

Manny Figueiredo,  
Director (HWDSB)  
20 Education Ct, Hamilton, ON L9A 0B9

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### **STATEMENT FROM OSSTF D19**

The Teacher Bargaining Unit of OSSTF District 19 – Peel is issuing this statement in regards to the racism perpetuated and racist comments made by Trustees in the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board (HWDSB).

After an independent report substantiated a former student trustee's claims that trustees at HWDSB have acted in a racist manner, the board still has not put enough pressure on the trustees in question to resign.

We call for the immediate resignation of Carole Paikin Miller for Ward 5, Alex Johnstone for Wards 11 & 12, Kathy Archer for Ward 6, and Becky Buck for Wards 8 & 14.

Until they resign or until their terms end, we call for stronger sanctions on the trustees in question to ensure that trustees who have been found to have shown harmful behaviour toward Black and racialized communities do not continue making decisions for these students.

These resignations are essential to demonstrating that the HWDSB is serious about addressing issues related to racism and oppression within the board, and to begin to repair the harm caused to school communities after racist comments that were anti-Black and Islamophobic.

We stand in solidarity with our colleagues in OSSTF District 21, and also call for these trustees to be publicly named in the investigation report, as calling out racism without calling out the perpetrators of racism does not serve to eliminate racism in our school boards, or in our society.

Allowing the trustees to avoid accountability for their inaction creates a dangerous precedent which undermines the principles of school climate, as outlined in the Safe and Accepting Schools Policies. For these reasons, we once again call for the resignation of Carole Paikin Miller, Alex Johnstone, Kathy Archer, and Becky Buck as trustees for the HWDSB.