

Profile – Peter Accadia BA; MBA
Candidate for TRUSTEE – HWDSB – Wards 11 & 12

PERSONAL

- Married with 4 children
- Experienced business leader, financial professional and international business consultant for 35 years
- Academic Achievements – Master Business Administration (MBA) and an undergraduate degree in Mathematics and Economics.

MY COMMITMENT

- Provide effective, proactive representation and leadership as a school board trustee
- Use my extensive business and educational experiences as well as my operational, professional and managerial skills in addressing the issues of the board, parents and students.

Experience in Education

- Established an actively participated in a successful “Partnership in Education” program between our local school and company 1998 – 2002
- Advisory board member on curriculum for the international business and technology program for Gordon Graydon HS 1995 – 2001
- Participated in the Youth in Motion conference sponsored by the Peel Board of Education.
- Participated in Adult Learning and Training program at Sheridan College.
- Instructor (part time) – School of Business and Continuing Education – Sheridan College 2004 – 2005

Business and Professional Background

- Over 30 years experience in financial and project management, strategic business plans, budget administration, business case proposals, internal controls and risk management assessments.
- As a Controller and Business Manager in Ontario Power Generation managed professional and administrative staff that provided business support services related to financial management, information technology, LAN support, enterprise software operation, supply chain functions, treasury and payroll.
- Partnered with several international business consultants including PriceWaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte Touche and SNC Lavalin by providing on site support related to business processes and system applications in mainland China, Hong Kong, Philippines, Middle East (Egypt) and Nigeria.

Peter Accadia

Adkins Response – Ward 3

September 30, 2006

Gloria Turner
Hamilton-Wentworth Family Action Council

Re: Response to Questions

Dear Ms. Turner

I apologize for taking so long to respond to your organization. Please accept the following as my responses:

1) While I am not in favour of curriculum that promotes high-risk sexual activity, I do heartily endorse curriculum at the high school level that frankly discusses the consequences of some activities and what can be done to prevent harm (both sexually transmitted disease and pregnancy) from these activities. I am a strong proponent of sex education that speaks to both abstinence and condom or contraception use for those in high school. Students often receive misinformed and often fabricated information from peers in the playground regarding sexual activities. With the high incidence of teenage sexuality it is imperative that students receive adequate information so that they may make informed choices.

2) I am not in favour of students being pulled from certain subjects. I am the author of the play and the book, Touching, which concerns child abuse including sexual abuse. Often those parents who opted out of the curriculum for touching were found to have children that were subject to some form of child abuse. It is important that students receive adequate information so that they may make informed choices rather than decisions based on inadequate information that could, in the long run, create greater harm in their lives.

3) See question #1

4) Yes.

5) I believe that children should understand the various faith backgrounds that are part and parcel of the diverse Hamilton community. Greater understanding leads to greater acceptance and tolerance of others. However, I also believe that post-modern views which promote viewing every situation based on its internal merits can create difficulty for children who might not understand the nuances and distinctions inherent in the situation.

6) I cannot give an answer to this question as it would entirely depend on the contents of the proposal itself. To give an answer without knowledge of the proposal is against principles of due diligence.

Respectfully,

Michael Adkins
School Trustee Candidate

English Response – Ward 5

From: Ron English [mailto:ron.english@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2006 11:03 AM
To: grturner@sympatico.ca
Subject: Re: HWFAC Questionnaire

Hello Ms. Turner,

I have read your questionnaire. The Ministry of Education provide guidelines and the courts of Ontario and Canada have made rulings on most of these issues. I intend to support and work within the Ministry guidelines and respect the decisions made by the Supreme Courts of Ontario and Canada.

If a proper request is made which falls within the Board's mandate, I will look at the request and evaluate it within the constraints of the Board, such as budget, staffing, physical resources and union contracts, before deciding if I can support such a request. I will rely on my education (Master of Business Administration and Master's of Education) and my experience (five years as a secondary school teacher and five years as a professor teaching elementary school teachers) to help me evaluate each request.

I hope this clarifies my position. Hopefully, I can count on your support.

Sincerely,

Ron English

Gemmell Response – Wards 9/10

Gloria Turner
HWFAC Director
P.O. Box 66714, 38 King Street E.
Hamilton, ON
L8G 5E6

Oct 1, 2006

Dear Mrs. Turner,

Thank you to the HWFAC for your questions regarding the November 13, 2006 election for Public School Board Trustee. I have chosen not to answer each question directly but wish to provide you with my views based on your questions.

I am in support of your description of schools as places where students may discuss age-appropriate worldviews and learn different worldviews to increase tolerance and understanding. I am also in favour of a general application of the principles of Judaeo-Christian morality within the public system, subject to the caveat that such an application is as broad as the spectrum of religious affiliations that exist in the community. Tolerating discussion of an idea or an activity that is not universally accepted by all is not necessarily the same thing as promoting it. I feel it important to make that distinction.

There is room for secular pluralism, as you have defined it, within the existing school system, and Public School Board policy encourages faith groups, with the condition that said groups are inclusive and encourage open-minded communication and cooperation between different groups and faiths. This kind of outside-class faith affirmation makes a fine complement to secular in-class instruction.

I am not in favour of in-class religious instruction in the public education system because of the potential for segregation and a lack of inclusiveness. It becomes less likely that our children will develop into tolerant citizens if the potential exists for systematic instruction that could isolate the students from other religions and ideas.

I am supportive, however, of parents who feel that their moral or religious beliefs do not permit their children to participate in in-class instruction that might contradict said values, and as such I would support limited application of the opt-out principle in very specific circumstances with clearly defined issues, with the understanding that comprehensive debate and attempts at mediation would be required before taking such a step. We do not wish to marginalize any students on either side of an issue.

Yours,

Michael Gemmell
Candidate for Hamilton Public School Board Trustee
Wards 9/10

Ryan Sparrow Response – Ward 3

From: Ryan Sparrow [mailto:hamilton@ycl-ljc.ca]
Sent: Wednesday, October 04, 2006 8:27 AM
To: info@hamiltonfamilyaction.org
Subject: Re:

Sorry but as a christain group shouldn't your interests be less about sex?

These questions are obsessive, why would you ask such a question as promoting sexual education in kindergarden? Of course not.

Shouldn't as christains in a poor urban city of Hamilton focus more on fighting poverty?

Response to Mr. Sparrow from HWFAC:

From: Gloria Turner
Sent: Thursday, October 05, 2006 7:52 PM
To: Ryan Sparrow
Subject: RE: HWFAC Questionnaire

Dear Candidate Sparrow,

Thank you for your interest in our questionnaire. We look forward to receiving your completed copy.

Our questionnaire does not provide our position with respect to the 5 questions, rather it does ask for the candidates'.

Sex education and sexuality indoctrination is a tremendous concern we do have with HWDSB and something we have been working to clean up over the past 10 years. In many respects we have seen significant improvements in the elementary schools over this period of time, however, currently the HWDSB is working on curriculum and policy changes that, in our view, will be harmful to young students physically, emotionally and spiritually; thus the questionnaire.

We believe also that in many instances, poverty and sexual misconduct are related and so by reducing misconduct some levels of poverty can be reduced.

When you mail us your form, please ensure you place your name somewhere on the questionnaire in order that we may correctly identify you.

If you have any further interest in our council we will be pleased to meet with you.

Sincerely,
Gloria Turner
Director, HWFAC

HWDSB Trustee Candidates Survey Results

Wards 1 - 10 Trustee Candidate Responses						
Question	Michael Adkins - 3	Ryan Sparrow - 3	Ronald English - 5	Matt Terry - 6	Al Pierce - 8	Michael Gemmell - 9, 10
1. Do you support the school board's intention to normalize and promote through activities and an all-encompassing curriculum various sexual orientations and associated high-risk sexual activities to students from K. to 12 and to all staff?	See Adkins <u>response</u> attached	No answers to questions. See <u>email letter</u> to/from Mr. Sparrow attached.	No answers to questions. See <u>email letter</u> to/from Mr. English attached.	No. See <u>additional correspondence</u> .	No.	See Gemmell <u>response</u> attached.
2. Do you support parents that object in principle to the teaching of such activities and curriculum and parents' right to opt their children out of such teaching?	See Adkins response attached			Yes	Yes.	
3. Do you support education tax dollars that enable and encourage students to explore and to engage in sexually promiscuous, high-risk activities?	See Adkins response attached				No.	
4. Do you feel public education should tolerate, respect and acknowledge students' various religious and moral beliefs in our pluralist society (*secular pluralism)?	Yes				Yes	
5. Do you feel policies and curriculum should reflect purely **secular humanistic values? (Humanism will not tolerate any critical thinking, discussion or argument that is based on the premise that God exists and that	See Adkins response attached				No.	

there is absolute truth.)						
6. The Education Act states the following: "Statute 171.7 - "School Boards have the authority to determine the numbers and kinds of schools." If an alternative faith-sensitive program were presented to the HWDSB, and said program were proven to be financially viable, would you be open to considering piloting such a program within the public school system as is demonstrated in the following public school boards? - Grand Erie District which has a Mexican-Mennonite program; - Niagara District School Board's Christian alternative high school at Eden High School; - Upper Grand District School Board's Old Order Mennonite school; and - Sturgeon Creek's Alternative Program in Stratton, Ontario, an elementary equivalent to Niagara's Eden High School?	See Adkins response attached			Yes		

No responses were received from: Wards 1 & 2 Judith Bishop; Ward 3 Alexander Moroz, Timothy Simmons; Ward 4 Ray E. Mulholland, Christy Cowan; Ward 5 Judy Kloosterman; Ward 6 Kathy Archer, Lorrie McKibbon, Laura Peddle; Ward 7 Lillian Orban, Judy Colantino; Ward 8 Sylvia Thomas, Wes Hicks; Wards 9, 10 John Davidson, Robert Barlow

HWDSB Trustee Candidates Survey Results

Wards 11 – 15 Trustee Candidate Responses

Questions	Peter Accadia 11, 12	Bob Maton 11, 12	Tyler Rockliffe -13	Reg Wood-worth 14, 15	Karen Turkstra 14, 15
1. Do you support the school board’s intention to normalize and promote through activities and an all-encompassing curriculum various sexual orientations and associated high–risk sexual activities to students from K. to 12 and to all staff?	No to students but may be of value to staff on a voluntary basis.	No. See Maton <u>flyer</u> attached.	Yes, in a way that is age appropriate	No.	See <u>response</u> attached.
2. Do you support parents that object in principle to the teaching of such activities and curriculum and parents’ right to opt their children out of such teaching?	Yes.	Yes	Yes. Every family has a right to teach their children their own beliefs	Yes	
3. Do you support education tax dollars that enable and encourage students to explore and to engage in sexually promiscuous, high-risk activities?	No.	No.	Not certain. It depends on the issue presented.	No.	
4. Do you feel public education should tolerate, respect and acknowledge students’ various religious and moral beliefs in our pluralist society (*secular pluralism)?	Yes.	Yes.	Yes.	Yes	
5. Do you feel policies and curriculum should reflect purely **secular humanistic values? (Humanism will not tolerate any critical thinking, discussion or argument that is based on the premise that God exists and that there is absolute truth.)	No.	No.	No. All world beliefs should be discussed including scientific, religious and moral	No.	
6. The Education Act states the following: “Statute 171.7 - "School Boards have the authority to determine the numbers and kinds of schools." If an alternative faith-sensitive program were presented to the HWDSB, and said program were proven to be financially viable, would you be open to considering piloting such a	No. I don’t feel that I can provide a significant value added contribution to these organizations. My strengths are more suited in matters related to management, financial/fiscal responsibilities, etc. as noted and demonstrated in my	Yes.	Yes, If it was financial feasible and community supported.	Yes. I would, in fact, hope the independent Christian schools now in existence might become part of the public system if guaranteed their	

<p>program within the public school system as is demonstrated in the following public school boards?- Grand Erie District which has a Mexican-Mennonite program; - Niagara District School Board's Christian alternative high school at Eden High School; - Upper Grand District School Board's Old Order Mennonite school; and - Sturgeon Creek's Alternative Program in Stratton, Ontario, an elementary equivalent to Niagara's Eden High School?</p>	<p><u>attached profile</u>. I look forward to your support.</p>			<p>present curriculum.</p>	
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No responses were received from: Wards 11, 12 Shirley Glauser; Ward 13 Jessica Brennan.

Matt Terry Response – Ward 6

Dear Gloria:

Thank you for the opportunity to express my views to you and your organization. You are providing a great service to all of your members, as well as interested members of the community.

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you further, as your questionnaire somewhat limits my ability to convey the sense of shared ideals and values between your organization and myself.

I am running for this position on the School Board for a number of reasons, but first and foremost is my worry about the direction in which public education in this province seems to be heading. Like you, I believe the family unit has a prominent place in the education of a child. I wholeheartedly support any movement whatsoever that would allow for parents to have a greater say in how their children are educated.

I also believe that far too much politics has been allowed to enter the classroom, and it is having a negative effect on children. Working first hand with youth in the area, I understand that this is overwhelmingly detrimental to the family values, morals and ideals that we try to instill in our children.

Lastly, as an individual, I would far better serve the needs of everyone in the community, your organization included, as I am young, energetic and passionate about what I want to accomplish. I also believe that I represent the viewpoint of the “silent majority” in the area, and I hope to give them a voice on the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

Again, thank you very much for your time and efforts in educating the community. I look forward to working together with organizations such as yours in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Matt Terry
Candidate, Hamilton Wentworth District School Board
(Public) Ward 6

Karen Turkstra Response – Ward 14 & 15

From: Karen Turkstra [mailto:karen.turk@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, October 23, 2006 3:32 PM
To: grturner@sympatico.ca
Subject: RE: HWFAC Questionnaire

Dear Mrs. Turner,

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to your survey. I must admit that I found your survey difficult to answer. The questions are somewhat leading. I will tell you that I support health and sex education to our students. My experience has been that it is taught with discretion and respect for self. I support that if parents want to opt out of this type of education they absolutely have the right to do so. Parents make all kinds of difficult decisions for their children's benefit and this is of course a family decision.

I believe that Public education should, above all else, teach respect, understanding and tolerance for each of its members irrespective of their race, religion or sexual orientation.

Thank you and have a good day,

Karen Turkstra
Trustee Candidate
Wards 14 and 15

From: "Gloria Turner"
To: "Karen Turkstra" <karen.turk@hotmail.com>
Subject: RE: HWFAC Questionnaire
Date: Mon, 23 Oct 2006 17:39:11 -0400

Dear Ms. Turkstra,

We appreciate your giving some thought to our questions.

Our questionnaire does not provide our position with respect to the 5 questions, rather it does ask for the candidates'.

Sex education and sexuality indoctrination is a tremendous concern we do have with HWDSB and something we have been working to clean up over the past 10 years. In many respects we have seen significant improvements in the elementary schools over this period of time, however, currently the HWDSB is working on curriculum and policy changes that, in our view, will be harmful to young students physically, emotionally and spiritually; thus the questionnaire.

If you have any further interest in our council we will be pleased to meet with you.

Sincerely,
Gloria Turner
Director, HWFAC

Thank you for your dedication to the students of the HWDSB. All input is welcome and carefully considered before policy making. Have a great day,
Karen Turkstra