

# THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING

December 17, 2019, 7:00 P.M.  
Board Room, Education Centre

### TRUSTEES

A. Morell (Chair)  
J. Bennett  
L. Pizzolato  
M. Ruddock  
B. Yeoman  
C. Rahman  
S. Chun (-7:48)

B. McKinnon  
S. Polhill (-9:20)  
J. Skinner  
P. Cuddy  
S. Hunt  
E. Butler  
C. Kennedy

### REGRETS

B. Smith, C. Antone

### ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

M. Fisher  
J. Pratt  
S. Builder  
A. Canham  
R. Culhane  
D. Macpherson  
S. Powell  
P. Skinner  
C. Henriquez (-8:53)  
T. Birch (-7:27)  
J. Meijer (-7:27)  
Z. Nadon (-7:27)  
M. Moynihan  
T. Testa  
L. Griffith-Jones  
C. Lynd  
K. Wilkinson  
K. Edgar  
L. Nicholls  
J. Capaldi (-7:45)  
A. Chahbar  
B. Williams  
S. Smith  
E. Jull (-7:27)  
H. Cocker (-7:27)

#### 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

Louise Arbour French Immersion Public School opened the meeting with the singing of O Canada.

#### 3. SPECIAL MUSICAL PRESENTATION

The appreciation of the Board was extended to Louise Arbour French Immersion Public School for their performance and to R. Welch for leading in the singing of O Canada and two musical selections.

#### 4. STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

Principal T. Birtch and student representatives from College Avenue Secondary School presented information on the Grow Girls and Men of Quality events. Connections to the Strategic Plan were highlighted.

Trustee McKinnon extended appreciation to the school Administration and students from College Avenue Secondary School.

#### 5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved on motion by Trustee Rahman, seconded by Trustee Hunt.

**6. OFFICIAL RECORD**

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

We regret to record the death of Lucas Legros on November 29. Lucas was a student at Huron Park Secondary School.

We regret to record the death of Clare Leaper on December 9. Clare was a teacher at College Avenue Secondary School.

**7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None.

**8. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Director Fisher introduced a video featuring students from Lord Roberts French Immersion Public School.

**9. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chair Morell reminded Trustees of the meeting norms in place and wished everyone a happy holiday.

**10. PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**11. MINUTES OF THE 2019 NOVEMBER 26 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND THE 2019 DECEMBER 2 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AND THE 2019 DECEMBER 10 INAUGURAL BOARD MEETING**

**a. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the 2019 November 26 Regular Board meeting, were approved on motion of Trustee Hunt, seconded by Trustee Cuddy.

The minutes of the 2019 December 2 Special Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Pizzolato.

The minutes of the 2019 December 10 Inaugural Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Rahman, seconded by Trustee Hunt.

**b. Business Arising from Minutes**

None.

**12. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE**

Student Trustee Chun reported on her experience attending the OPBSA Advocacy Day at Queen's Park.

Student Trustee Butler reported the Student Trustees collaborated with Mental Health Lead, K. Appleby to discuss student concerns regarding mental health.

Student Trustee Butler reported she will be speaking alongside K. Appleby at the next Student Advisory Council meeting to present information aimed at increasing student engagement.

Student Trustee Kennedy reported on the success of the NextGen Conference noting 250 students attended.

**13. THAMES VALLEY PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE ANNUAL REPORT**

Trustee Morell outlined the initiatives and progress captured in the 2018-2019 Annual Report of the Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package.

Trustee Morell highlighted the role TVPIC plays in parent engagement, noting the support offered from the Principal members. She provided information on the Parent Reaching Out Grant.

**14. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION**

**a. 2019 Director's Annual Report**

Director Fisher provided an update on the 2018-2019 Director's Annual Report. The Ministry criteria for the report was outlined.

J. Capaldi detailed the advantages of posting the report online. She reviewed the 2018-2019 Annual Report outlining the three categories: accountability, year in review, and our stories.

J. Capaldi extended appreciation to Administration for helping to gather data for the report.

**b. School Closure and Opening Timelines related to Elementary Pupil Accommodation Review-02 (EPAR-02) and New Southeast London Public School**

C. Lynd advised that TVDSB is awaiting approval to proceed from the Ministry of Education.

**Moved by S. Polhill**

**Seconded by L. Pizzolato**

THAT the previously adopted motions on 2018 May 22:

WHEREAS the approval of the Ministry of Education with respect to the Capital Priorities funding grant for the new Southeast London Public School and Tweedsmuir Public School was delayed until 2018 March 13,

BE IT RESOLVED THAT Fairmont Public School, at 1040 Hamilton Road, London ON, close effective 2020 June 30 and declared surplus.

THAT the Tweedsmuir Public School junior kindergarten to grade 8 new attendance area be approved, as per Figure 01 (Appendix A), effective 2020 July 01.

THAT the students residing in the proposed Tweedsmuir Public School attendance area to be accommodated at Tweedsmuir Public School, effective 2020 July 01.

be amended as follows:

THAT Fairmont Public School, at 1040 Hamilton Road, London ON, close effective no earlier than 2021 June 30 and declared surplus, contingent upon

Ministry of Education approvals as per the Capital Approval Process.

THAT the Tweedsmuir Public School junior kindergarten to grade 8 new attendance area be approved, as per Figure 01 (Appendix A), effective no earlier than 2021 July 01, contingent upon Ministry of Education approvals as per the Capital Approval Process.

THAT the students residing in the proposed Tweedsmuir Public School attendance area to be accommodated at Tweedsmuir Public School, effective no earlier than 2021 July 01, contingent upon Ministry of Education approvals as per the Capital Approval Process.

**CARRIED**

**c. Junior Kindergarten / Senior Kindergarten Options in French Immersion Schools**

M. Fisher presented for consideration an option to create English track full day kindergarten (FDK) classes within available space in selected French Immersion (FI) Schools, in a fiscally responsible manner.

Background information and feedback, criteria to make a change, timeline and next steps were reviewed

Questions of clarification regarding capping enrolment, offering split classes, transportation, the Attendance Area Review procedure, funding class sizes, FDK, grandparenting for families and enrolment advantages for siblings and addressing the nationwide FI teacher shortage were answered by Administration.

Trustees against the recommendation spoke to issues of inequity.

Trustees in favour of the recommendation spoke to serving the needs of the community and reducing disruption for families.

**Moved by J. Skinner**

**Seconded by P. Cuddy**

That the Board provide a minimum of one English language combined Junior Kindergarten/Senior Kindergarten class at the following French Immersion Elementary Schools, effective September 1, 2020:

- Éva Circé-Côté French Immersion Public School
- J.S. Buchanan French Immersion Public School
- Jeanne Sauve French Immersion Public School
- Kensal Park French Immersion Public School
- Lord Roberts French Immersion Public School
- Louise Arbour French Immersion Public School
- Pierre Elliott Trudeau French Immersion Public School
- Princess Anne French Immersion Public School
- West Oaks French Immersion Public School

A poll vote was conducted.

YEAS: P. Cuddy, S. Hunt, A. Morell, C. Rahman, R. Ruddock, J. Skinner

NAYS: J. Bennett, B. McKinnon, L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, B. Yeoman

Abstained: none

Absent: C. Antone, B. Smith

Student Trustees: NAYS: E. Butler and C. Kennedy

Absent: S. Chun

**CARRIED**

## **15. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES**

### **a. Policy Working Committee, 2019 November 26**

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

### **b. Chair's Committee, 2019 December 3**

Trustee Ruddock 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.

Questions of clarification were answered by Chair Morell.

**Moved by** M. Ruddock

**Seconded by** P. Cuddy

That the following individuals be appointed to the Rural Education Task Force Steering Committee: Suzanne McCullough, OSSTF; Jennifer Brackenbury, OPC-Elementary; Larisa Grant, OPC-Secondary; Jennifer Nuyens, Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations; Adrian Cornelissen, Middlesex County; Sally Martyn, Elgin County; Marcus Ryan, Oxford County; and Student Trustees Butler and Kennedy.

**CARRIED**

**Moved by** M. Ruddock

**Seconded by** L. Pizzolato

That the reserve fund be used to support the OPSBA Alternate Members to attend the OPSBA meetings.

**CARRIED**

**Moved by** M. Ruddock

**Seconded by** J. Bennett

THAT Dave Cripps of the Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee and Trustee Cuddy be appointed to the Rural Education Task Force Steering Committee.

**CARRIED**

**c. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2019 December 17**

Trustee Bennett reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:45 p.m. to 6:11 p.m. The committee discussed confidential legal, negotiation and personal matters.

**Moved by** M. Ruddock

**Seconded by** C. Rahman

THAT the motions at the in-camera session of 2019 December 17 related to a personal matter be approved.

**CARRIED**

**16. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

**a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)**

Trustee Skinner reported that the OPSBA media scans will be received by all Trustees.

**b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)**

Trustee McKinnon reported TVEF Hot Chocolate Day is tomorrow with proceeds going to the Caring Fund.

In response to a question, Trustee McKinnon reported the TVEF Christmas cards sold out.

**17. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**18. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None.

**19. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN**

Trustee Rahman and Student Trustees spoke to the motion, highlighting the importance of Student Voice.

Trustees speaking against the motion raised concerns about the timing noting eLearning is still being discussed at the Central bargaining table.

**Moved by** C. Rahman

**Seconded by** B. Yeoman

Whereas, the Minister of Education announced on November 21, 2019 the policy of at least two 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.

A poll vote was conducted.

YEAS: C. Rahman, S. Polhill, B. Yeoman

NAYS: J. Bennett, B. McKinnon, L. Pizzolato, R. Ruddock, J. Skinner, P. Cuddy, A. Morell

Abstained: S. Hunt

Absent: C. Antone, B. Smith

Student Trustees: YAYS: E. Butler and C. Kennedy

Absent: S. Chun

**DEFEATED**

## **20. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

None.

## **21. DIRECTOR'S NEWS FROM THE SYSTEM**

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

**22. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Trustee Cuddy, seconded by Trustee Pizzolato the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

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**Arlene Morell**  
Chairperson