

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

January 28, 2020, 7:00 P.M.
Board Room, Education Centre

TRUSTEES

A. Morell (Chair)
J. Bennett
L. Pizzolato (by phone)
M. Ruddock
B. Yeoman
C. Rahman
S. Chun (-9:00)

B. McKinnon (-8:54,+9:20)
S. Polhill
B. Smith
J. Skinner
P. Cuddy
C. Antone
E. Butler (-8:30)

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

M. Fisher
J. Pratt
R. Culhane
S. Builder
A. Canham
K. Edgar
L. Griffith-Jones
R. Kuiper
C. Lynd
D. Macpherson
M. Moynihan
L. Nicholls
S. Powell
P. Skinner
P. Sydor
K. Wilkinson
A. Chahbar
B. Williams
R. Hoffman
B. Martin (-8:13)
C. Yeo (-8:13)
C. Henriquez (-8:54)
A. Marlowe (-9:18)

REGRETS

C. Kennedy

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair A. 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

The meeting was opened with the singing of O Canada.

3. STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

P. Skinner introduced and welcomed Principal K. Overeem and Vice Principal J. Gonyou-Brown from Eagle Heights Public School to provide an overview of their efforts to promote equity and inclusion.

K. Overeem highlighted collaborative efforts with community organizations and supports to provide various workshops and programs to parents and students to support literacy and engagement. The use of outreach, translation of materials, and interpretation to engage families was noted. The transformation of their School Council to include more newcomer families was provided as a positive outcome of their efforts.

Learning Supervisor M. Roes provided an overview of the Literacy Enrichment and Academic Readiness for Newcomers (LEARN) program.

K. Overeem recognized the exceptional staff at the school and the positive school culture that has been established. Two students from the school, Ayah Khalil Abdelsadig and Mahi Parikh, shared why they enjoy attending Eagle Heights.

Trustee Cuddy reflected on the visit he made to the school noting the remarkable work of the staff at the school. Trustee Skinner extended appreciation to the school leadership on behalf of Trustees.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

5. OFFICIAL RECORD

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

We regret to record the death of Troy Eldridge on December 26. Troy was an employee of the Thames Valley District School Board Maintenance Department.

6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

7. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Fisher announced the retirements of Superintendents D. Macpherson and K. Wilkinson noting their retirements effective 2020 August 31 and 2020 March 31 respectively. The significant contributions of both were acknowledged with gratitude and appreciation. Both were wished well in their retirements.

Chair Morell, on behalf of Trustees, extended her appreciation and congratulations.

8. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Morell congratulated Trustees Ruddock and Smith on their recent recognition by the Aylmer Express as Citizens of the Year. Chair Morell further congratulated Trustee Yeoman on the arrival of a new grandchild.

9. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

10. MINUTES OF THE 2019 DECEMBER 17 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

a. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2019 December 17 Regular Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Cuddy.

b. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

11. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

Student Trustees Chun and Butler reported on their activities highlighting attendance at the Public Education Symposium, preparations for the upcoming Ontario Student Trustee Association's Board Council Conference, and work of the Student Advisory Council to engage student leaders.

12. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a. Director of Education Entry Plan

Director M. Fisher presented the Director of Education Entry Plan. The purpose of the plan was outlined noting the opportunity to gain an understanding of the history and context of the Thames Valley District School Board; identify opportunities, challenges and best practices related to student achievement and well-being; to build strong relationships with staff, Trustees, employees groups, and community partners; and to assess the

alignment of current structures with the Ontario Leadership Framework. Guiding Principles established for the entry plan were described.

Director Fisher advised on the broad stakeholder consultations completed; the use of the *Culture Code* book, social media and other forms of communication; efforts to learn about each school, each department and the community; and participation in his own professional development

Director Fisher reflected on preparing the organization for change and the need to continue to listen, be receptive to feedback, build leadership capacity, and clarify expectations. He reaffirmed his commitments to the organization.

b. 2019-2020 Review of Potential Classroom Closures – Elementary and Secondary Panels

Associate Director J. Pratt provided information regarding the potential for closing classrooms to address empty pupil places in elementary and secondary schools. The report was provided in response to a Board motion.

Managers C. Yeo, B. Martin, and C. Henriquez attended.

The methodology for completing the report was outlined noting information gathered from other school boards, identification of potential classroom closures, and review of potential operational and energy savings.

The list of potential classroom closures was provided noting the school, total number of classroom spaces, total surplus, OTG, and utilization rate. Estimated energy savings were identified at \$18,000 annually. There are no operational savings as the current level of CUPE staff must be maintained per the collective agreement.

Questions of clarification regarding energy savings, efforts to reduce the board's carbon footprint, the process for identifying potential surplus classroom space, costs to close classrooms, and potential next steps were addressed by Administration.

C. Henriquez advised a five year energy plan will be presented at a future Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee meeting.

In consideration of the minimal savings, balanced with the cost of closing classrooms and challenges for operationalizing the closure of classrooms it was suggested there be no action at this time. In response to a question, J. Pratt responded the team has discussed the potential of closing a group/wing of classrooms at one school as a pilot.

c. Procurement of Portables

J. Pratt presented for approval the procurement of 25 portables. The rationale for the request was outlined highlighting the need to be proactive to ensure classroom spaces are in place for September 2020 given the limited supply/demand on the portable manufacturer.

C. Henriquez described the process completed to identify portable needs noting the immediate accommodation pressures. As the board may not use renewal funds, it is recommended accumulated surplus be used to purchase the portables.

Questions of clarification regarding funding for portables, distribution of portables, condition of existing portables, the manufacturer of the portables, "moveability" of

portables, use of portapaks, purchase of portables over the last three years, and use of the accumulated surplus were addressed by Administration.

C. Henriquez and J. Pratt advised the Accommodation Plan to be presented in March will include additional information for consideration such as the potential for attendance area reviews to address the over capacity/under capacity issue at schools. The current request for portables, however, is to meet the immediate need for September 2020. It was further noted the Accommodation Plan will include an asset management plan that will facilitate the identification of portables in need of replacement.

Trustees generally spoke in favour of the motion noting the immediate needs. It was noted, however the distribution of students across schools needs to be reviewed through an accommodation/attendance area review to address the issue in the longer term.

Moved by B. McKinnon

Seconded by B. Smith

That the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) procure 25 portables from NRB Inc. at an estimated cost of \$3,137,975 appropriated from accumulated surplus to fund the cost of the portables.

CARRIED

d. English Kindergarten In French Immersion Schools Application Process

Superintendent M. Moynihan and Diversity and Equity Coordinator A. Marlowe presented for information the application process for English Kindergarten in French Immersion schools.

Per the decision of the Board to approve English Kindergarten programming in identified French Immersion schools commencing September 2020 and due to space limitations leading to the capping of the number of classrooms to be provided, an application process was designed.

The application and selection process was outlined.

A. Marlowe referred to and summarized the frequently asked questions and answers that have been posted on the website.

Questions of clarification regarding the random selection process and communication to parents were addressed by Administration.

There were some expressed concerns from Trustees regarding not offering priority to siblings of students attending FI in the school.

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

a. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2020 January 7

Trustee Yeoman referred to the written report of the Special Education Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2020 January 7; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

b. Program and School Services Advisory Committee, 2020 January 7

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.

c. Chair's Committee, 2020 January 14

Trustee Ruddock referred to the written report of the Chair's Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package. Highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

There was a request to have a discussion on Trustee Forums at a future Advisory meeting. Questions of clarification from the minutes were addressed by A. Morell.

d. Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee, 2020 January 14

Trustee Rahman highlighted items from the written report of the 2020 January 14 Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package. It was noted Trustee Cuddy was elected to the position of Vice Chair of the Committee. There were no recommendations.

e. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2020 January 28

Trustee Ruddock reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:00 p.m. to 5:26 p.m. The committee discussed negotiation and personal matters.

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by S. Hunt

THAT the motion relating to a personal matter be approved.

CARRIED

14. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Skinner provided an update on the OPSBA conference noting discussion on the valuable role of Trustees.

b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)

Trustee McKinnon reported on the activities of the Thames Valley Education Foundation highlighting the February 11 ten year anniversary celebration of Tooney Tuesday; the Annual General Meeting on February 19; and the tentative date of April 16 for a concert by the students of Lester B. Pearson School in support of the Caring Fund. Trustees also were provided with an update on the Caring Fund noting the *Play for Super Pay* fundraiser is going well.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Autism Ontario London, Membership to Special Education Advisory Committee

A letter from Autism Ontario London was received regarding membership the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Moved by C. Rahman
Seconded by B. Yeoman

THAT Kelly Wilson be appointed to the Special Education Advisory Committee as an alternate for the remainder of the 2018 December 1 to 2019 November 30 2022 term.

CARRIED

16. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

17. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

18. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

In response to a question about the Coronavirus, Director Fisher reported on his conversation with the medical officer health and the website created where parents/guardians can find more information (<https://www.ontario.ca/page/2019-novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>). There was a Trustee request to send out communication reminding students, staff, and parents/guardians about following the usual measures to reduce the risk of transmission of the flu and other respiratory illnesses.

Trustee Smith presented Trustee Ruddock with the original cartoon created in the Aylmer Press in recognition of the Citizen of the Year Award.

19. 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 in various schools throughout the District.

20. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Hunt the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

ARLENE MORELL
Chairperson