in the **2027-2028** school year at **\$6.25 per square foot**, which represents a **5% increase** to the 2026-2027 school year rate per square foot.
- c) Setting the Early Learning and Child Care Program licence rate to include an **annual 5%** increase from the prior school year until such time that the Ministry benchmark funding rate, prorated at 260/365 is achieved.
- d) Setting the Early Learning and Child Care Program licence rate for any newly constructed and licensed child care space based on the Ministry's annual benchmark space cost and prorated to provide an effective rate of **\$7.08** per square foot for the **2026-2027** school year.
- e) Setting the EarlyON licence rates for **2026-2027** at **\$9.94** per square foot, aligned with the Ministry benchmark funding for the 2026-2027 school year.

Background

On April 16, 2026, staff met with Directors of child care operators (operators) and City of Hamilton (City) staff from the Children's and Community Services Division, Healthy and Safe Communities. Consistent with the request of the Finance and Facilities Committee, the meeting with operators took place shortly after the Board's approval of motion #26-54 so that staff was able to provide a timely update to operators. During the meeting, staff shared details of the approved increase to Early Learning and Child Care (ELCC) and Before and After School Program (BASP) licence rates. A subsequent meeting was held with operators and City staff on April 28, 2026, to further discuss operator concerns after they received information from staff regarding the financial impact of the rate change.

Staff then shared an update to Finance and Facilities Committee May 5, 2026, where feedback from operators was shared. At that same committee meeting Trustees heard two delegations where operators presented their concerns with the increased ELCC licence rates.

During meetings with staff, operators shared a general understanding and appreciation for the need to increase rates. Operators also expressed appreciation for the relationships staff cultivated with the operators, speaking highly of the relationships with HWDSB relative to other school boards. Operators also offered the following feedback about the rate increases:

- The increased rates for ELCC licences are difficult to absorb in existing budgets;
- Using 365 days in the calculation versus 260 days is a significant change in practice that has budget implications;
- The child care rate increases represent a significant increase in costs;
- The rate increases feel very transactional and take away from the partnerships that operators have with HWDSB;
- The Canada Wide Early Learning and Child Care (CWELCC) funding for ELCC programs restricts operators' ability to offset the cost increase with an increase in their fees. This rate increase restriction does not exist for BASP and EarlyON;
- CWELCC fee increase limitations have caused some operators and their boards to question the sustainability of offering child care services in HWDSB; and
- A phased approach to the rate increase will provide temporary relief to the current budget year and allow for additional time to adjust to the new rates.

Staff met with operators and the City again on May 20, 2026, where operators shared the following feedback:

- A phased in approach is preferred for any increase;
- An approximate 5% fee increase could be sustainable;
- An approximate 2% increase in September and an additional 3% in January would be preferred.

As part of the meeting, the City committed to work to adjust legacy allocations to support an up to an additional 5% increase to ELCC licence rates for the 2026-2027 school year.

ELCC licence rates were discussed again at Board May 25, 2026. As a result of those discussions, Trustees approved that:

Resolution #26-54, adopted April 13, 2026, be amended by replacing the first bullet with the following:

Request that staff explore the application of an annual Ministry benchmark funding rate, considering the application of incremental percentage increases, potential discounts, start dates, and advocacy opportunities with providers, reflecting a pro-rated adjustment, from a 365-day to a 260-day annual basis and that staff report back to the Board, with input from the Finance & Facilities Committee, for final approval.

Status

The current ELCC licence rate is **\$7.60** per square foot. When prorated over 260 days, the effective rate is **\$5.41** per square foot. By comparison, the Ministry's benchmark funding rate for the 2025-2026 school year is **\$9.86** per square foot. Applying the same 260-day proration results in an adjusted rate of **\$7.02** per square foot.

Based on feedback, and conversations at the May 25, 2026 Board meeting, staff are recommending a rate increase of **10%** to the existing square foot rate for existing ELCC licences for the **2026-2027** school year, and that the Board consider a phased-in approach as demonstrated in Table 1, *Proposed Rate Increase by Year* within Appendix A, that includes an annual increase of **5%**, beginning in the **2027-2028** school year. Table 2, *Historical Benchmark Funding* within Appendix A demonstrates a historical summary of benchmark funding increases from the Ministry. Staff are suggesting that an annual increase of 2% could be expected based on a 4-year average, removing the 2023-2024 6.1% increase which addressed commodity price increases. The proposed rate comparison to the possible future benchmark rates is included in Table 3 - *Estimated Future Benchmark Funding*.

Furthermore, staff recommend that any newly licensed child care program spaces coming online be licensed based on the Ministry's annual operating benchmark rate, prorated to 260 days. The annual Ministry benchmark funding rate for the **2026-2027** school year is **\$9.94** per square foot, with the effective rate being **\$7.08** per square foot, and is revised by the Ministry on an annual basis.

Appendix A, *Table 4 – EarlyON Fees*, contains a comparison of the total costs by space use from the 2025-2026 school year to the 2026-2027 school year for EarlyON, should the motion be approved.

Financial Implications

HWDSB continues to implement a phased approach to align licence rates with Ministry benchmark levels by 2032–2033, with the goal of reducing financial pressures and minimizing the level of subsidy required to support child care providers.

Strategic Directions

Providing Equitable Quality Education

We will offer equitable quality educational opportunities to improve student engagement, learning and achievement for future-readiness.

Collaborating with Students, Families and Communities

We will build reciprocal relationships and partnerships to enhance access and engagement for students, families, and communities.

Summary of Licence Rates

		Proposed 10% Increase	Proposed 5% Annual Increase					
	2025-2026 Fees Collected @ \$5.41/SF	2026-2027 Projected Fees @ \$5.95/SF	2027-2028 Projected Fees @ \$6.25/SF	2028-2029 Projected Fees @ \$6.56/SF	2029-2030 Projected Fees @ \$6.89/SF	2030-2031 Projected Fees @ \$7.23/SF	2031-2032 Projected Fees @ \$7.60/SF	2032-2033 Projected Fees @ \$7.98/SF
ELCC Overall Fees Collected	\$518,554	\$570,409	\$598,530	\$628,457	\$659,880	\$692,874	\$727,518	\$763,894

Table 1 – Proposed Rate by Year

	2021-2022	2022-2023 (2.8% Increase)	2023-2024 (6.1% increase)	2024-2025 (2.3% increase)	2025-2026 (2.5% increase)	2026-2027 (0.8% Increase)
Ministry Benchmark Funding Rate (per square foot)	\$8.62	\$8.86	\$9.40	\$9.62	\$9.86	\$9.94
Effective Rate (260/365)	\$6.14	\$6.31	\$6.69	\$6.85	\$7.02	\$7.08

Table 2 – Historical Benchmark Funding

	HWDSB Current Rate	2026-2027 @ 10%	2027-2028 @ 5%	2028-2029 @ 5%	2029-2030 @ 5%	2030-2031 @ 5%	2031-2032 @ 5%	2032-2033 @ 5%
Proposed Rate	\$5.41	\$5.95	\$6.25	\$6.56	\$6.89	\$7.23	\$7.60	\$7.98
Possible Benchmark @ 2% Increase*	\$9.86	\$9.94	\$10.14	\$10.34	\$10.55	\$10.76	\$10.97	\$11.19
Effective Rate (260/365)	\$7.02	\$7.08	\$7.22	\$7.36	\$7.51	\$7.66	\$7.81	\$7.97

Table 3 – Estimated Future Benchmark Funding

Note: Benchmark rates are estimates only, based on a 4-year average @ 2% increase.

EarlyON Proposed Rate Increase

	2025-2026 Fees Collected @ \$7.60/SF	2026-2027 Projected Fees @ \$9.94/SF
EarlyON	\$36,935	\$48,306

Table 4 – EarlyON Fees



FINANCE AND FACILITIES COMMITTEE

June 9, 2026

2026-2027 Budget Update

Submitted By: Sheryl Robinson Petrazzini, Chief Executive Officer & Secretary of the Board

Prepared By: Jagoda Kirilo, Senior Manager, Financial Services

Recommendation

That the 2026-2027 Budget Update be received.

Background

This report provides an overview of the 2026–2027 budget as it relates to key funding areas, including Core Education Funding, School Operations, and School Board Administration. It outlines changes in funding, expenditures, and staffing, as well as the financial pressures and assumptions that are informing the development of the budget.

Status

Census Data Phase-In

2026-2027 will be the third year of a five-year phase-in of updates reflecting the 2021 Statistics Canada census data. The projected impact for 2026-2027 related to this phase in is a reduction of \$2.5M in Core Education Funding among four of the six Core Education funding areas, as seen in Appendix A. Over the five-year phase in, the projected impact of the 2021 Statistics Canada census data will reduce funding for HWDSB totaling \$6.7M, as projected by the Ministry of Education. This reduction may fluctuate with enrolment, any policy changes and collective agreements.

The following components are affected by the census data phase-in:

- Diversity in English Language Learners amounts
- Remote and Rural components
- Demographic Needs components
- Board Action Plan component
- Safe and Accepting Schools component
- Special Education Statistical Prediction Model component

Within the Core Education Funding calculation, 2/5 of the 2011 Census data and 3/5 of the 2021 Census data is used to calculate funding in the components listed above.

School Operations

The School Operations Allocation (SOA) provides school boards with funding to address both staffing and non-staffing costs related to operating school facilities. Key elements within the school operations allocation are:

- Enrolment
- On the Ground Capacity (OTG)
- Benchmark Area Requirement per pupil
- Supplementary Area Factor (SAF)
- Benchmark for Operating Costs

School Operations Revenues are expected to decrease by approximately \$593k over 2025-2026 Revised Estimates, mainly related to a reduction in Responsive Education Revenue of approximately \$217k and other revenue of approximately \$547k.

School Operations expenses are projected to increase by approximately \$3.8M in 2026-2027 compared to 2025-2026 Revised Estimates. While School Operations revenues are projected to decrease by approximately \$593k, expenditures have been increased to reflect costs of maintaining and operating schools as well as to reflect the increase in inflation year over year. Feedback from the budget consultation survey emphasized safe, clean, well-ventilated and well-maintained classrooms and learning environments as foundational to high levels of student achievement and well-being.

Overall staffing is projected to decrease by .25 FTE, as detailed below:

- Reduction of 3 FTE Operations Supervisor
- Increase of .75 FTE Caretakers
- Reallocation of 2 FTE from capital to operating expenses (These are not net new positions.)

In 2026-2027 school operations is projected to be underfunded by approximately \$3.4M which is an increase of approximately \$4.4M over the 2025-2026 Revised Estimates, details of which are provided in Appendix B.

Board Administration

The School Board Administration Fund (SBAF) provides school boards with funding to support the operations of the school board, including staffing and non-staffing administration expenses, trustees, parent engagement, central bargaining agency fees, data management, and an adjustment for declining enrolment.

School Board Administration revenues are projected to decrease in 2026-2027 by approximately \$1.3M in comparison to 2025-2026 Revised Estimates, mainly related to a projected decrease in interest revenue by approximately \$1.8M, a decrease in other revenue by approximately \$266k offset, with an increase in Core Education funding of approximately \$740k.

School Board Administration expenses are projected to increase by approximately \$360k in 2026-2027 compared to 2025-2026 Revised Estimates. Of the increase \$608k relates to salary increases as per the PASS Terms and Conditions as well as an increase in ELHT benefit costs offset with a reduction of 3 FTE. The salary and benefit increase is offset with a decrease of approximately \$248k related to fees and contractual services, operating costs and supplies and equipment.

Overall staffing is projected to decrease by 3 FTE, as detailed below:

- Reduction of 1 FTE Communications Officer
- Reduction of 1 FTE Human Resources Officer
- Reduction of 1 FTE Budget Analyst

In 2026-2027 the projected unspent funds for school board administration are approximately \$1.3M which is a decrease of approximately \$1.7M over the 2025-2026 Revised Estimates, details of which are provided in Appendix C.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications as a result of this report.

Strategic Directions

Upholding Human Rights, Safety and Well-Being

We will support all students and staff to feel safe and secure in our classrooms and school communities.

Providing Equitable Quality Education

We will offer equitable quality educational opportunities to improve student engagement, learning and achievement for future-readiness.

Collaborating with Students, Families & Communities

We will build reciprocal relationships and partnerships to enhance access and engagement for students, families, and communities.

Building a Sustainable Education System

We will adapt to a rapidly changing world through responsible fiscal management, investing equitably in accessible and sustainable facilities and supporting a robust workforce.

Reinforcing Indigenous Educational Wellness and Reconciliation

We will honour our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation by nurturing respectful and reciprocal relationships among Indigenous Peoples and Treaty Partners, and by cultivating intergenerational healing and wellness in a restorative education system.

APPENDIX A: Census Update, Annual Impacts

		2025-26 Vs 2026-27	2026-27 Vs 2027-28	2027-28 Vs 2028-29
Classroom Staffing Fund	Diversity English Language Learners Component	\$26,386	\$29,797	\$32,445
	ALF Component	\$-	\$-	\$-
	Remote and Rural Classroom Staffing Component	\$-	\$-	\$-
	Student Success, Grade 7 to 12 component	-\$57,181	-\$57,842	-\$50,345
	Demographic Needs Component	-\$1,121,021	-\$1,116,644	-\$1,112,039
	Experiential Learning Component	-\$4,512	-\$4,282	-\$4,110
Learning Resources Fund	Remote and Rural Component	\$-	\$-	\$-
	Diversity English Language Learners Component	\$1,527	\$1,375	\$1,498
	ALF Component	\$-	\$-	\$-
	Board Action Plan (BAP) Component - Demographic Amount (Per Pupil)	-\$57,324	-\$55,209	-\$54,210
	Safe and Accepting Schools Component	-\$1,590	\$1,337	\$3,969
	Demographic Needs Component	-\$690,053	-\$708,872	-\$705,882
Experiential Learning Component	-\$2,446	-\$2,545	-\$2,443	
Special Education Fund	Differentiated Needs Allocation	-\$299,687	-\$226,543	-\$202,682
School Board Administrat	Executive Staffing Component	\$2,367	\$6,645	\$9,697
	Non-executive Staffing Component	\$8,417	\$23,630	\$34,481
	Declining Enrolment Adjustment (DEA) Allocation	\$-	\$-	\$-
	Enrolment Projection Adjustment	-\$308,000	TBD	TBD
Total Impact		-\$2,503,117	-\$2,109,153	-\$2,049,621

Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
2026-2027 Budget Estimates
School Operations

	2026-2027		2025-2026		Increased (Decreased)	
	Budget Estimates		Revised Estimates		Over 2025-2026	
	\$		\$		Revised Estimates	
Revenues						
Grant Revenue						
Revenue Allocation - Core Ed	\$	59,697,653	\$	59,535,179	\$	162,474
Other Ministry Revenue - R.E.P.	\$	-	\$	217,166	\$	(217,166)
	\$	59,697,653	\$	59,752,345	\$	(54,692)
Miscellaneous Revenue						
Community Use of Schools	\$	2,103,260	\$	2,100,000	\$	3,260
Other Revenue	\$	213,000	\$	759,800	\$	(546,800)
Visa Revenue	\$	168,140	\$	162,850	\$	5,290
	\$	2,484,400	\$	3,022,650	\$	(538,250)
Total Revenue	\$	62,182,053	\$	62,774,995	\$	592,942
Expenditures						
Salary and Benefits	Total FTE	Total	Total FTE	Total		
Managers & Supervisors (PASS)	32.00	\$ 4,619,590	33.00	\$ 4,678,529	(1.00)	\$ (58,939)
Office & Technical Support (OCTU)	9.50	\$ 747,411	9.50	\$ 750,252	-	\$ (2,841)
Caretaking & Maintenance Staff (CUPE)	386.75	\$ 30,863,406	386.00	\$ 30,712,781	0.75	\$ 150,626
Supply Costs		\$ 4,642,609		\$ 4,523,448	-	\$ 119,162
	428.25	\$ 40,873,016	428.50	\$ 40,665,009	(0.25)	\$ 208,007
Consumables						
Utilities		\$ 11,785,300		\$ 10,235,000		\$ 1,550,300
Maintenance & Minor Renovations		\$ 5,152,600		\$ 3,900,800		\$ 1,251,800
Property & Caretaking Supplies		\$ 4,771,000		\$ 3,595,500		\$ 1,175,500
Insurance		\$ 1,911,735		\$ 1,911,735		\$ -
Fees & Contractuals		\$ 563,450		\$ 720,000		\$ (156,550)
Supplies & Services		\$ 507,215		\$ 769,600		\$ (262,385)
		\$ 24,691,300		\$ 21,132,635		\$ 3,558,665
Total Expenditures		\$ 65,564,316		\$ 61,797,644		\$ 3,766,672
Unspent Funds/(Underfunded)		\$ (3,382,263)		\$ 977,351		\$ (4,359,614)

**Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board
2026-2027 Budget Estimates
Board Administration and Governance**

<i>Revenues</i>	2026-2027 Budget Estimates		2025-2026 Revised Estimates		Increased (Decreased) Over 2025-2026 Revised Estimates	
	\$		\$			
Grant Revenue						
Revenue Allocation - Core Ed	\$	18,432,920	\$	17,693,521	\$	739,399
Miscellaneous Revenue						
Bank and Investment Interest	\$	1,200,000	\$	3,008,476	\$	(1,808,476)
Other Revenue	\$	654,000	\$	919,662	\$	(265,662)
Visa Revenue	\$	257,829	\$	253,290	\$	4,539
	\$	2,111,829	\$	4,181,428	\$	(2,069,599)
Total Revenue	\$	20,544,749	\$	21,874,949	\$	1,330,200
Expenditures						
Salary and Benefits						
Trustee	14.00	\$ 180,622	14.00	\$ 180,870	-	\$ (248)
Director & Superintendents	13.00	\$ 2,962,679	13.00	\$ 2,955,530	-	\$ 7,149
Managers, Supervisors & Other Board Based Staff (PASS)	72.00	\$ 9,892,856	75.00	\$ 9,275,250	(3.00)	\$ 617,606
Office & Technical Support (OCTU)	20.50	\$ 1,655,830	20.50	\$ 1,681,131	-	-\$ 25,301
Caretaking Staff (CUPE)	6.00	\$ 474,831	6.00	\$ 468,560	-	\$ 6,271
Supply Costs		\$ 151,566		\$ 149,453	-	\$ 2,113
	99.00	\$ 15,318,384	102.00	\$ 14,710,794	(3.00)	\$ 607,590
Consumables						
Professional Development		\$ 205,413		\$ 205,413		\$ -
Trustees' Association Fee		\$ 59,190		\$ 59,190		\$ -
Fees & Contractuals		\$ 1,893,932		\$ 1,979,212		\$ (85,280)
Operating Costs - Education Centre		\$ 399,010		\$ 423,320		\$ (24,310)
Supplies & Equipment		\$ 979,642		\$ 1,117,864		\$ (138,222)
Amortization on Education Centre		\$ 431,375		\$ 431,375		\$ -
		\$ 3,968,562		\$ 4,216,374		\$ (247,812)
Total Expenditures		\$ 19,286,946		\$ 18,927,168		\$ 359,778
Unspent Funds/(Underfunded)		\$ 1,257,803		\$ 2,947,781		\$ (1,689,978)