

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM AND SCHOOL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 7, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Board Room, Education Centre

Administration: L. Elliott (Director), R. Culhane (Associate Director), D. Macpherson (Superintendent), Marion Moynihan (Superintendent), S. Builder (Superintendent)(-8:40), A. Canham (Superintendent), A. McKerlie (Research and Assessment)(-7:22), S. Folino (Research and Assessment)(-7:22), K. Auckland (Learning Supervisor)(-8:40), A. Norley (French Learning Coordinator), J. Moody (French Learning Coordinator), S. Armstrong (Learning Supervisor)(-7:22), R. Ferrara (Learning Supervisor)(-7:22), 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 April 2 meeting were provided for information.

a. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

None.

4. Strategic Objective: Improve Student Achievement in Mathematics Update

S. Builder introduced M. Moynihan, S. Armstrong, R. Ferrara and A. McKerlie. Through a power point presentation S. Builder described the progress made to date pertaining to the strategic objective "Improve Student Achievement in Mathematics". Short-term indicators and long-term success measures were outlined.

Administration provided an update on the completed actions from the plan. S. Builder reported on the professional learning and support provided, based on needs of educators and curriculum focus areas. Classroom walkthroughs were outlined.

S. Armstrong provided information on Math Night reporting 164 math events have been hosted; details of a typical Math Night were outlined.

S. Armstrong provided information on the math newsletter, engagement of parents with math activities, and a math games contest. A math game contest video submitted by students was presented.

A. McKerlie reported on EQAO data noting an improvement in mathematics. In response to a question Administration reported Principals have access to EQAO outreach.

In response to a question S. Armstrong reported there will be a math program for grade two students running this summer.

Questions of clarification regarding goal setting, classroom walkthroughs, summer programs and engaging community partners, the fundamentals of math/professional development, the process for gathering data, measuring results, EQAO outreach, assessment evaluation, and the renewed math strategy were answered by Administration.

5. French Immersion Enrolment Pressures Review Update

S. Builder introduced A. Canham, K. Auckland, S. Folino and K. Robertson. Through a power point presentation S. Builder presented an update on French Immersion (FI) enrolment pressures.

In response to a question S. Builder emphasized the importance of focusing on hiring quality, knowledgeable, well-trained and qualified FI teachers.

Administration outlined the essential agreements and reviewed the four potential options to be considered by the French Immersion Enrolment Pressures Review Committee noting the planned timeline to implement changes for the 2020-2021 school year. The four options are: establish grade one as an entry point for all Elementary FI schools in the board, eliminate Extended Immersion in Grades 7 and 8, create dual track schools in high pressure enrolment areas and capping enrolment based on a school's OTG capacity. The pros, cons, history and research for each option were reviewed.

Questions of clarification regarding equity and fairness for students, dual track schools and dual track functionality/processes, public input, high school graduation rates, FI funding, aligning TVDSB French programs with the co-terminus Board, FNMI enrolment, accommodating siblings, overall performance in core subjects, hiring/recruiting FI teachers and French assessments for transferred students with a base level of French were answered by Administration.

In response to a question M. Moynihan reported FI is available to any student having a baseline of French determined through a French assessment and parent consultation.

N. Bajaj provided input on the potential social division between students that dual track schools can create.

It was noted that while there should be consistency at every school, no individual option will work unilaterally across the board without negatively impacting enrolment.

The Trustees stressed the importance of not separating siblings.

J. Skinner suggested using guiding principles to aide in the decision making process. Suggested principles were captured by K. Auckland.

M. Ruddock and B. McKinnon presented additional options for the committee to review. Suggestions were captured by K. Auckland.

In response to a question Administration reported there is a national shortage of FI teachers.

6. Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder - May Updates

A. Canham introduced A. Leatham. A. Canham presented information on the update to the Ontario Government's funding for students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) through the Ontario Autism Program (OAP) and Ministry of Education funding.

Through a power point presentation A. Canham outlined the Supporting Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder Report. The Ontario Autism Program (OPA) program was reviewed, funding for families, wait-list data, funding for educational institutions, educator professional learning, Behaviour Expertise Amount allocation (BEA), Applied Behaviour Analysis (ABA), and Priorities and Partnership Fund (PPF) were highlighted.

A. Canham reported during the month of 2019 March and 2019 April there were a series of announcements from both the Ministry of Children, Community, and Social Services (MCCSS) and the Ministry of Education (MOE) pertaining to funding in support of students with ASD.

These changes include funding for families for Intensive Behavioural Intervention (IBI), funding for educational institutions: 2018-2019, educator professional learning, increased funding to the Behaviour Expertise Amount allocation (BEA), and the 2019-2020 Priorities and Partnerships Fund- the After School Skills Development Program.

It was noted the MOE has public consultation regarding ASD open until the end of May. In response to a question, A. Canham reported there are multiple channels available to complete the Ministry consultation.

Questions of clarification regarding communication from SEAC, engaging parents regarding the MOE public consultation, after school programs and funding for families were answered by Administration.

In response to a question A. Leatham reported on the wait-list times for family funding noting the wait-list is currently prioritized based on need by age.

7. In Camera

On motion the meeting was extended until 9:15 p.m.

On motion the Committee moved in camera at 8:56 p.m., reconvening in public session at 9:05 p.m.

8. Community Advisory Committee Updates (Standing Item)

J. Bennett reported this week is Community Safety and Crime Prevention Week. J. Bennett noted she has been collaborating with L. Steel to plan and execute events, noting the positive relationship between the TVDSB and LDCSB. J. Bennett extended appreciation for support to the Directors of both school boards, and the communication department for their contributions.

B. McKinnon reported the design has been created for the student painted cross walk (pending approval) noting 2019 June 4 as the scheduled paint date. If it rains the backup paint date is 2019 June 11.

9. Other Business

None.

10. Questions and Comments of Members (Standing Item)

Chair Morell reported School Congress and the Annual General Meeting are approaching; Information was provided to the Trustees prior to the meeting. Trustees were reminded to submit any professional development requests.

Chair Morell reminded everyone of the Award of Distinction Ceremony on 2019 May 9.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2019 October 1.

12. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m. by motion.

Sheri Polhill
Committee Chair