

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

May 14, 2019
London Room

Members: Trustees C. Antone, J. Bennett, P. Cuddy, S. Hunt, B. McKinnon, L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman, M. Ruddock, J. Skinner (Chair), B. Smith, B. Yeoman, Student Trustee I. Frick

Regrets: Trustee A. Morell; Student Trustees N. Bajaj, S. Chun

Administration: L. Elliott (Director), R. Culhane (Associate Director), J. Pratt (Associate Director), P. Sydor (Superintendent, -7:15), M. Deman (Superintendent, -7:15), C. Lynd (Superintendent), L. Nicholls (Superintendent), D. Macpherson (Superintendent), S. Builder (Superintendent), K. Auckland (Learning Supervisor, -7:15), M. Roes (Learning Supervisor, -7:15), M. Stanley (Learning Supervisor, -7:15), N. Rayfield (Research and Assessment, -7:15), M. Ferdinand (Manager for School Counselling and Social Work Services, -7:15), S. Macey (Manager, Finance), D. Munroe (Supervisor, Finance), E. Ng (Financial Analyst), C. Glaser (Manager, ITS), T. Testa (Manager, Communications), R. Hoffman (Communications), A. Chahbar (Board Counsel), B. Williams (Supervisor)

1. Approval of the Agenda

Committee Chair J. Skinner called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The agenda was approved on motion.

2. Conflicts of Interest - None declared.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 2019 April 30 meeting were provided for information.

a. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting - None

4. Strategic Objective: Improve the Five Year Graduation Rate

P. Sydor and M. Deman provided a power point presentation to update Trustees on the actions and short term indicators for the board's strategic objective related to improving the five year graduation rate.

P. Sydor introduced M. Roes, K. Auckland, M. Stanley, N. Rayfield and M. Ferdinand.

Information on how the Ministry calculates the five-year graduation rate and Board and Provincial statistics for 2013-2017 were provided.

The breadth of activities established to support improvements in the five-year graduation rate were described. Expected outcomes and their short and longer-term indicators were outlined.

Administration addressed questions of clarification regarding community service hours, how students track their own progress, factors impacting graduation rates, demographic data, the development of leading practice documents, credit recovery, potential impacts of migration, the work of guidance leads, and pathway choices.

5. Budget

a. Grants for Student Needs (GSN) Funding Overview for 2019-20

C. Lynd presented information on the GSN funding changes for 2019-20 based on Ministry of Education memorandum 2019:B14.

Increases were described for the Behaviour Expertise Amount (BEA), transportation stabilization, the per-pupil amount per the Average Daily Enrollment (ADE), and salary benchmarks to meet the 2017-2019 central labour agreements.

Funding reductions related to class size changes, ECE classroom staffing ratio changes, expiry of Local Priorities Funding and other grants, and reductions to operating grants for international students were described. It was noted that when the class size changes are fully implemented in four the projected reduction in secondary teachers will be 291 FTE (it was noted this was an amendment to the report).

C. Lynd advised EFIS was received last Friday noting the technical paper has yet to be received.

Administration responded to questions of clarification regarding the claw back on the operating grant for the International Student Program. The projected loss of funding is expected to be \$528,000 (it was noted this was an amendment to the report). L. Elliott and J. Pratt advised on how the tuition rate for international students is set and how the fee is used noting the need to remain competitive in the market. Efforts to lobby the government regarding the negative impact of the claw back on school boards was described. The benefits of the International Student Program were outlined.

In relation to increased class sizes and reduction in secondary teachers, the impact on student course selection was discussed. Trustees were advised steps were taken this year to include 42 "unfunded" secondary teachers in the budget to meet the collective agreement language. It is anticipated the impact on course selection will be greater in the 2020-21 school year. L. Elliott advised Ministry consultations on class sizes is still open until the end of May. The impact related to how online courses will be delivered in the future is yet unknown.

It was confirmed job losses are not expected this year, but positions may not be filled when staff retire.

In response to a question regarding the Rural and Northern allocation, S. Macey advised the amount received is a tabled amount; details regarding how the amount was calculated will be contained in the technical paper which has yet to be received from the Ministry.

b. Unified Communications 2019-20 Operational Funding Requirements

S. Macey presented information on the operational costs that will be included in the 2019-20 draft budget for the previously approved unified communications system. The annualized costs to maintain the new system were outlined highlighting efforts to reduce costs in other areas of the ITS budget to absorb some of the expenses.

C. Glaser responded to questions of clarification regarding the costs associated with the software fees/licenses and staffing; the components/capabilities of the new system; plans to leverage cloud services; and cost comparisons for different solutions.

In response to a question, it was noted the initiative began some time ago and is in response to a critical need in the system.

6. Other Business - None

7. Questions and Comments by Members

In response to a question, T. Testa advised on the information provided to the media regarding information shared in item 4.a.

8. Date and Time of Next Meeting

It was noted the meeting planned for 2019 May 21 was cancelled. The next meeting is scheduled for June 11.

9. Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

JAKE SKINNER
Committee Chair