

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM AND SCHOOL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

November 5, 2019, 6:00 p.m.
Board Room, Education Centre

Members: Trustees J. Bennett, B. McKinnon, S. Hunt, P. Cuddy, B. Yeoman, L. Pizzolato, B. Smith, M. Ruddock(+6:15), C. Rahman, C. Antone(+6:08), J. Skinner; Student Trustees: S. Chun(-8:28), E. Butler(-8:08), C. Kennedy(-8:33)

Regrets: S. Polhill, A. Morell

Administration: A. Canham, R. Culhane, M. Fisher, D. Macpherson, J. Pratt, K. Wilkinson, B. Nielsen(-8:01), S. McGahey-Albert(+6:08)(-8:01), C. Camillo(-8:01), K. Auckland(-7:07), S. Smith

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved on motion.

2. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 2019 October 8 meeting were provided for information.

a. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

None.

4. Operational Plan Updates

a. Secondary Literacy Update

K. Wilkinson provided an update on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT) Plan. Goals, targeted outcomes, metrics and next steps were reviewed. Instructional tools were outlined. A handout was provided.

OSSLT results were provided. It was noted Secondary schools will submit School-wide Literacy Skill Development Plans to Superintendents in 2019 November.

Questions of clarification regarding OSSLT results, the use of assessment data, using e-learning to improve literacy, parent engagement with preparing for the OSSLT, offering students the opportunity to provide feedback to Administration on the OSSLT, the impact the OSSLT has on graduation rates, community support with improving literacy and accommodations available to students during the test were answered by Administration.

In response to a question it was noted that OSSLT scores do not include students that did not write the test.

In response to a question it was noted new instructional lessons are being created for grade 7 and 8 students to prepare them for the OSSLT.

b. Indigenous Action Plan Presentation

D. Macpherson introduced B. Nielsen, C. Camillo and S. McGahey-Albert and provided a brief description of their roles.

B. Nielsen provided for information the Indigenous Action Plan, noting the alignment with the Strategic Plan. Goals and targeted outcomes were detailed. A brief background on the Indigenous Action Plan was provided.

Partnerships with community members were identified. C. Camillo detailed plans to improve numeracy, literacy, equity and communication.

Questions of clarification regarding interdisciplinary Secondary programming, enhancing physical environments in schools, suspension rates, FNMI counsellors, courses featuring Indigenous content, graduation coaches and Indigenous graduation rates and alternatives to suspension were answered by Administration.

In response to a question B. Nielsen reported H.B. Beal S.S, Saunders S.S. Clarke Rd. S.S. and Strathroy District Collegiate Institute all have dedicated Indigenous spaces.

In response to a question C. Camillo reported that graduation coaches are being provided and utilized to personalize the transition for Indigenous students. She noted there is a focus on getting students into the grade 9 Indigenous art and/or English course(s) to add support to ease their transition into high school.

P. Cuddy offered his appreciation to the First Nations Advisory Committee for their daily contributions and support they continue to offer to the TVDSB FNMI students.

C. Antone reported the Pillar non-profit network has offered to run a Local Indigenous Learning workshop for TVDSB Trustees and Administration (pending significant enrollment).

5. Strategic Priorities in Action: Relationships - Employee Appreciation

B. Smith presented, for information and input, a proposal to support the recognition of individual TVDSB employees by Trustees. The submission process to nominate an employee was outlined. A handout was provided.

TVDSB Board bylaws 2.2 pertaining to Trustee letters of appreciation, were outlined. Samples of the proposed recognition letters were provided in the agenda package.

Questions of clarification regarding who will sign the letter(s), expanding the pool of eligible recipients, adding all Trustees to the letterhead and the approval process were addressed by Trustee Smith and Administration.

In response to a question it was determined Student Trustees may also recommend candidates.

6. Community Advisory Committee Updates (Standing Item)

B. McKinnon provided an update from the Active & Safe Routes to School Committee noting there is an upcoming Winter Walk.

7. Other Business

None.

8. Questions and Comments of Members (Standing Item)

In response to a question regarding the Global News report "*Tainted Water*", an update was provided by Administration. The Trustees of the impacted schools have already been notified.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2020 January 7.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:44 p.m. by motion.

Recommendations: None.

Barb Yeoman
Committee Vice-Chair