

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING

**June 16, 2020
Teams Meeting**

TRUSTEES

A. Morell (Chair)	B. McKinnon (-6:20)(+7:00)
J. Bennett	S. Polhill
L. Pizzolato	B. Smith
M. Ruddock	J. Skinner
B. Yeoman	P. Cuddy
C. Rahman	C. Antone
C. Kennedy	S. Hunt
S. Chun	E. Butler

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

M. Fisher	M. Moynihan
J. Pratt	P. Sydor
S. Builder	R. Kuiper
A. Canham	L. Griffith-Jones
R. Culhane	C. Giannacopoulos
C. Lynd	K. Edgar
D. Macpherson	L. Nicholls
T. Testa	A. Chahbar
P. Skinner	C. Glaser
S. Powell	P. Hicks
B. Williams	S. Smith
S. Macey (-7:08)	H. Gerrits
K. Auckland	

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Morell called the meeting to order at 5:35 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

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

4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None.

5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director Fisher provided an update on Thames Valley District School Board's (TVDSB) response to the Covid-19 pandemic noting this is week 11 of Learning at a Distance.

Director Fisher advised on the equity and diversity strategies that TVDSB implemented as part of the 2019 Operational Plan. Actions include improving the Equitable Recruitment, Selection and Promotion of Staff policy, job fairs, unconscious bias training, dedicated portfolios for equity and Indigenous students, and removing third party recruitment application fees.

P. Skinner advised on the plan to improve equitable access to a quality education for all students and outlined the next steps.

Associate Director Culhane provided updates on summer school registration, the Black student/Black parent focus group, the work of Graduation Coaches, credit recovery for Indigenous students, Tu Puente, Chromebooks and SEA devices, Special Education funding, report cards, the distribution of education materials for applicable students, IPRCs and Go for Gold Grads 2020.

Associate Director Pratt provided updates on the work of the Health and Safety team, tentative labour agreements, and the reopening of childcare centres.

Director Fisher recognized Warrant Officer Warren Levschuk from Medway Secondary School and Amy Donaldson from F.D. Roosevelt Public School noting their extended efforts in their communities during the COVID-19 pandemic and extended his appreciation.

Director Fisher confirmed TVDSBs commitment to equity and equitable outcomes for all students. An outline of the Operation Plan and next steps were provided.

Moved by M. Ruddock
Seconded by B. Smith

In response to the Black Lives Matter request that has been circulated in the media, the following recommendation is moved:

That Administration prepare a report by the end of November 2020 to include:

- the availability of nutrition programs,
- the availability of black and indigenous counsellors,
- the availability of mental health professionals and programs,
- information on the black and indigenous curriculum available to students,
- the role of School Resource Officers and which schools current utilize this service; and
- information on the equity training/programs provided to staff and students.

That the report be inclusive of all schools within Thames Valley.

Trustee Ruddock spoke to rationale for the motion noting the importance of research and gathering accurate data from multiple sources to best implement strategies for improvement.

A motion to recess was moved by Trustee Skinner, seconded by Trustee Cuddy at 6:16 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

On motion of Trustee Pizzolato, seconded by Trustee Skinner the motion was deferred to the 2020 June 23 meeting of the Board.

Student Trustees shared feedback provided to them from students that have experienced social bias and expressed their desire change within the TVSDB.

Moved by C. Rahman
Seconded by J. Skinner

WHEREAS: We the Board of Trustees have heard from the community through the June 6th 2020, rally in Victoria Park, demonstrations in other TVDSB communities and protests at the Board office that real action is needed on anti-black racism, racism in schools, equitable hiring practices and reflective curriculum.

WHEREAS: Indigenous peoples have continuously faced issues of systemic discrimination and increased violence that require our acknowledgement at a system level. The deaths of Black people and Indigenous peoples are a result of a network of oppressive institutions in which the education system plays a role;

WHEREAS: There are a number of policies that focus on equity and inclusion at TVDSB, including the Strategic Plan and the Board is committed to the removal of systemic barriers to improve student learning, close achievement gaps, and to ensure equitable opportunities for students and staff;

WHEREAS: The Minister has the authority to make regulations governing the hiring practices for teachers.

BE IT RESOLVED THAT: TVDSB develop an anti-black racism/anti-racism strategy. That the board develop this strategy through extensive consultation. That the strategy include specific objectives tied to actions, measurable outcomes and timelines for meeting those objectives include provisions for engaging with students, parents/guardians, and other stakeholders. Include provisions for public reporting on progress towards achieving outcomes in the strategy on a monthly basis. That the board hear all recommendations no later than June 2021;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The board establish an equity and inclusivity advisory committee as well as a student equity and advisory committee to help create the strategy. That the committee is representative of the demographics and intersectionality's of the Board's student body. That the committee be consulted with, in a meaningful way, on policies, programs and initiatives such as curriculum changes, dress codes, disciplinary policies and procedures etc;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: TVDSB explore the practice of collecting disaggregate data by school, grade, race, language, disability, sex, gender, Indigeneity, and socioeconomic status and report back to the board on any issues or concerns with doing so Disaggregated data could be used to put a critical lens on suspension, expulsion and graduation rates, representation in academic, applied and locally developed credit courses, representation in special education, credit accumulation and student absenteeism. This data could be used to assess, evaluate and report on progress towards improving outcomes for **all** students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: TVDSB, commit to anti-racism and anti-oppression training for Trustees, teachers, administrators, staff and students;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Policy working committee, review the POLICE/SCHOOL BOARD PROTOCOL IN THE 2020/21 School year;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: TVDSB engage in extensive consultation with students, staff, community members, trustees and parents/guardians regarding the School Resource Officers (SROs) program. That the consultation probes the feelings and experiences of students in relationship to SROs and police presence in our schools. That staff prepare an accountability report for Trustees and the community in consultation with Police services across Thames Valley on the nature of the role of School Resource Officers, include the results of the survey and recommendations moving forward by December 2020;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Chair of the Board, in collaboration with the Board of Trustees, the mover and seconder of the motion and staff, send a letter to the Minister requesting the development of the Policy and Program Memorandum (PPM) on equity and diversity in hiring practices as requested by OPSBA. So that learners can see themselves reflected in the different positions of leadership in our schools;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: The Chair of the Board, in collaboration with the Board of Trustees, the mover and seconder of the motion and staff, send a letter to the Minister of Education encouraging the revision of the curriculum to better incorporate Black and Indigenous histories. We ask that the Government honour the Calls to Action of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada. To collaborate with Survivors, Aboriginal peoples, and educators to continue with curriculum revisions across subjects, grades and courses, to strengthen Indigenous content and learning.

On motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Hunt the motion was deferred to the 2020 June 23 meeting of the Board.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding posting the motions on the TVDSB website.

6. REVISED BUDGET CALENDAR

S. Macey presented for information the revised budget calendar. C. Lynd provided the rationale for the revisions.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding budget deadlines.

7. ONLINE BUDGET SURVEY RESULTS

C. Lynd presented a summary of the budget input received online from seven respondents between 2020 May 4 and 2020 May 29.

8. 2020-2021 ENROLMENT PROJECTIONS

J. Pratt presented enrolment projections that will be used to develop the 2020-2021 budget.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding planning for increased cohorts and under projected enrolment numbers.

9. COVID-19 RELATED COSTS

C. Lynd presented for information the realized reduced expenses and additional costs related to COVID-19. It was noted key savings resulting from the pandemic were primarily driven by decreased casual salaries, transportation and utilities/energy costs. The additional costs resulting from the pandemic were detailed including anticipated costs.

In response to questions regarding transportation costs/savings, Administration offered to follow up. It was noted the board is not privy to specific costs related to contractual costs between the bus operators and bus drivers.

10. PUBLIC INPUT

Fifteen speakers presented public input regarding programming for identified gifted students.

Trustees asked questions of clarification to the presenters.

11. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, IN-CAMERA REPORT, 2020 JUNE 16

Trustee Ruddock reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera on 2020 June 16, from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. and from 9:05 p.m. to 10:08 p.m. The committee discussed personal matters.

On motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Skinner the following recommendation was moved and carried:

That the motion approved at the in-camera session of 2020 June 16 related to personal matters be approved.

12. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

In response to a question, A. Canham outlined the process for identifying gifted students.

On motion of Trustee Skinner, seconded by Trustee McKinnon the meeting recessed at 8:55 p.m. reconvening in public session at 10:10 p.m.

13. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Hunt, seconded by Trustee Ruddock the meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Arlene Morell
Chairperson