

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

November 26, 2019, 7:00 P.M.
Board Room, Education Centre

TRUSTEES

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

B. McKinnon
S. Polhill
B. Smith
J. Skinner
P. Cuddy
C. Antone
S. Hunt
E. Butler

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

M. Fisher
J. Pratt
S. Builder
A. Canham
R. Culhane
D. Macpherson
R. Hoffman
P. Skinner
B. Williams
C. Kent(-8:37)
E. Park(-7:78)
T. McLeod(-7:27)

M. Moynihan
P. Sydor
R. Kuiper
L. Griffith-Jones
K. Wilkinson
K. Edgar
L. Nicholls
A. Chahbar
S. Smith
C. Henriquez(-8:37)
M. Barry(7-:27)

REGRETS

S. Chun

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

W. Sherwood Fox P.S. opened the meeting with the singing of O Canada.

3. SPECIAL MUSICAL PRESENTATION

The appreciation of the Board was extended to W. Sherwood Fox P.S. for their performance and to A. Hillis for leading in the singing of O Canada and two musical selections.

4. STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

Principal T. McLeod, and Vice-Principal M. Barry from East Elgin S.S. presented information on operationalizing the Strategic Priority Literacy.

Trustee Smith extended appreciation to the school Administration from East Elgin S.S.

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

6. OFFICIAL RECORD

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

We regret to record the death of Tyler Coleiro on October 25th. Tyler was a student at Medway High School.

We regret to record the death of Laurie Khawaja on November 8th. Laurie was a Teacher at Victoria Public School.

We regret to record the death of Mariia Bundur on November 18th. Mariia was a student at Ekcoe Central Public School.

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

8. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Fisher announced as part of the Operational Plan 19/20 in Motion, TVDSB is working to increase School Climate Survey completion. Students in grades 5-12 have been invited to participate in the survey to provide feedback regarding safety, school engagement and the school environment. It was noted survey response rate is expected to exceed last year, with more than 17,000 responses to date.

Director Fisher presented a video created by the Student Trustees to help engage their peers with survey completion. It was noted the student survey will remain open until 2019 December 13.

9. CHAIR'S VALEDICTORY ADDRESS

Chair Morell presented her Valedictory Address.

"It has been my greatest honour to serve as the Chair of the Thames Valley District School Board, I want to begin by thanking the Trustees who have served alongside me, over this past year. It is hard to believe that it was a year ago we came together for our first inaugural, with the excitement of being newly elected, with a passion for ensuring Thames Valley schools provide a high quality education for each and every student.

This year has been year of change... the Board of Trustees have welcome eight new Trustees and two new student Trustees and Trustee Chun serving her second term, we congratulated Director Elliott on her many years of service upon her retirement and welcomed Director Fisher to our School Board, Senior Team and our school communities.

Trustees (including our student Trustees) you have demonstrated your commitment – asking questions and sharing ideas, engaging in system change, this is hard work, nonetheless, important work... for our students, ensuring greater outcomes.

One year ago in my Inaugural address I asked of everyone to recognize the strategic role of Trustees, how we focus on the big picture in providing clarity about what we wish to achieve and the Strategic Plan as our tool to monitor system success and challenge.

More recently I came across this quote and found it to demonstrate much of what was accomplished. "To help create the conditions necessary for system changes... it has become incumbent that we take proactive risks and try new approaches that allow innovative ideas to flourish while doing our best to learn both from the process and the outcome.

- Foster a culture that stimulates
- Generate new paths

I have seen first hand Trustees demonstrate their continuous effort in striving foster common ground, never wavering from our core purpose – the students served by public education here in Thames Valley - our collective ability to continually focus on the work at hand, which is governing. The Governance Core by Michael Fullen and Davis Campbell defines that Trustee leadership excellence require purposeful actions:

- Always keeping the board’s focus on students
- Fiscal stewardship - in plan language – keeping an eye on the budget
- Maintaining a focus on the long-term goals
- Building and maintaining strong governance infrastructure
- Supporting staff and creating positive organization culture
- Holding the organization accountable to the community it serves
- Keeping constituents informed

In closing I would like to thank Vice-Chair Bennett, the members of Chairs Committee, Student Trustees and all the members of the Board...we have learned a lot over this year, each of you have embraced your role, diversity is our strength

Continue to:

- Set high expectations for ourselves
- Hold the system and each other accountable
- Be kind and humble
- Listen with empathy
- And always stay focused on the best for each student”

10. PUBLIC INPUT

E. Park, Human Environments Analysis Laboratory Youth Advisory Council presented public input regarding youth vaping in schools.

E. Park identified key issues contributing to youth vaping and presented recommendations to improve enforcement and reduce exposure.

Trustees asked questions of clarification to the presenter.

11. MINUTES OF THE 2019 OCTOBER 22 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND THE 2019 NOVEMBER 19 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

a. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2019 October 22 Regular Board meeting, and the 2019 November 19 Special meeting of the Board were approved on motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Skinner.

b. Business Arising from Minutes

1. EPAR-01 Decision. (item 18: Notice of Motion)

Trustees in favour of the motion, provided their rationale noting their support for a new Belmont school believing a new Belmont school to be feasible without the two schools needing to close.

Trustees speaking against the motion identified concerns with the rescinding of motions.

Questions of clarification regarding separating the business cases were answered by Administration. J. Pratt advised that should the motion be carried the business cases will be revised and resubmitted. Each will stand on its own merit.

The following motions were moved and CARRIED:

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by B. Smith

THAT the following motion adopted at the 2017 May 23 Board meeting regarding EPAR-01 be rescinded:

THAT New Sarum Public School, located at 9473 Belmont Road, St. Thomas, close effective 2020 June 30, contingent upon Ministry of Education approval of capital funding for the new Belmont Public School and the new Southeast St. Thomas Public School.

A poll vote was conducted.

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

NAYS: none

Abstained: none

Student Trustees: YEAS: E. Butler, C. Kennedy Absent: S. Chun

CARRIED

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by B. Smith

THAT the following motion adopted at the 2017 May 23 Board meeting regarding EPAR-01 be rescinded:

THAT Springfield Public School, located at 51336 Ron McNeil Line, Springfield, close effective 2020 June 30 and be declared surplus, contingent upon Ministry of Education approval of capital funding for the new Belmont Public School.

A poll vote was conducted.

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

NAYS: B. McKinnon, S. Polhill

Abstained: none

Student Trustees: YEAS: E. Butler, C. Kennedy Absent: S. Chun

CARRIED

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by J. Skinner

THAT the new business case for the Belmont school and current business case for Eagle Heights P.S. be submitted as top priorities of the Board.

CARRIED

**Moved by M. Ruddock
Seconded by C. Rahman**

THAT the Chair of the Board write a letter to the Ministry of Education regarding the Board's decision to prioritize the new Belmont school and the addition to Eagle Heights as the two top priorities of the Board.

CARRIED

It was clarified that it be done in collaboration with the Director.

A motion to recess was moved by Trustee Hunt, seconded by Trustee Pizzolato at 8:37 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:46 p.m.

12. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

Student Trustee Butler provided an update on the activities of the Student Advisory Committee (SAC) noting the School Climate Survey video was their most recent project.

Student Trustee Kennedy advised her Student Voice article was released on the OPBSA website. Student Trustee Kennedy reported the Student Trustees are hosting the NextGen Leadership Conference this Thursday.

13. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a. French Immersion Review Final Report & Communication Plan

S. Builder and R. Culhane presented for approval the Elementary French Immersion Review Final Report recommending the entry point for French Immersion be Grade 1 effective September 2020. The staffing challenges were highlighted noting it is a national issue.

Questions of clarification regarding staffing challenges, next steps, the grade 7 entry point, how the proposed changes will impact the English track schools, measuring progress, offering the English kindergarten at the French school and parents/stakeholders concerns were addressed. It was noted the plan to have a single entry point in Grade 1 avoids the necessity for otherwise capping enrollment in French Immersion.

Administration reported the French Immersion program will continue to be monitored and that the current strategy is the first step.

Moved by J. Bennett
Seconded by P. Cuddy

Be it resolved that, in order to provide consistent, equitable access to high-quality elementary French Immersion programming in all areas of the school district, the entry point for French Immersion will be Grade 1 effective September 2020.

CARRIED

A motion by C. Rahman, seconded by S. Hunt to defer the motion to the 2019 December 17 meeting of the Board was defeated.

In response to a Trustee question, Chair Morell requested the French Immersion Communication Plan be shared with Trustees.

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

a. Chair's Committee, 2019 October 22

Trustee Bennett highlighted items from the written report of the Chair's Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package. There were no recommendations.

b. Policy Working Committee, 2019 October 22

Trustee Bennett referred to the written report of the Policy Working Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package. There were no recommendations.

c. Program and School Services Advisory Committee, 2019 November 5

Trustee Yeoman highlighted items from the written report of the Program and School Services Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package. There were no recommendations.

d. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2019 November 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 November 11; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

e. Audit Committee, 2019 November 12

Trustee Morell highlighted items from the written report of the Audit Committee provided to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. Recommendations of the Committee were outlined.

Moved by P. Cuddy
Seconded by B. Smith

That the 2018-2019 internal appropriations of accumulated surplus in the amount of \$2,463,111 for the TVDSB and \$18,431 for the Thames Valley Education Foundation (as outlined in Chart 1) be approved.

CARRIED

Moved by B. Smith
Seconded by P. Cuddy

That the 2018-2019 Audited Financial Statements be approved.

CARRIED

f. Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee, 2019 November 12

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

g. Chair's Committee, 2019 November 19

Trustee Bennett highlighted items from the written report of the Chair's Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package. There were no recommendations.

In response to a question Administration reported the First Nations Metis Inuit training session for Trustees is in the process of being organized for the spring.

h. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2019 November 26

Trustee Bennett reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:03 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The committee discussed confidential legal, negotiation and personal matters. There were no recommendations.

15. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Skinner provided an update on OPSBA noting registration is open for the Public Education Symposium.

Trustee Skinner advised Trustees a handout from the OPSBA meeting he recently attended, will be left in the Trustee conference room for reference.

Trustee Skinner provided an updated on Advocacy Day, noting Student Trustee Chun represented the Student Trustees well at the conference.

b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)

Trustee McKinnon reported the TVEF has honoured 101 requests so far this school year, totaling \$36,000. He reported the TVEF Christmas cards are available for sale.

Trustee McKinnon advised on upcoming events the TVEF will be hosting including the hot chocolate sale, Toonie Tuesday and Kids Helping Kids.

16. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

17. NOTICE OF MOTION

Mandatory eLearning in Schools

Whereas, the Minister of Education announced on March 15, 2019 the policy of at least four mandatory eLearning courses of the thirty credits needed to graduate to be implemented in the 2020-21 school year; and

Whereas, the Board's Multi-Year Strategic Plan seeks to create opportunities for equitable access to programs and services for students; and

Whereas, the Board's most recent school climate survey resulted in some students expressing challenges with issues of mental health, belonging, and access to caring adults in schools, and the role of technology in relation to their overall well-being; and

Whereas, this policy raises as yet unanswered questions regarding equitable access to technology, and students, parents and teachers have already identified access issues; and

Whereas, the Halton District School Board and the Ontario Student Trustees' Association have surveyed their communities about the issue of mandatory eLearning; and

Whereas, the Board honours and values student voice as well as parent and staff feedback; and
Whereas, it is our obligation to provide the Ministry of Education with input about the repercussions of this policy on the Board's elementary and secondary schools, and on student success overall; and

Whereas, the Ministry has indicated that implementation is next school year and yet no framework or implementation details have been provided from the Ministry of Education, nor have the results of the government's own consultation on the matter;

Therefore, be it resolved:

- (a) That the Director conduct a random sample survey of the Board's secondary school students, parents and staff to determine their thoughts about the implementation of mandatory eLearning;
- (b) That the Chair write to the Minister of Education and the presidents of both the Ontario Public School Boards' Association and the Ontario Student Trustees' Association:
 - 1. to express the Board's concerns about the implementation of the Ministry's mandatory eLearning;
 - 2. to advise that the TVDSB is surveying its community and will then report back to the province when the results become available.

18. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

19. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

In response to a question Administration clarified there was no recommendation required at the Program and School Services Advisory meeting regarding the Employee Appreciation Proposal, as it is already reflected in the Trustee Bylaws.

In response to a question Administration advised on the status of the capital approval process pertaining to the new Southeast London P.S. noting it continues to be in progress.

Moved by B. McKinnon
Seconded by C. Rahman

THAT Chair Morell's Valedictory Address be spread upon the minutes.

CARRIED

20. DIRECTOR'S NEWS FROM THE SYSTEM

M. Fisher showcased the Strategic Plan in Action with a slideshow demonstrating each of the Strategic Priorities in action at a TVDSB school.

21. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Smith the meeting adjourned at 10:21 p.m.

Arlene Morell
Chairperson