

# THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## INAUGURAL MEETING, PUBLIC SESSION 2018 DECEMBER 11

The Board met in session for its annual Inaugural meeting on 2018 December 11 in the Board Room at the Education Centre, meeting in public session at 7:00 p.m. The following were in attendance:

### TRUSTEES

A. Morell (Chair)  
J. Bennett  
L. Pizzolato  
M. Ruddock  
B. Yeoman  
C. Rahman  
I. Frick

S. Hunt  
P. Cuddy  
S. Polhill  
B. Smith  
J. Skinner  
S. Chun  
N. Bajaj

### ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

L. Elliott  
S. Mark  
S. Builder  
A. Canham  
R. Culhane  
M. Deman  
R. Kuiper  
D. Macpherson  
C. Beal  
C. Antone

P. Skinner  
P. McKenzie  
M. Moynihan  
S. Powell  
P. Sydor  
L. Nicholls  
L. Griffith-Jones  
B. Williams  
S. Smith

### REGRETS

B. McKinnon

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair A. Morell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

#### 2. O CANADA

Westmount Public School Choir led in the singing of O Canada.

#### 3. CEREMONIAL DECLARATION OF OFFICE

The agenda was approved on motion by Trustee Polhill, seconded by Trustee Rahman.

Chair Morell, led the Trustees in the Declaration of Office.

#### 4. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF TRUSTEES

Trustee Polhill, Chair, Program and School Services Advisory Committee introduced the Trustees noting their area of representation.

#### 5. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Trustee Smith introduced Parkside Collegiate Institute Stage Ensemble and welcomed them to perform their first of three musical selections.

#### 6. TRADITIONAL OPENING

Brian Hill, Board President, N'Amerind Friendship Centre, provided a traditional opening acknowledging the land and giving gratitude.

#### 7. REFLECTION

Jacob Rowe delivered the Reflection.

#### 8. MUSICAL INTERLUDE

Trustee Skinner introduced the Westmount Public School Junior Choir to perform a musical selection.

## **9. SPECIAL GREETINGS**

Trustee Skinner, Chair, Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee acknowledged representatives of various groups and organizations in attendance. The following guests brought greetings on behalf of their affiliates:

- Teresa Armstrong, MPP for London-Fanshawe
- Terence Kernaghan, MPP for London-North Centre
- Peggy Sattler, MPP London-West
- John Jevnikar, Chair, London District Catholic School Board
- Stacey Vries, Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee
- Laura Gonzalez, President, Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations
- James Stewart, President, Thames Valley Education Foundation

## **10. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

Parkside Collegiate Institute Stage Ensemble performed their second selection.

## **11. RECOGNITION OF 2018 CHAIR**

Trustee Bennett extended appreciation, on behalf of the Trustees, to Chair M. Reid for his commitment and dedication as Chair in 2018.

M. Reid briefly addressed the Board, sharing his appreciation for past work, noting the success he believes is still to come.

## **12. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

Westmount Public School Choir performed their next music selection.

Vice-Chair Bennett thanked Westmount P.S. for their performances.

## **13. PRESENTATION OF THE GAVEL**

On behalf of the students, trustees, staff and community of the Thames Valley District School Board, the Gavel of Office was presented to Chair Morell by Vice-Chair Bennett and Everleigh Morell.

## **14. INAUGURAL ADDRESS**

Chair Morell presented the following Inaugural Address:

*"Trustee Colleagues, Director Elliott, Associate Director Pratt and Culhane the team of Superintendents of Student Achievement, and honoured guests. I would like to begin my remarks this evening with my sincere thank you to all of you for attending our evening of celebration here in Thames Valley. There are many supporters in the audience who are sharing this evening with us. My family, my mother and my husband, my son Trevor and his wife Kim, friends, past trustees, municipal mayors and municipal leaders, members of provincial parliament and many more. I thank you for sharing in our celebration of public education.*

*I would like to ask that the families of our Trustees who have been elected please stand so that we can take this opportunity to thank you for your support that enables us to serve the students of Thames Valley. Thank you, we recognize that we couldn't do this without your support. I am honoured and humbled by the trust my fellow trustees have placed in me as Chairperson of the Thames Valley District School Board for the upcoming year.*

*As I prepared for this evening, I reflected on my more than 20 years of my involvement with Thames Valley and how education has evolved in our schools and as a school Board through the guidance of Trustees and our system's leaders. Reflecting on the successful evolution of Thames Valley, as we begin our term in public office as Trustees, honouring the past leadership, while maintaining the*

*balance between our local community interest and the broader public interest through the Education Act, each Trustee brings our personal values, beliefs and vision for improving student outcomes. As trustees, we have the responsibility not only to lead the system to continued success, but also to act as leaders with integrity. Our focus should always on the students and families we serve.*

*We will make a difference, I challenge each of us to recognize the strategic role of Trustees, this strategic role determines how we address accountability, how we focus on the big picture in providing clarity about what it is we wish to achieve and the strategic plan as the tool to monitor system successes and challenges.*

*Our strategic plan was informed by our students, staff, parents and the broader community, with a focus on Relationships, Equity and Diversity, Achievement and Well-Being, Trustees' our leadership is referred to by Michael Fullen as "resolute leadership" where "Successful schools, districts, and larger systems have 'resolute leadership' that stays with the focus, especially during rough periods, and these leaders cause others around them to be resolute.....This is hard, persistent work but it is not overly complex. Resolute leadership is critical near the beginning when new ideas encounter serious difficulty, but it is also required to sustain and build on success."*

*Working alongside the administrative team recognizing that education has evolved, and that Trustees are no longer overseers of school systems focussing on compliance with specific fiduciary duties..... we are leaders of public education in our communities and in the province.*

*We are given the responsibility to create the conditions that enable students to achieve to their fullest potential, to enhance a culture for learning and innovation within a school environment that ensures safety and promotes well-being.*

*Embracing these responsibilities requires everyone to engage alongside, taking time to foster a deep understanding of a system that supports "the best for all students". As education has evolved so has the role of a school in a community, schools are not isolated entities, schools are intricately connected to families, the school staff, to the local community and to the municipal and provincial government.*

*As leaders of public education, building collaborative networks, bringing key partners, parent leaders through School Councils and Home and School Associations, employee groups community organizations, municipal leaders, our MPP's into our conversations, working collaboratively ensuring greater outcomes for students will require going beyond information sharing, this requires a commitment to place student achievement and well-being at the forefront of every conversation and every decision.*

*Looking ahead, reflecting on our successes, there is much to be accomplished, through Re-Think Secondary global competencies and student voice, through the Parent Engagement Review as we move from parent involvement to family engagement, as we promote the use of technology and digital literacy, building proficiencies in numeracy and literacy, ALL with a underpinning of positive mental health and well-being.*

*As well, we are deeply committed to supporting senior administration in implementing their strategic objectives to*

*\* Improve Student Achievement in Mathematics;*

*\* Improve the Five Year Graduation Rate;*

*\* Enhance Communication and Engagement in our Community;*

*\* Create Secondary Learning Experiences and Environments that are Engaging, Inclusive and Relevant; and*

*\* Create Equitable and Inclusive Learning and Work Environments for Students and Staff to Achieve Success.*

*We know that this is a tremendous responsibility and I have every confidence that the team of Thames Valley administrators, teachers and support staff will continue to use their strengths, skills and passion to deliver exemplary programs and services to our students.*

*Engagement is vital to the success of our students and schools, and our history speaks to our strong connections which we have developed with parents, guardians, and community members. This community engagement is absolutely essential in supporting our Board's Vision and Mission.*

*Vice Chair Bennett, I am very pleased to have your leadership and knowledge, as you have always inspired me to set high expectations for myself, you have never wavered as a champion of public education, I look forward to our collaboration.*

*In closing, I would like to thank Cooperate Supervisor Williams and her team for truly making this a very special evening for all, to all here in Thames Valley and the community who are invested in the success of the Board of Trustees please know your efforts are welcomed and appreciated. A strong public education system is built on the collaborative efforts of all, regardless of our role, I look forward leading alongside."*

The following motion was moved by Trustee Polhill, seconded by Trustee Skinner and CARRIED:

**THAT the Chairperson's Inaugural Address be spread upon the minutes.**

**15. MUSICAL INTERLUDE**

Parkside Collegiate Institute Stage Ensemble performed their final selection.

Trustee Ruddock thanked Parkside Collegiate Institute for their performances.

**16. CLOSING REMARKS**

Director L. Elliott brought closing remarks to the Inaugural meeting of the Thames Valley District School Board of Trustees noting the Inaugural meeting is held to mark the beginning of a leader's term of office. Trustee Arlene Morell was welcomed as Chairperson and Trustee Joyce Bennett as Vice Chairperson. On behalf of the Senior Administrative team, Director Elliott expressed the ongoing commitment of working together.

The student performers were thanked for their special performances and sharing their talents. Families, friends, staff, partners in education and special guests were thanked for attending.

Director Elliott invited guests to attend the reception in the Atrium.

**17. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 p.m. on motion of Trustee Yeoman, seconded by Trustee Ruddock.

Confirmed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson