

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

February 25, 2020, 7:00 P.M.
Board Room, Education Centre

TRUSTEES

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

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

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

M. Fisher
J. Pratt
A. Canham
R. Culhane
D. Macpherson
R. Hoffman
S. Powell
P. Skinner
A. Marlowe
R. Walton (-7:19)
M. Betteridge (-7:19)

M. Moynihan
P. Sydor
R. Kuiper
L. Griffith-Jones
C. Lynd
K. Wilkinson
K. Edgar
L. Nicholls
A. Chahbar
B. Williams
S. Smith

REGRETS

B. Smith

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

The meeting open with the playing of O Canada.

3. STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

R. Kuiper welcomed Principal R. Walton, Vice Principal M. Betteridge, parents and nineteen grade 5 students from Oxbow Public School to provide an overview of their efforts to improve and promote literacy.

Trustee Morell extended appreciation on behalf of Trustees.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

5. OFFICIAL RECORD

None.

6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

7. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Through a PowerPoint presentation Director Fisher provided highlights of the Black History Month activities and events occurring at schools throughout the Thames Valley District.

8. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

9. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

10. MINUTES OF THE 2020 JANUARY 28 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

a. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2020 January 28 Regular Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Cuddy, seconded by Trustee Ruddock.

b. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

11. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

Student Trustee Chun reported the Ontario Student Trustees Association is working on an equity survey noting the data will be compiled into a Provincial document.

Student Trustee Butler provided an update on the previous Student Advisory Meeting noting K. Appleby facilitated a session on student mental health. Student feedback was well received noting the importance of the student voice. Collated student responses will be discussed at a future meeting.

Student Trustee Kennedy reported she attended the FNMI Student Leadership Council where she led a blanket exercise, guided discussion and spoke about her role.

12. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a. Presentation of the Mid-Year Operational Plan Report

M. Fisher presented the Mid-Year Operational Plan Report summarizing the progress on the Strategic Priorities.

Trustee Skinner extended his appreciation for the level of detail in the report acknowledging the progress to date.

b. Student Information System Implementation

J. Pratt presented for approval a commitment of \$5,266,000.00 from the accumulated surplus internally appropriated for IT Technology and Infrastructure that will support the transition to, and implementation of, the Board's new Student Information System. It was noted the go live date is targeted for 2021 September.

After 2021 August 31 the current Student Information System (SIS) Trillium platform will no longer be supported requiring the need to move to a new platform. A project plan and budget has been developed to support this transition.

Questions of clarification regarding Ministry funding, replacing classroom computers, testing the new platform, oversight of the project, the cost variance, project timelines, risks of the plan, IT costs and staffing were addressed.

Trustee Skinner reported the transition to the new Student Information Systems at Boards across the Province was addressed at OPSBA acknowledging the project is long overdue.

In response to a question, it was noted the new platform is a cloud based program.

Moved by J. Skinner

Seconded by C. Rahman

THAT a commitment of \$5,266,000.00 from the accumulated surplus internally appropriated for IT Technology and Infrastructure, to support the transition to, and implementation of, the Board's new Student Information System be approved.

CARRIED

Moved by J. Skinner

Seconded by P. Cuddy

THAT the Chair send a letter to the Ministry of Education asking for funding to reimburse TVDSB for the implementation of the new Student Information System and any ongoing maintenance costs.

CARRIED

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

a. First Nations Advisory Committee, 2020 January 21

Trustee Antone referred to the written report of the First Nations Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2020 January 21; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

b. Chair's Committee, 2020 January 28

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

c. Policy Working Committee, 2020 January 28

Trustee Ruddock referred to the written report of the Policy Working Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package.

Questions of clarification regarding public input were addressed. There were no recommendations.

d. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2020 February 4

Trustee Pizzolato referred to the written report of the Special Education Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2020 February 4; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

e. Program and School Services Advisory Committee, 2020 February 4

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.

f. Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee, 2020 February 11

Trustee Rahman highlighted items from the written report of the Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package. There were no recommendations.

On request the Communications Department will send a reminder to Trustees and Senior Administration regarding the Thoughtexchange currently open.

g. Chair's Committee, 2020 February 18

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

Trustee Ruddock reported Variety IS will be held 2020 April 30 and Award of Distinction will be held 2020 May 6.

In response to a question, it was noted absenteeism data is being tracked. A report will be brought forward as part of the budget process.

h. First Nations Advisory Committee, 2020 February 18

Trustee Bennett referred to the written report of the First Nations Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2020 February 18; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

i. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2020 February 25

Trustee Ruddock reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:00 p.m. to 5:50 p.m. The committee discussed confidential, negotiation and personal matters. There were no recommendations.

14. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Skinner provided an update on OPSBA reporting the Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium will be held 2020 April 30 - 2020 May 1. Additional information is available for Trustees in the Trustee Conference room.

Trustee Skinner advised many other boards have written the Minister of Education requesting action regarding vaping. Trustee Skinner attended a presentation about Coronavirus preventative measures.

Trustee Skinner reported Take Your MPP to School Day will be held the week of 2020 April 13, noting MPPs M. McNaughton, J. Yurek and P. Sattler intend to participate.

Trustee Skinner reported the Directors voted in favour of establishing a one-year \$500.00 scholarship for Student Trustees. The criteria for consideration will be determined by the OPSBA OSTA Liaison Committee.

A report was presented at OPSBA regarding teacher supply and demand by the Deans of Education and the Directors of Education working table. Key items were reviewed noting the report is available for Trustees in the Trustee Conference room.

Trustee Skinner reported several Boards have written letters to the Province voicing their stance on various issues of concern in education.

The content of the letter was considered.

Trustees in favour of the motion provided their rationale noting this is a way to advocate for students. Trustees spoke to the need to communicate publicly on the stance of the Board of Trustees.

Trustees speaking against the motion support OPSBA as the Trustees voice at the table suggesting sending a letter may weaken that voice. It was noted any letter should be sent to OPSBA. Concerns were identified that Trustees were not provided adequate time to review the letter and provide input.

It was suggested the letter be shared with other Board Chairs, MPPs and OPSBA. Through discussion Trustees determined it was important to include student voice in the letter.

Student Trustee Chun contributed content for the letter on behalf of the Student Trustees. *"On behalf of myself, Student Trustee Erica Butler, and Indigenous Student Trustee Chiara Kennedy, we fully support this letter to the Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce. Our priority as Student Trustees is to advocate for TVDSB students, and we feel it is our duty and responsibility to reflect these local concerns at the Provincial level."*

Moved by C. Rahman
Seconded by J. Skinner

THAT the Chair write a letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees to the Minister of Education to draw attention to our ongoing concerns with proposed education changes. Specifically, the letter will address our ongoing concerns with proposed class size ratios and impacts on pathways and programs and mandatory e-learning. Specifically that the TVDSB Trustees prefer a 22:1 class size ration, expect unfunded liabilities to be fully funded including Special Education, absenteeism, student transportation and capital projects. The TVDSB Trustees oppose mandatory online learning as a broad based policy and recognize that teachers are our most valuable asset in student success. Our letter will also highlight the need for all parties to use positive dispute resolution means and to return to the bargaining table for ongoing dialogue in the best interest of students in our Board and across the Province.

A poll vote was conducted.

YEAS: C. Antone, L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman, J. Skinner, B. Yeoman, P. Cuddy

NAYS: J. Bennett, S. Hunt, B. McKinnon, M. Ruddock

Abstained: A. Morell

Absent: B. Smith

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

CARRIED

b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)

Trustee McKinnon presented a video highlighting Toonie Tuesday.

He reported over \$200,000 has been raised from Toonie Tuesday events in schools since 2011.

Trustee McKinnon extended appreciation to students, staff, trustees and community for all of their support over the past 10 years.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Chippewas of the Thames- First Nations Advisory Committee, Membership

A letter from Chippewas of the Thames First Nation was received regarding membership to the First Nations Advisory Committee.

Moved by C. Antone

Seconded by L. Pizzolato

THAT Dusty Young be appointed to the First Nations Advisory Committee effective 2020 January 30.

CARRIED

16. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

17. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

18. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Trustee Hunt extended appreciation to Administration for the support offered to the Thornhill community after a fire at their local community centre.

19. 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.

20. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Hunt the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Arlene Morell
Chairperson