

# THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

April 21, 2020  
Teams Meeting

### TRUSTEES

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

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

### ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

M. Fisher  
J. Pratt  
S. Builder  
A. Canham  
R. Culhane  
D. Macpherson  
T. Testa  
P. Skinner  
S. Powell  
C. Lynd  
B. Williams

M. Moynihan  
P. Sydor  
R. Kuiper  
L. Griffith-Jones  
C. Giannacopoulos  
K. Edgar  
L. Nicholls  
A. Chahbar  
C. Glaser  
S. Smith

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Morell called the meeting to order at 4:51 p.m. and acknowledged the traditional territory on which the Board meeting is held.

#### 2. O CANADA

The meeting was opened with the playing of O Canada.

#### 3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Morell extended appreciation to staff, volunteers and fellow Trustees for their efforts during the Covid-19 pandemic.

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

#### 4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

#### 5. TVDSB RESPONSE TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC

Director Fisher provided an update on Thames Valley District School Boards (TVDSB) response to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The strategies that TVDSB has implemented since 2020 March 12 when the Ministry of Education ordered school closures were detailed. Actions include deploying over 12,000 devices to students and staff, providing approximately 700 iPhones/iPads to students with no internet access and mailing paper packages to students who remain without internet access for varying reasons. It was noted an additional application process for devices is underway for families that did not initially participate. The FNMI communities have been contacted to ensure the resources needed are received. The number of online training resources accessed by staff and students continues to increase daily.

Director Fisher advised that teachers are in regular contact with families and all levels of staff are meeting weekly.

All construction projects are suspended with the exception of Masonville Public School. Director Fisher reported that the TVDSB Caring Fund has funded over \$119,000.000 in requests from families, primarily for food and transportation.

Questions were addressed regarding iPad/iPhone funding and eligibility, the delivery method for lessons, the impact for students on SAL, the distanced learning survey, students with mental health needs, technology access/needs, graduating students/final grades, communicating to families through school messenger, creating social opportunities for students to interact with other students, releasing musical instruments to students and the deferment of graduations.

In response to a question, it was noted a distanced learning survey will be sent to families to solicit feedback on their experience and receive suggestions on improving distanced learning.

A recap of the Covid-19 update will be sent to Trustees.

Director Fisher noted it is National Volunteer Recognition Week and extended appreciation to all the volunteers across the Valley for the positive impact they make on students and families.

Success stories from across the TVDSB were shared.

Director Fisher announced the appointment of K. Auckland to Superintendent of Student Achievement effective 2020 August 1. Superintendent D. Macpherson will retire at this time.

Director Fisher presented for approval a revised Board meeting schedule. Questions of clarification regarding the proposed schedule of meetings were addressed by Administration.

In addition to the Board meetings, Director Fisher offered to provide regular updates to Trustees on alternating weeks.

**Moved by J. Bennett**  
**Seconded by B. Smith**

To increase governance during the Covid-19 pandemic and while Ontario is under a state of emergency,

**That the 2020 Board meeting schedule be revised to meet twice monthly by adding a Special Board meeting on the second Tuesday of each month in lieu of the Advisory Committee meetings. In addition, that on the alternating Tuesdays a commitment to virtual check-ins with Director Fisher be established.**

**That this schedule be revisited at the end of 2020 June.**

**CARRIED**

**6. REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, IN-CAMERA, 2020 APRIL 21**

Trustee Ruddock reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera April 21, 2020 from 4:00 p.m. to 4:25 p.m. The committee discussed negotiation, legal and personal matters. There were no conflicts of interest. There were no recommendations.

**7. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

None.

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Trustee Polhill, seconded by Trustee Smith the meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

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Arlene Morell  
Chairperson