

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

June 4, 2019
Board Room, Education Centre

TRUSTEES

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

B. McKinnon
S. Polhill
B. Smith
P. Cuddy
C. Antone
N. Bajaj
I. Frick

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

L. Elliott
S. Mark
J. Pratt
S. Builder
A. Canham
R. Culhane
L. Nicholls
D. Macpherson
S. Powell
P. Skinner
M. Moynihan
P. Sydor
R. Kuiper
L. Griffith-Jones
C. Lynd
C. Giannacopoulos
S. Macey
J. Knight
B. Martin
D. Munroe
E. Ng
P. Hearse
B. Williams

REGRETS

J. Skinner, S. Chun

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair A. Morell called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m. and acknowledged the traditional territory on which the Board meeting is held.

2. O CANADA

The meeting was opened with the playing of O Canada.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved on motion by Trustee P. Cuddy, seconded by Trustee C. Rahman.

4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

5. PRELIMINARY BUDGET PRESENTATION

Associate Director J. Pratt and Superintendent C. Lynd presented the preliminary budget for 2019-2020. J. Pratt recognized and thanked the members of finance: Managers S. Macey and J. Knight, Supervisors D. Munroe and P. Hearse, and Financial Analyst E. Ng; and members of Human Resources, Superintendent L. Nicholls and Manager B. Martin.

J. Pratt advised the preliminary 2019-2020 budget is fully compliant with the Ministry of Education requirements and is aligned to the Thames Valley District School Board strategic priorities and the five key objectives within the 2018-2019 Operational Plan. The presentation included an overview of the economic outlook for the province noting marginal enrolment increases in both elementary and secondary panels coupled with a slight increase in provincial funding for education.

C. Lynd described the items contributing to the overall projected budget deficit of 4.6 million noting it is within the compliance requirement. It was noted the budget is an estimate; risks to the budget were explained and included enrolment variability, Special Education expenses, transportation expenses, estimates of attrition used for Teacher Job Protection funding, and estimates for sick leave provisions.

A summary of the Grants for Student Needs funding from the Ministry was provided highlighting changes in funding due to class size changes, areas of increased and decreased funding, and capital funding. Ministry requirements for spending (the accountability measures) were outlined.

S. Macey presented the projected enrolment numbers for elementary and secondary and compared those to the current year. Average Daily Enrolment for total pupils was outlined for each of the years from 2015-16 to 2022-23 highlighting the slight enrolment increases expected over the next number of years in both elementary and secondary.

Board commitments to system priorities were outlined and included: Special Education, 34 credit threshold, International Education, musical instrument replacements, in-house legal counsel, mental health initiative, Culture for Innovation, indigenous education counselor, Robotics, Swim to Survive, secondary literacy support-OSSLT, AED maintenance and additional secondary teacher support.

S. Macey presented the projected surplus/(deficit) budget. The distribution of expenses and staffing changes for 2019-2020 were outlined and explained. A summary of new expenses contributing to the overall deficit were outlined and included: snow removal increase, increase to the Special Education deficit, and 54 additional Secondary Teachers.

J. Pratt highlighted the allocation of funds to support the Free the Flow initiative led by Student Trustee S. Chun and the Culture for Learning Team.

J. Pratt reviewed the timelines for the budget approval process including the public input process.

Administration responded to Trustee questions of clarification regarding supports for students transitioning to TVDSB resulting from provincial changes to the funding model for students with autism, the Rural and Northern Education Fund, budget items related to the unified communications system and technology in classroom initiatives, allocation of EAs in the system, allocation of teaching staff noting no job losses/layoffs for teachers, 34 credit/High credit, amortization amounts and calculations, portable costs, amounts received from Ministry for portables, indigenous programming and student fees, Culture for Innovation, supports for capital planning, current year spending and Ministry expectations regarding unspent funds, impacts of the new Ministry requirement for Consolidated Municipal Service Managers (CMSMs) to provide operational funding for the Child and Family Centres co-located in TVDSB schools, the 54 unfunded teachers positions, and the process for public input.

In regards to the Ministry expectation that plans be established to address budget deficits, J. Pratt advised the current 1.5 million structural deficit may be addressed through provincial bargaining in the coming year.

6. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

On behalf of Trustees, Trustee B. McKinnon recognized and thanked Media Production Technician B. Ince for his years of service and wished him the best in his upcoming retirement.

7. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Hunt the meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

A. MORELL
Chairperson