

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

June 11, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Board Room, Education Centre

Attendance:

Members: Trustees C. Antone, J. Bennett, P. Cuddy, S. Hunt, B. McKinnon (by phone, -7:54), A. Morell, L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman, M. Ruddock, J. Skinner (Chair), B. Smith, B. Yeoman, Student Trustees I. Frick (-8:38) and S. Chun (-8:10)

Regrets: N. Bajaj

Administration: L. Elliott (Director), R. Culhane (Associate Director), J. Pratt (Associate Director), C. Lynd (Superintendent), S. Powell (Superintendent), S. Mark (Superintendent), A. Canham (Superintendent), L. Nicholls (Superintendent), D. Macpherson (Superintendent, -8:10), S. Builder (Superintendent), R. Kuiper (Superintendent), K. Edgar (Superintendent), C. Giannacopoulos (Superintendent), B. Martin, (Manager, HR, -7:10), S. Folino (Research and Assessment, -9:42), K. Robertson (Principal, -9:42), K. Auckland (Learning Supervisor, -7:15), L. Munro (Learning Supervisor, -8:10), B. Nielsen (Learning Supervisor, -8:10), D. Munroe (Supervisor, Finance, -7:10), P. Hearse (Finance, -7:10), C. Kent (Planner, -9:42), C. Henriquez (Manager, Facilities, -9:10), B. Williams (Supervisor, Corporate Services)

1. **Approval of the Agenda**

Committee Chair J. Skinner called the meeting to order at 6:03 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 May 14 meeting were provided for information.

a. **Business Arising from the Previous Meeting - none**

4. **Budget**

C. Lynd advised on the amendment to the preliminary 2019-20 budget per the secondary teacher line noting an increase of 54 FTE. The additional cost of 4.4 M will be offset through an adjustment to the casual salaries for sick leave provisions.

There was a request for a written summary of the verbal report in advance of next week's meeting. It was noted information will be included in the material prepared for Trustees this week in preparation for the 2019 June 18 meeting.

As a follow up to the 2019 June 4 Special Board meeting, C. Lynd provided information on the revenues budgeted for each of the First Nations Communities and explained the reduction to the library line noting the reduction in membership fee costs.

a. Public Input

Public delegations and written public input were received in regards to the 2019-2020 Preliminary Budget. The five presenters spoke to the value of rural schools.

Trustee J. Bennett referenced the written public input received from community members acknowledging their input and asking Trustees to review the input received.

b. 2018-2019 Interim Financial Report - 2019 March 31

C. Lynd presented for information the 2018-2019 Interim Financial Report for the seven months ending 2019 March 31.

5. Operational Plan Update, Secondary School Experience

D. Macpherson, B. Nielsen, C. Giannacopoulos, L. Munro, and S. Mark presented an update on the operational plan objective focused on creating secondary learning experiences and environments that are engaging, inclusive and relevant.

Expected outcomes and short term indicators used to measure these outcomes were described. A number of initiatives and programs in secondary were highlighted and included: global competency professional development, Experiential Learning, School Within a School programs, Inclusive Design, Learning Commons, and 1:1 devices.

Questions of clarification regarding the Chromebook pilot, outcomes, the engagement of schools in experiential learning, and School Within a School projects were addressed by the Administrative Team.

6. 2019-2020 Accommodation Planning Priority Areas Background Report

S. Mark, C. Henriquez and C. Kent presented the 2019-2020 Accommodation Planning Priority Areas report outlining priority areas for accommodation planning.

S. Mark advised the planning 'tool kit' to deal with accommodation pressures at this time is limited. Holding zones, portables, and attendance area reviews were outlined as the only tools currently available given the moratorium on school closures and the hold on Pupil Accommodation Reviews by the Ministry. S. Mark advised the Ministry has yet to announce the request to submit business cases for Capital Priorities funding.

C. Kent provided background information on the identification of priority areas and the accommodation framework; identified priority areas were outlined.

S. Mark invited feedback from Trustees on the identified priority areas noting the Annual Accommodation Report in early winter will outline proposed next steps for addressing accommodation pressures in Thames Valley schools.

In response to a comment regarding the use of holding zones, C. Kent advised Planning intends to do a full review of how holding zones have been used to date to determine if they have been effective and have done their intended job.

Administration responded to questions of clarification regarding potential innovative solutions such as co-build opportunities, use of closed schools, and community collaboration. In response to a question, it was noted one of the overall goals of accommodation planning is to reduce empty pupil places.

In regards to questions pertaining to the EPAR-01 decisions and potential new growth in Elgin County, Administration advised they are operating on the decision of the Board noting school closures are contingent on Ministry funding for new schools. In regards to potential new growth in the area, C. Kent advised on the work she is doing to ensure potential student yield numbers from new subdivisions are tracked. J. Pratt advised Administration will continue to monitor this and, as appropriate, could come back to the Board for more dialogue.

In regards to the information provided on the priority areas there was a suggestion trend information be provided on the growth/decline in student enrollment at the identified schools. It was confirmed data was based on the October 31, 2018 enrollment numbers. These numbers will be updated for the Annual Accommodation Report to be presented in Fall 2019.

In response to a question regarding timelines for capital priorities, J. Pratt advised on efforts to lobby the Ministry to establish a consistent schedule. J. Pratt confirmed Trustees will have an opportunity to review the order of capital priorities on the list created by Administration in the advance of submitting business cases for consideration by the Ministry. It was noted it is difficult to create any list in the absence of Ministry criteria for Capital Priorities funding. S. Mark suggested school additions may be a good option.

On motion, the meeting was extended to 9:30 p.m.

In response to a question regarding a future review of Secondary Schools, J. Pratt advised any review is not envisioned in the immediate future given the hold on Pupil Accommodation Reviews by the Ministry. Costing information was requested from Administration related to any significant planning initiatives. Administration responded that this request may be rather difficult as planning initiatives can be undertaken completely in-house and/or through external consultants as required. Any consultant fees would be charged to the appropriate account within the Planning Department budget.

In response to a question regarding the allocation of school renewal funds C. Henriquez advised school renewal needs far outweigh the available resources and as such, Facility Services prioritizes needs.

7. French Immersion Review Committee Update

As a follow up to the 2019 May 7 Program and School Services meeting, S. Builder and the team of C. Kent, K. Auckland, K. Robertson, S. Folino, and A. Canham provided responses to questions that were asked at the meeting. Also provided was the updated Essential Agreement that will be used to guide the decision-making process regarding the French Immersion Program.

Next steps were reviewed and included gathering of public input to help narrow the options under consideration. A final report will be presented to Trustees October 2019.

On motion, the meeting was extended to 9:50 p.m.

Questions of clarification regarding the retention rate data, potential for split classes in dual track, participation rates of grade 8 students in FI, and transportation were answered by Administration. In response to a question regarding costs, C. Lynd advised there is no way to track the cost of delivering French Immersion as those costs are not tracked separately from the cost of delivering education otherwise.

8. Other Business

None.

9. Questions and Comments by Members

Per the written public input received, there was a request for more information on the Special Education budget pertaining to staffing and the staffing changes. C. Lynd offered to bring that information forward at the 2019 June 18 Special Meeting of the Board.

In response to a question regarding the delay in the installation of the soccer posts at Kettle Creek Public School, J. Pratt advised the delay is a result of the weather this spring. Work could not be completed as the fields would have been ruined. As soon as field conditions allow the work will be completed. In response to a question regarding donations, J. Pratt advised on CRA rules in this regard.

10. Future Agenda Items

Discussions on future agenda items was deferred to the September 2019 meeting.

11. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2019 September 10.

12. Adjournment

On motion the meeting adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

J. SKINNER
Committee Chair