

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

March 24, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

TRUSTEES

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

B. McKinnon (by phone)
S. Polhill (by phone)
B. Smith (by phone)
J. Skinner (by phone)
P. Cuddy (by phone)
E. Butler (by phone)

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

M. Fisher
J. Pratt
S. Builder (by phone)
A. Canham (by phone)
R. Culhane (by phone)
D. Macpherson (by phone)
S. Powell (by phone)
P. Skinner (by phone)
P. Sydor (by phone)
R. Kuiper (by phone)

M. Moynihan (by phone)
L. Griffith-Jones (by phone)
C. Giannacopoulos (by phone)
C. Lynd (by phone)
K. Wilkinson (by phone)
K. Edgar (by phone)
L. Nicholls (by phone)
T. Testa
B. Williams

REGRETS

C. Antone

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Morell called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. O CANADA

The meeting opened with the playing of O Canada.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda, with the addition of Questions and Comments, was unanimously approved on motion by Trustee Cuddy, seconded by Trustee Smith.

4. OFFICIAL RECORD

None.

5. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

6. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Fisher advised on the recent announcement by the Province regarding the extended closure of schools in the province to April 5. Online resources provided by the Ministry were described.

The Director reported on the efforts of Administration and the board's professional staff in social work and psychology to support students at this time.

The deep cleaning and sanitizing of schools by the facilities department was described noting those staff are now in self-isolation as a precaution. The importance of not accessing schools was noted. An inventory of surplus personal protection equipment such as gloves and masks at school sites is being completed so that they may be donated.

The Director advised on the messaging to Administrators and educators regarding posts to social media, participation in community events and activities, and direction to not enter schools. Communities have been advised to not use school playground equipment per the recommendation of public health.

Currently, essential services are operating one day a week. IT equipment is being deployed to staff as appropriate to support working at home. Where possible, capital projects are continuing at this time.

Board meetings and Special Education Advisory Committee meetings will be proceeding; all other committees are paused at this time.

International exchange students have returned home except for three at the request of their parents.

International and out of province field trips have been cancelled for the remainder of the school year.

The Director responded to questions regarding access to schools, plans to support student learning, and payments to staff members performing casual work.

In response to a question, the Director advised it is expected the Ministry will be providing direction regarding expectations for educators after April 5.

Upon request, the Director advised that information on how to keep in touch with SWIS workers could be added to the website.

7. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Morell extended sincere appreciation to staff during this unprecedented time.

She advised most meetings currently are on hold and virtual platforms are being explored to ensure equity in access for Trustees and the ability for the public to participate.

Chair Morell extended congratulations to Superintendent K. Wilkinson on her retirement. Her years of dedicated service were acknowledged.

Meeting etiquette for the teleconference meeting was reviewed.

8. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

9. MINUTES OF THE 2020 FEBRUARY 25 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

a. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2020 February 25 Regular Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Yeoman, seconded by Trustee Pizzolato.

b. Business Arising from Minutes - None

10. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a. Capital Planning Staffing Request

Associate Director Pratt introduced the request for additional staffing in the Capital Planning department to facilitate leadership capacity and to address the accommodation planning requirements over the next number of years.

C. Lynd advised on the role of the Capital Planning Department, the current staffing complement, the request for staffing, and the rationale for the request.

Plans for posting for the positions were described.

Questions of clarification regarding funding for the Co-Op students and the staffing complement were addressed by Administration.

There was a suggestion that consideration be given to engaging TVDSB co-op students in the department.

Moved by B. Smith

Seconded by S. Hunt

That the following positions for the Planning Department, which are in addition to the current staffing model, be approved:

- 1.0 FTE Manager of Planning (effective May 2020)
- 1.0 FTE Planner (effective May 2020)
- 1.0 FTE Assistant Planner (effective September 2020)
- 1.0 FTE Data and Visualization Specialist (effective September 2020)
- 1.0 FTE Co-operative Education student (effective September 2020)

CARRIED

Poll Vote:

Yea: Trustees J. Bennett, P. Cuddy, S. Hunt, B. McKinnon, A. Morell, L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman, M. Ruddock, J. Skinner, B. Smith, B. Yeoman

Nays: Nil

Absent: Trustee C. Antone

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

11. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

a. Policy Working Committee, 2020 February 25

Provided for information.

b. Program and School Services Advisory Committee, 2020 March 3

Provided for information.

c. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2020 March 9

Provided for information.

d. Chair's Committee, 2020 March 10

Provided for information.

e. Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee, 2020 March 10

Provided for information.

In response to a question, it was clarified that if Trustees had questions regarding capital priorities funding they be submitted the Friday before the meeting. This was not in reference to any of the reports attached to the agenda package.

12. NOTICE OF MOTION

The following were presented as Notices of Motion:

That the Chair write a letter to OPSBA, copy the letter to the Premier of Ontario, local MPP's and the Minister of Education, inclusive of all TVDSB employee groups related to: safety and well-

being, programs and pathways, eLearning, class size (elementary and secondary), special education funding, and the full-day kindergarten program model(teacher and ECE).

To increase transparency and accountability of the Board decision-making process for the public's benefit, I move that all Program and School Service Advisory Committee meetings and Planning and Priority Advisory Committee meetings be video recorded and broadcast as is done for formal Meetings of the Board. This practice is to begin immediately.

13. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN - None

14. QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

In response to questions, Director Fisher advised of the following:

Messaging from the province has indicated the school year will not be in jeopardy due to the COVID-19 school closures. There is work underway provincially to outline the expectations of teachers to interact with students after April 5. Once those parameters are known they will be communicated to parents.

The Thames Valley Education Foundation, Caring Fund is still accepting applications.

In response to questions, Trustee Morell advised of the following:

A Special Meeting of the Board will be called if required. Trustees were invited to connect with the Director and the Chair as needed. She has reached out to OBSPA to learn what other Boards are doing at this time regarding meetings.

A concern was raised regarding the process for the recent media release and it's posting to the website in relation to one of the Notices of Motion.

Director Fisher acknowledged Superintendent K. Wilkinson noting her significant contributions over the years.

15. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Cuddy, seconded by Trustee Smith the meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

ARLENE MORELL
Chairperson