

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

June 25, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
Board Room, Education Centre

TRUSTEES

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

S. Hunt
B. McKinnon
S. Polhill
B. Smith
J. Skinner
P. Cuddy
S. Chun

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

L. Elliott
S. Mark
J. Pratt
S. Builder
A. Canham
R. Culhane
D. Macpherson
R. Hoffman
S. Powell
P. Skinner
S. Powell
R. Hoffman
C. Henriquez (-9:29)
J. Ammendolia (-9:29)
A. Marlowe
E. Butler
M. Fisher
M. Moynihan
P. Sydor
T. Testa
R. Kuiper
L. Griffith-Jones
C. Lynd
C. Giannacopoulos
K. Edgar
L. Nicholls
L. Munro
A. Chahbar
B. Williams
S. Smith
C. Kent (-9:29)

REGRETS

C. Antone, I. Frick

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Morell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and acknowledged the traditional territory on which the Board meeting is held.

2. O CANADA

Riverside Public School opened the meeting with the playing of O Canada.

3. SPECIAL MUSICAL PRESENTATION

The appreciation of the Board was extended to Riverside Public School for their performance and to T. Rees for leading in the singing of O Canada and three musical selections.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved on motion by Trustee Yeoman, seconded by Trustee Cuddy.

5. OFFICIAL RECORD

B. Williams, Supervisor, Corporate Services, read the following official record into the minutes:

We regret to record the death of Skyler Peroff on June 8th. Skyler was a student at B. Davison Secondary School.

We regret to record the death of Terry (Ross) Mielke on June 23rd. Terry was a student at H.B. Beal Secondary School.

6. RECOGNITIONS

B. McKinnon extended appreciation to outgoing Student Trustee Bajaj and thanked her for the contributions she made as a Student Trustee.

Student Trustee Bajaj recapped her journey as a Student Trustee and extended her appreciation to Trustees, Staff and Administration for their guidance and mentorship.

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

8. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Morell welcomed and introduced M. Fisher, the in-coming Director to the Thames Valley District School Board.

Moved by S. Polhill

Seconded by J. Skinner

THAT the recognitions brought by Chair Morell and Director Elliott (item #9) be spread upon the minutes.

CARRIED

Arlene Morell, Chair of the Board Remarks, June 25, 2019

"Tonight, with mixed feelings, presents the opportunity to provide best wishes to our Director of Education, Laura Elliott, as tonight will conclude the last board meeting as Laura's retirement the end of August.

Prior to becoming Chair and a Thames Valley trustee, I had the pleasure of knowing Laura in her capacity as a member of the Senior Team in my role as a leader of parent engagement through the Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee and Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations.

Upon Laura's early time as Executive Superintendent of Programing Laura identified the need for, and importance of, greater diversity within our Board. She led Thames Valley in the development of improved relationships and inclusion of our FNMI students and communities, and the role of parents as leaders.

As a director, Laura continued this work and was an agent of change at a time when the Board needed it most, bringing a global perspective that helped us to understand that you COULD retain focus on local school communities, while working to develop global citizens at the same time.

In the role as our Director, Laura was able to identify someone's strengths and encourage them to thrive and to push to do better in order to create the conditions for growth and for learning.... over my time as a Trustee I have observed Laura's leadership how she develops co-leaders thus ensuring she is leaving a legacy where students are central to everyone we do.

In my many roles in education, in my travels across Canada, when I share that I am with Thames Valley, people everywhere first respond with Laura Elliott's name. She is so well-respected provincially and nationally, and I am so proud of how positively that reflects on Thames Valley, Laura's most recent received through the c21 Academy Network, the award titled the Shifting Minds Award "related to your exemplary leadership coaching and national mentorship" Laura, thank you for your dedication to Thames Valley, to our students, our staff and all of us who have benefitted from your positive leadership.

Congratulations of your retirement, On behalf of the Board of Trustees, while you will be missed, know that you have left a legacy... enjoy this wonderful time in your life, best wishes to you as your begin a new exciting time ahead."

9. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Laura Elliott, Director of Education Remarks, June 25, 2019

"It has been a pleasure to serve in public education for 39 years, and my past 6 years as Director has been the culmination of my career in education. As a member of a senior administrative team in two large school boards – Durham District School Board and Thames Valley District School Board, I have attended approximately 400 board meetings during my 23 years!

As I look back at the work we did in TVDSB for all employees, one of the areas of greatest impact is that which we focused on leading within a culture of learning and innovation – we gave permission to staff to take risks, and try new approaches to their work.

Throughout the organization staff has found ways to improve their work within their sphere of influence, and the results have been outstanding! We have many examples throughout our schools and departments where new programs and policies are meeting needs in more proactive and productive ways

Our work in international education is another example of where we have opened our doors to the world. This coming July we are opening our new One World Centre where newcomer families will be able to register their children in a TVDSB school, and receive information about our TVDSB communities. We are a welcoming community and we look forward to receiving children who have chosen a Thames Valley school.

In 2010, the UN Secretary General stated on his visit to a Child Protection Agency: 'A society is judged by its treatment of its weakest and most vulnerable people'.

I am most proud of TVDSB for supporting our most vulnerable students – those who have unique and special learning needs – LGBT2Q+ students, those with special education needs, our English language learners, indigenous youth, and those who live in poverty.

It is our staff, together with parents and members of our community who make positive programs happen for our students, each and every day.

In education, we perform our work in service to others, most importantly our students – and each one of us plays a small part to ensuring that we serve our students either directly or indirectly, and to the best of our abilities to meet their unique, and individual needs. Our jobs are not easy, and I don't think most people understand the complexity of the teaching and learning process.

I had the chance to travel to Israel and Poland last summer with the Simon Wiesenthal Centre for Holocaust Studies, and we had the opportunity to meet Major General Avshalom Peled, Commander of the Israeli Police Academy. His piece of advice which resonated with me was 'public trust is our compass'.

There have been some very complex and difficult situations I have encountered in the role of Director, and with the help of others, we have worked from a position of public confidence and trust. We consistently respected the work we needed to do to keep our students and staff safe at all times. We never once took our roles for granted.

I also owe a debt of gratitude to the many trustees with whom I have worked, and in particular, our Board Chairs who have guided me over the past 6 years – our current Chair, Arlene Morell, and past chairs Joyce Bennett, Ruth Tisdale, Bill McKinnon and Matt Reid. You have never wavered from your relentless focus on students. Thank you for keeping them at the center of your decision-making.

To our student trustees, I would like to thank you for being such enthusiastic ambassadors for Thames Valley. I am so proud of the work you have done to boost the numbers of students who are active participants at your Student Advisory Council. Your voice at the board table continually grounds all of our work for both staff and trustees in our 'why'.

Finally, to the members of senior team both present and past, thank you for your dedicated and tireless work. You are the unsung heroes in my view. You work endless hours on behalf of students and staff, as you handle a multitude of complex and often competing priorities. Thank you for your support and service to others, and to me.

Thank you, Thames Valley for the providing both the opportunities and the challenges. I have the highest regard for our staff and Board of Trustees, and I know that the future continues to be bright for our students. Thank you for the privilege to serve as the Director of Education for this amazing board!"

10. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

11. MINUTES OF THE 2019 MAY 28 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND THE 2019 JUNE 4 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

a. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2019 May 28 Regular Board meeting and the 2019 June 4 Special Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Cuddy.

b. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

12. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

S. Chun conveyed she is looking forward to working with the incoming Trustees in the next school year.

On behalf of Student Trustee Frick, S. Chun reported on her accomplishments and extended appreciation to the Trustees.

Student Trustee Bajaj highlighted the accomplishments of the Student Trustees during the 2018- 2019 school year and extended her appreciation to Trustees, Staff and Administration for their guidance and mentorship.

13. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a. Western Area Attendance Middlesex Area Review

S. Mark introduced C. Henriquez, J. Ammendolia and C. Kent and presented for approval the recommendations of the Western Area Middlesex Attendance Area Review.

The following motions, moved by Trustee Rahman, seconded by Trustee Ruddock and deferred from the 2019 April 23 Board meeting and again from the 2019 May 28 Board meeting, were put back on the floor:

THAT the subdivision plans of 39T-MC1301, 39T-MC0902, and any other future subdivision plans contained in Area "A" as identified in the Watson & Associates

Economists Ltd. Report "TVDSB: Middlesex Attendance Area Review (Supplementary Data), December 17, 2018" be permanently designated to the existing attendance area of Delaware Central PS.

THAT the existing attendance areas for Oxbow PS / Valleyview PS / East Williams Memorial PS remain status quo.

THAT the existing attendance areas for Centennial Central PS / North London remain status quo.

In response to a question concerning staffing and potential timelines for amending attendance areas, L. Nicholls advised Trustees of the staffing process timelines and obligations under collective agreement language pertaining to boundary changes.

A. Morell proposed an amendment to the first recommendation, to remove the reference to future subdivision plans.

Moved by A. Morell

Seconded by J. Skinner

THAT the subdivision plans of 39T-MC1301 and 39T-MC0902 be permanently designated to the existing attendance area of Delaware Central PS effective immediately.

CARRIED

Moved by A. Morell

Seconded by J. Skinner

THAT the recommendations regarding the attendance areas for Oxbow P.S., Valleyview P.S. and East Williams Memorial P.S. be addressed separately.

CARRIED

Moved by A. Morell

Seconded by M. Ruddock

That the motion to have the existing attendance area for Oxbow PS remain status quo be substituted with the following: That the subdivisions of Timberwalk 39T-MC0401 and Clear Skies 39T-MC1401 be permanently designated to the existing attendance area of Oxbow PS effective September 2020.

CARRIED

Trustee Morell spoke to the motion reflecting on the public input received regarding the current holding zones and the enrollment projections detailed in the reports presented by Administration.

Moved by A. Morell

Seconded by M. Ruddock

That the subdivisions of Timberwalk 39T-MC0401 and Clear Skies 39T-MC1401 be permanently designated to the existing attendance area of Oxbow PS effective September 2020.

A poll vote was requested.

YEAS: J. Bennett, P. Cuddy, S. Hunt, A. Morell, L. Pizzolato, C. Rahman, M. Ruddock, J. Skinner, B. Smith, B. Yeoman

ABSTAINED: B. McKinnon, S. Polhill

ABSENT: C. Antone

STUDENT TRUSTEES:

ABSTAINED: N. Bajaj, S. Chun

CARRIED

Moved by A. Morell

Seconded by B. Smith

That the motion to have the existing attendance area for Valleyview remain status quo be substituted with the following: THAT families residing within the Oxbow PS and Parkview PS attendance areas only be given the option to attend Valleyview PS with transportation effective September 2020.

For so long as the family continues to reside at the address they did at the time of first school choice and until such student and their siblings graduate from the school or otherwise cease attending Valleyview PS for their own reasons, with transportation.

That this optional attendance area to Valleyview be a pilot to be reviewed in 3-5 years.

DEFEATED

Trustee Morell, and other Trustees in favour of the motion, spoke to the importance of finding innovative solutions for families living on the boundary between the two schools. The intent of the pilot is to determine whether the proposed choice of school option is feasible.

Trustees speaking against the motion identified concerns with opening a choice of school option for elementary noting potential implications in other areas of the Board. It was suggested a pilot such as the one proposed required more discussion and thought.

Trustees spoke in favour of a 'grandfathering' option for students such that students currently attending Valleyview could continue to attend if they chose.

Moved by A. Morell

Seconded by M. Ruddock

That current holding zone students, and their siblings, enrolled at Valleyview PS be permitted to continue to attend Valleyview PS, with transportation, for so long as that student and their siblings continue to reside at the address they did at the time of the establishment of the new boundary and until such time that student and their siblings graduate from Valleyview PS or otherwise cease attending Valleyview PS for their own reasons.

CARRIED

In response to question, R. Culhane advised previous decisions regarding the grandfathering of students limited the provision of transportation to one year.

Moved by A. Morell
Seconded by S. Hunt

That the existing attendance area for East Williams Memorial PS remain status quo.

CARRIED

Moved by A. Morell
Seconded by L. Pizzolato

That the existing attendance area for Caradoc PS remain status quo.

CARRIED

Moved by A. Morell
Seconded by J. Skinner

That the existing attendance areas for Centennial Central PS/North London remain status quo.

CARRIED

The motion related to the establishment of transition committees was withdrawn.

Moved by A. Morell
Seconded by B. Smith

That Chair's Committee be directed to establish a Rural Education Task Force, with a final report due to the Board no later than November 2020.

CARRIED

A. Morell spoke to the motion noting schools in rural areas face a variety of challenges, including student enrolment, school population growth and decline, and other factors.

The mandate/scope of the Taskforce was described as follows:

The task force would consult with students, parents, community, municipal leaders in TVDSB rural communities to identify the unique challenges and opportunities experienced by students, parents and municipalities; and develop recommendations for consideration related to a TVDSB Rural Education Strategy.

The scope of the task force would include a review of the challenges and opportunities for rural schools, including funding; review of current practices and evidence related to rural schools and communities; examining the role e-learning plays in rural education, and other additional learning opportunities that enhance student learning; visits to rural schools to learn more about innovative practices as solutions; and exploration of JK to 12 or 7 to 12 models.

It was suggested the task force membership include Trustees, Senior Team, Learning Coordinators, Principals/school staff, students, community partners, and Municipal Leaders.

b. Special Education Plan

A. Canham presented for approval the updated Thames Valley District School Board Special Education Plan 2019-2020. A copy was provided to the Trustees prior to the meeting. Changes to the *Management Structure of the Special Education Department* (Standard 3) and *IPRC Placements* were highlighted (Standard 9).

It was noted the revised Special Education Plan 2019-2020 was endorsed by the Special Education Advisory Committee at their 2019 June 11 meeting.

Moved by C. Rahman

Seconded by B. Yeoman

THAT the Thames Valley District School Board Special Education Plan 2019-2020 be approved.

CARRIED

c. Accessibility Plan

A. Canham introduced A. Marlowe, Equity and Diversity Coordinator and presented for approval the Thames Valley District School Board Accessibility Plan 2019-2021. A copy was provided to the Trustees prior to the meeting.

A. Canham spoke to TVDSB's commitment to ensuring accessible and inclusive learning and working environments, and respect for the rights of persons with disabilities noting the plan aligns with TVDSB's Strategic Plan.

It was noted the revised Accessibility Plan 2019-2021 was endorsed by the Special Education Advisory Committee at their 2019 June 11 meeting.

Moved by J. Bennett

Seconded by B. Yeoman

THAT the Thames Valley District School Board Accessibility Plan 2019-2021 be approved.

CARRIED

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

a. First Nations Advisory Committee, 2019 May 21

Trustee McKinnon referred to the written report of the First Nations Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2019 May 21; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

b. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2019 May 27

Trustee Bennett referred to the written report of the Special Education Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2019 May 27 at 5:00 p.m.; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

c. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2019 May 27

Trustee Bennett referred to the written report of the Special Education Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2019 May 27 at 7:pm; highlights of the meeting were shared.

Trustee Bennett reported the Trustees and Director Elliott were copied on a letter to the Minister of Education regarding funding for Special Education. The letter also was sent to other SEAC committees.

d. Policy Working Committee, 2019 May 28

Trustee Bennett referred to the written report of the Policy Working Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package. Recommendations of the Committee were outlined.

Moved by J. Bennett

Seconded by S. Polhill

THAT the revised Political Activity on Board Property Policy (#9009) be approved.

THAT the revised Employee Code of Conduct Policy be approved.

CARRIED

e. Audit Committee, 2019 June 11

Trustee Morell highlighted items from the written report of the Audit Committee provided to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. There were no recommendations.

f. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2019 June 11

Trustee Bennett referred to the written report of the Special Education Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2019 June 11; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

On invitation of Trustee Bennett, A. Canham described the new in-house solution created to allow parents to complete the Individual Plan of Care (IPOC) form online.

g. Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee, 2019 June 11

Trustee Skinner highlighted items from the written report of the 2019 June 11 Program and School Services Advisory Committee meeting provided to the Trustees in the agenda package. There were no recommendations.

In reference to the discussion under item 6.0 and to presentations made at the recent Annual Community Planning and Facility Collaboration Meetings, Trustee Ruddock expressed concerns regarding the EPAR-01 recommendations suggesting they have become un-actionable.

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by B. Smith

In that: the EPAR 01 decision was made in May of 2017, and the business case was submitted in August of 2017;

Whereas: the average length of time from the decision and the securing of capital funding is generally 3 years;

Whereas: the business case was declined, and most recently shared (at the Annual community planning and facility collaboration meeting) that in part the rationale for decline of the business case was the empty pupil places within the vicinity of Elgin County and St. Thomas, and for the exploration of other accommodation options;

Whereas: Elgin Court is at 64% capacity and Forest Park is at 76% capacity, both schools neighbour over capacity schools, thus more empty pupil places exist in 2019 in comparison to 2017;

Whereas: four weeks following the decision, the Ministry of Education announced a moratorium on school closures;

Whereas: the current draft guidelines for school closures contain potential impacts to the decision;

Whereas: there remains uncertainty regarding the criteria for capital funding and the conditions for business cases in terms of securing capital funding for new schools;

Whereas: observing current municipal growth plans, student accommodation pressures have significantly changed since 2017;

Whereas: due to the fluidity of migration and municipal growth over three years, there is demonstrated change to the study area;

Whereas: in three years, there has been subsequent shift in the growth and decline in the study area, a more advantageous location for a new build could be considered through a new study of the area;

Whereas: the 2017 decision is considered outdated, with significant change a new review of the area should be conducted;

Whereas: precedence now demonstrates capital dollars for successful business case for a smaller rural school: Bluewater DSB received funding for new school in Markdale of less than 300 pupil places. And I quote a Bluewater DSB media release, "approved funding in the amount of \$6.4 million from the ministry's School Consolidation Capital funding program has been allocated for the build, which will accommodate 236 student spaces from Junior Kindergarten to Grade 8, to meet current and future enrolment expectations in the Markdale area.";

Whereas: no action has been undertaken in respect to student placement and existing schools;

Thus: considering the motions un-actionable would cause no disruption to students or the status of the current schools in EPAR-01.

That the 2017 decisions of EPAR-01 are out-dated, as a result the motions are un-actionable.

That through the Chair of the Board, a letter be written to the Ministry of Education regarding the importance of a rural school model in terms of capital funding.

Trustees asked questions of clarification regarding the wording of the motion. M. Ruddock clarified the expectation was to reverse the decisions of the EPAR-01 suggesting the motions were now un-actionable.

Concerns were raised regarding the use of the term "un-actionable" and where that wording originated.

Administration advised the Ministry has yet to communicate the criteria that will be used to assess business cases submitted for Capital Priorities Funding. It is hoped Capital Priorities Funding will be announced this month. S. Mark advised there is a new Capital Analyst at the Ministry.

It was noted the decisions of the previous Board regarding EPAR-01 recommendations stand pending Ministry approval of the business cases. Pending the criteria established for assessing business cases, more information may be available in the near future. It was noted it is not uncommon to submit a business case multiple times before it is approved.

In response to a question concerning investment of renewal dollars in schools slated to close, J. Pratt advised schools slated to close would still get renewal dollars for critical components ensuring preventative maintenance was done as required.

In consideration of the discussion and lack of information from the Ministry at this time, Chair Morell suggested a report from Administration regarding Capital Priorities Funding as it relates to EPAR-01 recommendations may be a good first step.

On the agreement of the mover and seconder, the motion was amended to ask Administration for a report.

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by B. Smith

That Administration prepare a report, on or before 2019 November 26, regarding Capital Priorities funding criteria as it relates to the EPAR-01 recommendations.

CARRIED

h. Chair's Committee, 2019 June 18

Trustee Bennett highlighted items from the written report of the Chair's Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package. Recommendations of the Committee were outlined.

Moved by J. Bennett

Seconded by B. McKinnon

THAT Trustees B. McKinnon, L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, and C. Antone be appointed as mentors to the three new Student Trustees for the period ending 2019 November 30.

CARRIED

i. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2019 June 25

Trustee Bennett reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:04 p.m. to 5:24 p.m. The committee discussed confidential legal and personal matters. It was noted Trustee B. McKinnon declared a conflict of interest in relation to item 6.b on the in-camera agenda.

Moved by J. Bennett

Seconded by C. Rahman

THAT the following individuals be appointed as members of the Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee:

Lori Martinez (Parent Member for a 1-year term, representing London wards 1, 11, 12, and 14).

Stacey Vries (Parent Member for a 1-year term, representing Oxford County).

David Cripps (Parent Member for a 2-year term, representing Oxford County).

Lisa Bailey-Moore (Parent Member for a 1-year term, representing London wards 2,3,4,5, and 6).

Susan Miller (Parent Member for a 1-year term, representing London wards 7,8,9,10, and 13).

Steven Vanloffeld (Parent Member for a 1-year term, representing the Indigenous Community).

Michelle Bacon (Community Member for a 1-year term).

Theresa Whatley (Community Member, Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations for a 1-year term).

CARRIED

15. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Skinner reported he is attending the OPSBA Annual General Meeting (AGM) and the Canadian School Board Association (CSBA) AGM next week, noting he is looking forward to reporting back on both AGM's at the 2019 September 24 meeting of the Board.

b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)

Trustee McKinnon reported on the success of the *RUN for the FUNd* event noting there were over 500 participants, including 250 students. The event raised almost \$20,000 for the Caring Fund. Trustee McKinnon reported TVEF distributed \$125,000 to honour 360 requests to support TVDSB students this year through the Caring Fund.

Trustee McKinnon provided details on ways the Learning Enhancement Fund recipients are implementing programs to benefit TVDSB students in both school panels.

16. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

18. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

19. ADDITIONAL ITEMS

None.

20. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

In response to a question S. Mark reported the approval to proceed was recently submitted for Tweedsmuir and Southeast London, TVDSB is currently awaiting a reply from the Ministry.

Trustee Bennett provided an update on the appeals regarding membership to the City of London's Safety and Crime Prevention Advisory Committee. The appeals were denied. As a result Thames Valley District School Board, and other groups, will no longer have membership on the Committee. The City has opted to fill the positions with Members-at-Large.

21. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Yeoman, seconded by Trustee Cuddy the meeting adjourned at 10:35 p.m.

Arlene Morell
Chairperson