

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

PLANNING AND PRIORITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE

March 10, 2020
Board Room, Education Centre

Members: Trustees C. Antone, J. Bennett, P. Cuddy, S. Hunt, B. McKinnon, A. Morell, L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman (Chair), M. Ruddock, J. Skinner, B. Smith, B. Yeoman, Student Trustees E. Butler (-6:03, +6:18) and C. Kennedy (-6:03, +6:18)

Regrets: Student Trustee S. Chun

Administration: Director M. Fisher; Associate Directors R. Culhane and J. Pratt; Superintendents C. Lynd, L. Nicholls, S. Builder, P. Sydor, A. Canham, K. Edgar, D. Macpherson, M. Moynihan, S. Powell, and K. Wilkinson; Managers T. Testa, S. Macey (+6:18, -6:31) and C. Henriquez (+6:18); Data and Visualization Specialist B. Coveney, and Supervisor B. Williams

1. **Call to Order and Approval of the Agenda**

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

The agenda, as amended to deal with #7 in advance of item #4, was approved on motion.

Director Fisher introduced the following appointees to the Supervisory Officer pool: T. Langelaan, K. Auckland, and D. Wright. C. Giannacopoulos also was introduced as the new Supervisory Officer effective 2020 March 23.

2. **Conflicts of Interest**

None declared.

3. **Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The report of the 2020 February 11 meeting was provided for information.

a. **Business Arising from the Previous Meeting**

None.

4. **Budget Input Discussion**

J. Pratt and C. Lynd presented for discussion the format for inviting public input for the 2020-21 budget. The process for accepting both written input and applications for delegation was highlighted.

J. Pratt advised it is important to provide the draft budget such that public input may be received in response to the draft budget. The short time line for public input following the presentation of the draft budget was highlighted. The provision of a Thoughtexchange option for input was considered but not recommended.

It was noted the TVDSB Budget process is very different from the municipal process in that the TVDSB budget does not impact individual household tax or mill rates.

In consideration of limited staff capacity and timelines, it was agreed to maintain the public input process as outlined. It was confirmed the normal timelines per Board Bylaws for written public input and applications for delegations are suspended.

5. TVDSB Accommodation Plan (Draft)

J. Pratt and C. Lynd presented for feedback the draft Accommodation Plan provided to Trustees in advance of the meeting. Highlights included a summary of the enrollment incline in the board and the specific accommodation pressures in each of the 24 planning areas. Strategies for each area were outlined and each strategy was denoted by a timeline for action from 1 year or less to 3 years or more.

a. Questions

Questions of clarification regarding the planning areas; collaborations/co-build opportunities; meetings with community stakeholders regarding potential collaborations; options for accommodation planning for Rock Carrier; enrollment figures at a number of schools; the attendance area review process; capacity in the Board to address accommodation pressures in both the City of London and the counties of Elgin, Oxford, and Middlesex; French Immersion plans; acceptance of out of area students in secondary; access to specialized programming in secondary; the holding zone data; and the timing of EPAR 02 recommendations were addressed by Administration.

In response to a question, J. Pratt advised a separate report providing information on asset management will be presented at the April Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee meeting.

In terms of next steps, Administration advised they will be coming forward with their top recommendations for moving forward. It was noted the hold on Ministry announcements regarding capital priorities funding impacts decisions on next steps for the critical areas identified.

J. Pratt advised on the consultation completed with the Administrative staff in municipalities. If Trustees have questions about the presented data for any of the planning areas, they may contact J. Pratt for follow up.

b. Comments

Trustees expressed their thoughts on the priorities for addressing pupil accommodation in elementary and secondary. Trustees encouraged Administration to look at areas that may be addressed outside of capital priorities funding to ensure some work could begin to address accommodation issues sooner than later.

6. Capital Priorities Update (Standing Item)

Committee Chair C. Rahman advised Capital Priorities and Projects will be a standing item on the Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee agenda. Trustees were asked to submit questions they may have to Administration the Friday before each scheduled meeting.

C. Henriquez provided an update on capital projects currently underway, those now under tender, and those pending final approvals to proceed. In summary, the addition at Masonville PS is expected to open September 2020 and the renovations on existing spaces should be completed winter 2021. Tenders for the construction work at Tweedsmuir have now gone out. The new SE London PS is at the stage of waiting for Ministry approval to proceed to tender.

The status on the stand-alone childcare addition projects and the Childcare/Family Centre projects was summarized.

The internally supported capital project for renovations at Kettle Creek is expected to be completed summer 2020.

In terms of the 2019-20 Capital Priority submissions, it was noted the funding announcements were deferred from January to March and now are indefinitely postponed due to the Labour unrest.

A question of clarification regarding the enrollment figures for Kindergarten registration at French Immersion schools was addressed by C. Lynd.

7. In-Camera

On motion, the committee moved in-Camera at 6:02 p.m., reconvening in public session at 6:18 p.m.

L. Nicholls advised on the postponement of the school climate survey to the fall. Student Trustees were acknowledged for their work in promoting the survey.

8. Questions and Comments by Members

In response to a question, Chair Morell advised the Chair's Committee is working on a process to provide a pathway for Trustees to submit requests for agenda items. In the interim Trustees may make a request through the Chair.

In response to a question, J. Pratt advised on the board's position regarding the use of crowdfunding platforms noting the board does not endorse this method of fundraising. C. Lynd outlined the risks of using crowdfunding platforms. The availability of Canada Helps was offered as a more appropriate tool for soliciting online donations.

Trustee C. Antone raised a concern regarding the process used following a board motion directing the Chair to write a letter. In response, the Director offered that, going forward, any stated concerns specific to the indigenous community will be vetted with the First Nations Trustee to ensure any statements are accurate.

9. Date and Time of Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for 2020 April 14.

10. Adjournment

On motion, the meeting adjourned at 8:36 p.m.

CORRINE RAHMAN
Committee Chair