

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

May 26, 2020
Teams Meeting

TRUSTEES

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

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

REGRETS

J. Bennett

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

M. Fisher	M. Moynihan
J. Pratt	P. Sydor
S. Builder	R. Kuiper
A. Canham	L. Griffith-Jones
R. Culhane	C. Giannacopoulos
D. Macpherson	K. Edgar
T. Testa	L. Nicholls
P. Skinner	A. Chahbar
C. Lynd	C. Glaser
S. Powell	P. Hicks
B. Williams	S. Smith
K. Auckland	R. Hoffman
J. Richmond (-6:15)	S. Macey (+7:09)(-7:31)
A. Elliott (-6:15)	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Morell called the meeting to order at 6:03 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

Superintendent Builder introduced Principal J. Richmond who presented information about the FNMI program and community relationships at Lambeth Public School. Connections to the strategic plan were highlighted.

On behalf of Trustees, Chair Morell extended appreciation to the school Administration and Community partners at Lambeth Public School.

Questions of clarification regarding distanced learning were addressed.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved on motion by Trustee Hunt, seconded by Trustee McKinnon.

5. OFFICIAL RECORD

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

We regret to record the death of Lori Armstrong on May 20. Lori was a teacher at H. B. Beal Secondary School.

6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

7. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Fisher provided a COVID-19 pandemic update advising parents/students will have access to schools to collect personal belongings in June through an approved process.

It was noted only students not returning to TVDSB next year are expected to return their devices.

Director Fisher provided an update on the gas to groceries initiative noting over \$5000.00 was raised.

Associate Director Culhane provided an update on the FMNI team initiative in collaboration with Atlohse Native Family Healing Services to provide smudge kits to Indigenous students noting 50 smudge kits will be sent out this week.

Updates were provided regarding report cards, summer school registration, High School Here I Come, device deployment, the delivery of printed workbooks, the graduation survey, Special Education resources and Individual Education Plan (IEP) planning, Graduation Coaches, parent engagement and mental health initiatives. It was noted the Speech, Language and Pathology support staff launched web and Instagram support pages to provide tips, information and ideas for families to help their child's communication skills at home.

Associate Director Pratt provided an updated on the purchasing process and further advised GSNs have not be released.

An update was provided on Masonville Public School, Tweedmuir Public School and Kettle Creek Public School. It was noted permits were submitted to start the relocation of portables. Community use of TVDSB facilities was cancelled until the end of June noting summer options are still being evaluated. As a result of the pandemic the Lester B. Pearson School for the Arts summer program was cancelled for 2020.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding graduation, access to IT support for devices provided by TVDSB, communicating with parent/guardians of incoming kindergarten students, ESL summer programming, potential contingencies for returning to school and the viability of summer programming by third party providers.

8. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Morell shared a portion of the letter sent to staff on behalf of the Director and Chair of the Board.

9. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

10. MINUTES OF THE 2020 APRIL 28 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND THE 2020 MAY 12 SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD

a. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2020 April 28 Regular Board meeting and the 2020 May 12 Special Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Pizzolato, seconded by Trustee Polhill.

b. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

11. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

Student Trustees provided an updated noting their attendance at the OSTA AECO Annual General Meeting. Appreciation was extended to Administration for supporting the Smudge Kit initiative.

12. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a. 2019-2020 Interim Financial Report - 2020 March 31

C. Lynd introduced Manager S. Macey who presented the Interim Financial Report based on the financial results for the seven months ending 2020 March 31. Variances in projected expenditures and revenues were identified and explained.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding returning unspent funds to the Ministry of Education, and transportation costs.

Associate Director Pratt advised additional costs related to COVID-19 will be offset with savings in expenditures. In response to a request for additional information, it was agreed to present information on additional costs related to COVID-19 at a future Board meeting.

Administration also was reminded to provide estimated costs for streaming Advisory meetings noting that decision is to be made in June.

b. School Year Calendar 2020-2021

K. Edgar presented the draft 2020-2021 school year calendar for approval. The agendas for the scheduled PA days were outlined.

It was noted the school year calendar structure is guided by Regulation 304 and Policy/Program Memorandum No. 151.

K. Edgar provided a summary of the public input received regarding the draft 2020-2021 school year calendar.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding scheduled interview days, converting unused PA days and scheduling PA days prior to Labour Day.

Moved by B. Smith

Seconded by B. Yeoman

That the Draft 2020-2021 School Year Calendar be submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval.

CARRIED

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

a. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2020 May 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 May 4; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

b. Chair's Committee, 2020 May 20

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

In response to a question, Director Fisher explained the rationale for adding a Policy Working Committee to the schedule on 2020 June 16.

It was determined the Chair's Committee will review whether additional committees need to schedule meetings at this time.

c. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2020 May 26

Trustee Ruddock reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The committee discussed confidential legal and personal matters.

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by B. Smith

THAT the motion approved at the in-camera session of 2020 May 26 related to personal matters be approved.

THAT having found there exists insufficient evidence to support a finding of a breach of the Code of Conduct. The Inquiry Committee recommends that the Inquiry Committee be dissolved.

CARRIED

14. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Skinner reported he attended the OPSBA Director's meeting noting there was a focus on communication between Trustees and the Province. As a result Board Chairs will participate in weekly meetings with the Minister of Education.

b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)

Trustee McKinnon provided an update on the TVEF noting the Caring Champions COVID-19 campaign has raised almost \$10,000. It was noted these funds will be matched by community partners to double the total funds raised.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations, Membership to Special Education Advisory Committee

A letter from the Thames Valley Council of Home and School Association (TVCHSA) was received regarding membership to the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Moved by L. Pizzolato

Seconded by C. Rahman

THAT Teresa Whaley be appointed to the Special Education Advisory Committee as an alternate for the remainder of the 2018 December 1 to 2022 November 30 term.

CARRIED

16. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

17. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN

Trustee Hunt spoke to the intent of the motion noting the access to broadband internet remains out of reach for many Canadians in rural regions. Rural Canadians are facing connectivity challenges limiting the ability for students and families to participate with internet conferencing and use of cloud applications.

Trustee Hunt acknowledged the success TVDSB has had with identifying gaps and finding temporary solutions where possible including working with Municipal partners.

Trustee Skinner spoke in favour of the motion highlighting the importance of equity. He asked that consideration be given to including urban centres in the motion. He noted in London there are many students in difficult socioeconomic circumstances who face similar problems in terms of internet access.

It was determined the letter will be shared with MPPs and partner municipalities.

Moved by S. Hunt

Seconded by M. Ruddock

That the Chair write a letter to the Premier and the Minister of Education regarding closing the gap in access to rural broadband in Ontario's rural communities and address access in urban centres as well.

CARRIED

18. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Questions of clarification regarding International students were addressed.

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.

Director Fisher provided a summary of the activities TVDSB staff, students and families across the Valley participated in during mental health week through various virtual platforms.

20. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Rahman, seconded by Trustee Skinner the meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

Arlene Morell
Chairperson