

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM AND SCHOOL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 2, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Board Room, Education Centre

Members: Trustees J. Bennett, B. McKinnon, S. Polhill, A. Morell, S. Hunt, J. Skinner, P. Cuddy, B. Yeoman, L. Pizzolato, B. Smith, M. Ruddock, C. Rahman; Student Trustee S. Chun

Regrets: C. Antone; Student Trustees I. Frick, N. Bajaj

Administration: L. Elliott (Director), R. Culhane (Associate Director), D. Macpherson (Superintendent), L. Griffith-Jones (Superintendent)(-6:54), K. Edgar (Superintendent)(-6:54), C. Lynd (Superintendent)(-8:19), R. Kuiper (Superintendent)(-6:54), J. Pratt (Associate Director), E. Ng (Finance)(-8:19), D. Munro (Finance)(-8:19), S. Macey (Finance)(-8:19), L. Kirkpatrick (Research & Assessment)(-6:54), C. Glaser (Manager IT)(-6:54), S. Smith (Corporate Services)

1. Approval of the Agenda

The agenda was approved on motion.

2. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 2019 March 5 meeting were provided for information.

a. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

None.

4. Operational Plan Update - Enhancing Communication and Engagement within our TVDSB Community

K. Edgar introduced L. Griffith-Jones, R. Kuiper, C. Glaser and L. Kirkpatrick. Through a power point presentation K. Edgar described the progress made to date pertaining to the strategic objective of "Enhancing Communication and Engagement within our TVDSB Community". Short-term indicators and long-term measures were outlined.

C. Glaser reported on the implementation of a system-wide unified communications solutions, noting this objective is well underway. C. Glaser advised on Brightspace a modernized communications platform that supports multiple methods of information sharing. Launching Brightspace will complete this initiative.

R. Kuiper reported school communities will determine the communication needs of their community. Feedback will be collected to engage and support families. With the knowledge gained from the Dr. Debbie Pushor event these objectives are underway.

L. Griffith-Jones reported a defined services philosophy will be developed and aimed at enhancing stakeholder relationships. This work in this area is in the initial stages.

Questions of clarification regarding parent engagement, consolidating the number of apps/tools for parents, Brightspace, school newsletters, school messenger and survey execution were answered by Administration.

5. Grants for Student Needs

C. Lynd introduced S. Macey, E. Ng and D. Munro. S. Macey presented information on Grants for Student Needs (GSNs).

Through a power point presentation S. Macey outlined the accountability framework and presented information on enrolment, operating allocations, pupil foundation grant, special purposes grants, enveloping, capital funding, budget pressures and challenges, and Education Programs Other (EPOs).

Questions of clarification regarding the rural allocation grant, ESL funding for newly immigrant students, staffing requirements of the collective agreements, transportation costs, phased in Census data, high credit students, empty pupil places and the anticipated GSN funding were answered by Administration.

Trustee Rahman raised concerns regarding the number of unknowns, including changes to class sizes, autism funding, and potential changes to full day kindergarten, and the impact they may have on the budget process and on staffing. She further suggested a letter be sent to the Ministry, or a press release be issued, expressing concerns with the board's requirement to staff to the collective agreement without the funding to support it noting the increased administrative responsibilities, and the many uncertainties and challenges this will pose for the budget process.

A motion may come forward from the floor when this report is presented at the next Board meeting.

6. 2019-2020 Budget Calendar

C. Lynd and S. Macey provided information on the 2019-2020 Budget Calendar outlining the specific meeting dates where budget materials will be presented, discussed and public input will be reviewed. It was noted the budget calendar is currently a working document until more information is received from the Ministry.

7. Community Advisory Committee Updates (Standing Item)

J. Bennett reported that 2019 May 6-11 is Community Safety Week noting the theme is Active and Safe Routes to School.

J. Bennett reported on efforts to resolve the staffing shortage at the Children's Safety Village.

B. McKinnon provided an update from the Active & Safe Routes to School Committee meeting minutes noting a student painted cross walk has been approved and a four-way stop will be put in at Waydell and Hunter Street.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Questions and Comments of Members (Standing Item)

After the Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee meeting on 9 April 2019 the Trustees have been invited to stay and participate in a required review of the Code of Conduct as per new legislation regulation 246.

In response to a question regarding the Eco-program initiative funding, Administration reported the budget will be reviewed before any initiatives will be put forward.

Trustees were reminded of the 2019 April 16 Sue Hubert Session.

10. Future Agenda Items

None.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2019 May 7.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:28 p.m. by motion.

Committee Chair