

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PROGRAM AND SCHOOL SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

February 4, 2020
Board Room, Education Centre

Members: Trustees J. Bennett, B. McKinnon, S. Polhill, J. Skinner, A. Morell, S. Hunt, B. Yeoman (Chair), L. Pizzolato, B. Smith, M. Ruddock, C. Rahman; Student Trustee S. Chun, E. Butler, C. Kennedy

Regrets: Trustees P. Cuddy, C. Antone

Administration: Director M. Fisher; Associate Director R. Culhane; Superintendents C. Lynd, S. Builder, L. Griffith-Jones, P. Sydor, R. Culhane, A. Canham, K. Edgar, R. Kuiper, D. Macpherson, M. Moynihan, S. Powell, P. Skinner, K. Wilkinson; System Principals B. Nielsen (-8:15), K. Auckland (-7:04), and R. Ferrara (-7:04); Managers C. Glazer (-8:15) and T. Testa; Supervisor B. Williams

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chair Yeoman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. The agenda was approved on motion.

2. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting

The minutes of the 2020 January 7 meeting were provided for information.

a. Business Arising from the Previous Meeting

As a follow up to the previous meeting, Trustees inquired about updates to the suspension data. In response, Superintendent S. Powell described the work to intentionally address the number and length of suspension. It was noted baseline data from June 2019 will be compared to data available June 2020. S. Powell and Director Fisher addressed concerns related to the perceived potential for voluntary suspension rates to increase and not be counted in the data.

4. Operational Plan Update - Literacy

Superintendents M. Moynihan and A. Canham provided an update on the Operational Plan as it pertains to the area of phonological awareness, early identification and intervention in literacy. System Principals K. Auckland and Ferrara were in attendance and participated in the presentation.

Goals, strategies and baseline data on outcomes were shared.

Administration addressed a broad spectrum of questions regarding early identification; the implementation of the new tool to be used for early identification; the use of the mPower Reading Program; transference of the services into the French Immersion program; parent/guardian communication; phonological skill development; EQAO data as it pertains to the provincial gender gap; the relationship between literacy and confidence in reading ability; parent engagement to support literacy; and learning from other boards in this area.

On request, Director Fisher confirmed EQAO results by gender for TVDSB could be shared, similar to that presented for the provincial data.

5. Operational Plan Update - Communication

Superintendents R. Kuiper, P. Sydor, and C. Lynd provided an update on the Operational Plan in relation to Communication. In attendance were System Principal B. Nielsen, and Managers T. Testa and C. Glaser to share in the delivery of the presentation.

Ongoing and planned activities/strategies to increase student, family, and community engagement; and to support two-way communication and provide excellence in service were outlined. Activities described included collaborative efforts with parent groups, communication through social media, the deployment of a unified communication system, adoption of Brightspace/school messenger, and service excellence training. Outcomes to date on these initiatives were shared.

Administration responded to questions of clarification regarding school communication/websites, the parent portal, efforts to ensure the establishment of a School Council at every school, the use of social media to promote two-way communication, current communication tools, the rationale for using Brightspace/school messenger, the need for parent engagement strategies to engage parents from diverse communities, and the family climate survey.

Trustees shared suggestions regarding needed outcomes and potential activities to meet those outcomes. An offer to provide a presentation on Brightspace/school messenger at a future Program and School Services Advisory Committee meeting was welcomed.

6. Community Advisory Committee Updates (Standing Item)

Trustee B. McKinnon shared information on the Winter Walk Day at Central Public School in Woodstock that is planned for tomorrow. S. Hunt shared TVDSB is being recognized for efforts in this area.

7. Other Business

Director Fisher provided a summary of the current strike action by ETFO highlighting the restriction on all extra curricular activities.

In response to a question, it was confirmed emails from the community pertaining to the current Labour situation be forwarded to the Chair of the Board for a response. There was some discussion regarding process.

In response to a question, A. Morell advised the Ontario Federation of Home and School Associations has in the past been responsible to prepare and send messaging to their Home and School Member groups regarding leading practices during labour action. She offered to follow up in this regard.

8. Questions and Comments of Members (Standing Item)

None.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2020 March 3.

10. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 p.m. by motion.

BARB YEOMAN
Committee Chair