

# THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING

April 28, 2020  
Teams Meeting

### TRUSTEES

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

B. McKinnon  
S. Polhill  
B. Smith  
J. Skinner  
P. Cuddy  
C. Antone(-9:42)  
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  
B. Williams  
C. Henriquez  
K. Auckland  
M. Moynihan  
P. Sydor  
R. Kuiper  
L. Griffith-Jones  
C. Giannacopoulos  
K. Edgar  
L. Nicholls  
A. Chahbar  
C. Glaser  
P. Hicks  
S. Smith

#### 1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Morell called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and acknowledged the traditional territory on which the Board meeting is held.

#### 2. O CANADA

The meeting opened with the playing of O Canada.

#### 3. STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

Director Fisher highlighted activities from schools across the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) demonstrating the strategic priorities in action.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#### 5. OFFICIAL RECORD

B. Williams, Supervisor, Corporate Services, read the following official record into the minutes:

We regret to record the death of William (Bill) DeBie on March 19. Bill was a Custodian at West Elgin Secondary School.

#### 6. RECOGNITIONS

Trustee Bennett honoured the late Linda Stevenson, a former Board Trustee. Highlighted were her contributions to the Thames Valley District School Board staff, students and the community.

#### 7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

## **8. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Director M. Fisher and Associate Director R. Culhane provided an update on efforts throughout the board to support distance learning for students including engagement efforts with students/families, solicitation of feedback, distribution of devices and materials, and training.

M. Fisher reported the Ministry of Education has stated all schools will remain closed until at least 2020 May 29.

M. Fisher announced 2020 May 4-10 is Mental Health Week and outlined virtual activities planned throughout the week.

R. Culhane provided an update on the online Adult Education courses scheduled for 2020 April 27 – July 22. Communication will go out to families through school messenger and the TVDSB website as it becomes available. He further reported on the two week online High School Math Here I Come course in July and the Welcome to Kindergarten resource available electronically.

Associate Director J. Pratt provided an update from Organizational Support Services highlighting the activities of staff including the Health and Safety committee; the collection and donation of personal protective equipment (PPE) to local hospitals and medical centers; the work of maintenance staff; efforts to address the challenges with respect to areas of the board with limited or no internet access; and steps taken to allow the continuity of business for issuing transfer payments and issuance of tenders.

J. Pratt advised on new online offerings through the Student Transportation System (STS).

J. Pratt provided an update on current construction projects and tenders for future work. J. Pratt further advised on the status of projects currently in the approval process through the Ministry noting progress continues.

Associate Director Pratt reported while all portables have been ordered for the upcoming school year, delays are anticipated as the companies used to move/relocate portables are not working as a result of COVID-19.

Administration responded to questions of clarification from Trustees.

## **9. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

## **10. PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

## **11. MINUTES OF THE 2020 MARCH 24 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND THE 2020 APRIL 21 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD**

### **a. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the 2020 March 24 Regular Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Polhill, seconded by Trustee Pizzolato.

The minutes of the 2020 April 21 Special Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee McKinnon, seconded by Trustee Cuddy.

### **b. Business Arising from Minutes**

In response to a Trustee question, J. Pratt advised on the steps taken to date to hire staff in the Capital Planning department.

Discussion considered changing the start time of the regular Board meetings effective 2020 May 1 to June 30.

**Moved by** M. Ruddock

**Seconded by** S. Hunt

**That the regularly scheduled meetings of the Board be scheduled to begin at 6:00 p.m. effective 2020 May 1 to June 30.**

**CARRIED**

## **12. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE**

The Student Trustees reported they have been working to support the transition of the new Student Trustees. In addition, they have been working with Mental Health Lead, K. Appleby and Student Senators to create videos to support students with mental health during the pandemic.

Student Trustee Kennedy advised she is working on an initiative with the FNMI team in collaboration with Atlohsa Native Family Healing Services to provide smudge kits to Indigenous students.

Director Fisher extended appreciation to the Student Trustees for their leadership.

## **13. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION**

### **a. 2019/20 List of School Facilities for Potential Facility Collaboration and Co-Build Opportunities**

Administration presented for approval the list of Elementary and Secondary schools to be approved for potential facility collaboration; and the list of proposed capital construction projects for potential co-build opportunities and facility collaboration.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding identified barriers for moving forward with collaboration opportunities, and whether there is potential to use closed/unused sites.

**Moved by** J. Bennett

**Seconded by** C. Rahman

**That the following elementary schools BE APPROVED for potential facility collaboration:**

- Delaware Central Public School
- Ealing Public School
- Trafalgar Public School
- Knollwood Park Public School

**That the following secondary schools BE APPROVED for potential facility collaboration:**

- Arthur Voaden Secondary School
- B. Davison Secondary School
- Clarke Road Secondary School

- Glencoe District High School
- Ingersoll District Collegiate Institute
- Lord Dorchester Secondary School\
- North Middlesex District High School
- Westminster Secondary School
- West Elgin Secondary School

That the following proposed capital construction projects BE APPROVED for potential co-build opportunities and facility collaboration, all pending confirmation of Ministry of Education approval for funding:

- Proposed New Belmont Elementary Public School
- Proposed New Southwest London Elementary Public School
- Proposed Northwest London Elementary Public School
- Proposed New Southeast St. Thomas Elementary Public School

**CARRIED**

**b. Revised Budget Calendar**

C. Lynd presented for information the revised budget calendar. The rationale for the revisions was detailed.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding timelines for public input and budget deadline extensions.

**14. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES**

**a. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2020 April 7**

Trustee Bennett referred to the written report of the Special Education Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2020 April 7; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

On the request of a Trustee, A. Canham outlined the role of the Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA) and new model for supporting students with a gifted exceptionality. A. Canham was asked to forward to Trustees the materials presented at SEAC on this information.

**b. Interim Report of the Bylaw Ad Hoc Committee**

Trustee Rahman presented for approval the extension of the deadline for reporting to the Board from the Bylaw Ad Hoc Committee.

**Moved by** C. Rahman  
**Seconded by** J. Bennett

**That the Bylaw Ad Hoc Committee be provided an extension to 2020 November 24.**

**CARRIED**

**15. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

**a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)**

Trustee Skinner reported there was no new information at this time.

**b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)**

Trustee McKinnon advised award and scholarship deadlines have moved to 2020 June 8 noting a process for adjudication is underway. Trustees were invited to join in the adjudication process.

Trustee McKinnon reported as a result of the pandemic the TVEF had to cancel Toonie Tuesday and the Run for Fund. To recoup lost funds the Caring Champions campaign was introduced, noting community partner Harrison Pensa will match donations dollar for dollar (up to \$3000).

**16. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**17. NOTICE OF MOTION**

The following Notice of Motion was received:

That the Chair write a letter to the Premiere and the Minister of Education regarding closing the gap in access to rural broadband to Ontario's rural communities.

**18. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN**

**Moved by** J. Skinner

**Seconded by** P. Cuddy

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.

**DEFERRED**

Trustee Skinner provided the rationale for the motion highlighting the principle of transparency.

In consideration of the potential and unknown costs and the fact that meetings currently are not being held a number of Trustees spoke in favour of deferring the motion.

**On motion of Trustee Rahman, seconded by Trustee Smith the decision on the motion was deferred to 2020 June 30.**

**19. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Trustee Smith extended appreciation to staff for their efforts and dedication to student achievement during the pandemic.

**20. DIRECTOR'S NEWS FROM THE SYSTEM**

Director Fisher showcased the Strategic Plan in action by highlighting the creativity demonstrated by teachers to implement each of the Strategic Priorities in action within various Brightspace and Google classrooms throughout the district.

Director Fisher recognized the work of the TVDSB Records Centre reporting they have been working remotely to serve former students. It was noted that because of the investment in an

electronic document management system, Thames Valley is one of few school boards that is able to provide transcripts to students during the closure

Trustee Rahman reported on the passing of the *Closing of the Digital Divide* by the City of London Council.

**21. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Trustee Yeoman, seconded by Trustee McKinnon the meeting adjourned at 9:49 p.m.

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Chairperson