

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

June 23, 2020, 6:00 P.M.

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
S. Hunt
E. Butler

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

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

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Morell called the meeting to order at 6:02 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. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved on motion by Trustee Bennett, seconded by Trustee Cuddy.

4. OFFICIAL RECORD

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

We regret to record the death of Julia Wild on June 18. Julia was a Teacher at A.B. Lucas Secondary School.

5. RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING STUDENT TRUSTEES

Superintendent P. Skinner extended appreciation to outgoing Student Trustees Butler, Kennedy and Chun and thanked them for the contributions they made to the Board.

P. Skinner welcomed the incoming Student Trustees T. Rahman, N. Keller and M. Daliwal.

Trustee mentors Pizzolato, Polhill, and Antone each extended appreciation on behalf of the Board of Trustees.

6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

7. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Fisher advised on the announcement by the Ministry to re-open schools for the 2020-2021 academic year.

The planning process, actions completed since the announcement and next steps were detailed. It was noted a survey will be sent to families to seek input regarding the re-opening of schools.

Director Fisher provided an update on TVSDB's commitment to identify opportunities within the Valley to eliminate systemic racism. There will be continued focus on strategic opportunities within the Operational Plan.

Director Fisher announced the retirement of Superintendent D. Macpherson and K. Edgar and provided summaries of their professional backgrounds and extended appreciation for their contributions. D. Macpherson and K. Edgar responded in thanks.

Director Fisher congratulated K. Wilkinson as the recipient of the OPSBA Distinguished Leadership Award.

Thames Valley Education Foundation Chair C. Thompson extended appreciation to K. Wilkinson for her generous contribution to the Foundation.

Associate Director Pratt advised on the reopening plan noting one Secondary and Elementary school will pilot the plan. A list of the planned tests that will take place was outlined.

It was noted child care centres will be open 2020 July 6 pending facility modifications. All indoor permits for 2020 July and August are cancelled.

Associate Director Culhane provided updates regarding summer school, High School Here I Come, device deployment/collection, Learn at Home and FNMI studies courses.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding COVID-19 costs.

8. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Morell extended appreciation to the TVDSB community for the response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Chair Morell extended appreciation to various organizations and individuals for their efforts in recognizing and celebrating the 2020 graduates.

Chair Morell offered best wishes to outgoing Superintendents D. Macpherson and K. Edgar.

9. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

10. MINUTES OF THE 2020 MAY 26 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND THE 2020 JUNE 16 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

a. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2020 May 26 Regular Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Hunt, seconded by Trustee Pizzolato.

The minutes of the 2020 June 16 Special meeting of the Board were approved on motion of Trustee Polhill, seconded by Trustee Smith.

b. Business Arising from Minutes

Chair Morell introduced the two motions deferred from the 2020 June 16 Special Meeting of the Board.

On request of Trustee Ruddock her motion was withdrawn with no objections.

Following a number of amendments and debate on the second motion deferred from the 2020 June 16 Special Meeting of the Board, the following motion was moved and carried:

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: The deaths of Black people 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 equity action plan that includes 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 which includes students, community members, trustees, administration and parents/guardians. The majority of the committee should be community members tasked to help create the equity action plan. 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 culturally relevant resources, 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, 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 exploring equity training including anti-racism and anti-oppression training for Trustees, administrators, teachers, staff and students and all statutory committees of the Board;

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. That the Chair communicate in the letter to the Minister support for OBSPA's position to remove Regulation 274/12 as it relates to increasing diversity/inclusivity, credentials and mobility. 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 history 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.

CARRIED

Trustees Rahman, Skinner, and Student Trustees Butler, Chun, and Kennedy each spoke to the motion noting the importance of a continued focus on equity and inclusion at TVDSB through a specific anti-black racism/anti-racism strategy. The Student Trustees shared experienced social bias collected from students throughout Thames Valley.

On motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Smith the meeting recessed at 8:15 p.m. reconvening at 8:31 p.m.

As a follow up to the previous discussion, Trustee Antone brought forward, for discussion and decision, a motion specific to Indigenous peoples.

Moved by C. Antone

Seconded by B. Smith

WHEREAS Chippewas of the Thames First Nation, Oneida Nation of the Thames and Munsee-Delaware Nation stand in solidarity with the Black Lives Matter movement;

WHEREAS the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) states in part “*Recognizing in particular the right of indigenous families and communities to retain shared responsibility for the upbringing, training, education and well-being of their children, consistent with the rights of the child...*”

Indigenous peoples and individuals are free and equal to all other peoples and individuals and have the right to be free from any kind of discrimination, in the exercise of their rights, in particular that based on their indigenous origin or identity.”

WHEREAS the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada: Calls to Action states in part “*We call upon the federal government to develop with Aboriginal groups a joint strategy to eliminate education and employment gaps between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal Canadians.*”

WHEREAS TVDSB and CMO have long standing Tuition/Education Service agreements in place and where the First Nations Advisory Committee has been asking the Board for accountability and data regarding the success of the First Nation Students;

WHEREAS decades of racism endured by Indigenous students and most recently the incident at Saunders Secondary School in the Fall of 2019 involving racial activities was not addressed by way of a formal report to the CMO communities TVDSB.

WHEREAS the TVDSB has autonomy to make regulations governing the hiring practices for teachers.

WHEREAS the CMO communities support a letter to the Minister regarding SRO’s, curriculum and the development of the Policy and Program Memorandum on equity and diversity in hiring practices as requested by OPSBA.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT CMO community representatives, the Indigenous Lead and the Indigenous Trustee need be involved in intentional principal placement in schools with Indigenous populated students and system principal placement through new mechanisms;

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED THAT the TVDSB establish an Indigenous led task force during the 2020-2021 school year that will be mandated to work on, but not limited to:

Creating an ombudsman for Indigenous families to hear complaints and implement and mentor staff on restorative practices.

An Indigenous Superintendent or someone with extensive knowledge on Indigenous culture, have a seat at decision-making tables per Ministry memorandum dated June 24, 2016.

That the recommendations of the task force will be brought to the TVDSB Board of Trustees for approval.

CARRIED

Questions of clarification regarding the motion were addressed by the mover and Administration.

Trustee Smith spoke to the motion noting the lack of content in the curriculum regarding Indigenous peoples.

11. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

The Student Trustees expressed appreciation to the Trustees, Administration and staff for their guidance and mentorship. The incoming Student Trustees were welcomed and wished well.

Chair Morell extended appreciation to the outgoing Student Trustees.

12. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a. Accommodation Plan

C. Kent presented four potential capital planning approaches for the 2020-2021 school year, based on needs identified within the draft Accommodation Plan, for Trustee consideration, selection and approval.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding an area attendance review for Oxford County, the increased need for French Immersion in the Woodstock area, selecting multiple/priority options, the original tier one priority list, staggering options, schools over capacity/under capacity, student distribution, combining options, capital funding submissions and the intent of the motion.

Moved by J. Skinner

Seconded by C. Rahman

That the next attendance area review address the significant student distribution problem in the City of London, pending the capital priorities submission results, as well as the overcapacity accommodation issue at Roch Carrier French Immersion P.S.

CARRIED

A poll vote was recorded.

Yeas: Trustees Bennett, Cuddy, Pizzolato, Polhill, Rahman, Skinner, Smith

Nays: Trustees Hunt, McKinnon, Morell, Ruddock, Yeoman

Abstentions: Trustee Antone

A motion to amend the motion to include attendance area reviews for Woodstock and Elgin was defeated on a poll vote.

Yeas: Trustee Hunt

Nays: Trustees Antone, Bennett, Cuddy, McKinnon, Morell, Pizzolato, Polhill, Rahman, Ruddock, Skinner, Smith, Yeoman

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

a. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2020 May 25

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 25; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

b. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2020 June 15

Trustee Pizzolato referred to the written report of the Special Education Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2020 June 15; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

c. Policy Working Committee, 2020 June 16

Trustee Ruddock referred to the written report of the Policy Working Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package. Recommendations of the Committee were outlined.

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by B. McKinnon

THAT the Student Use of Guide Dogs and Service Animals Policy be approved.

THAT the Equitable Recruitment Policy be approved.

THAT the Display of Flags Policy be approved.

CARRIED

d. Chair's Committee, 2020 June 17

Trustee Ruddock highlighted items from the written report of the Chair's Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package. Recommendations of the Committee were outlined.

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by B. McKinnon

THAT discussion and decision on the 2020-2021 Board meeting schedule and consideration of video recordings of Advisory Committee meetings be deferred to the 2020 July 14 Special Meeting of the Board, or if necessary, until a Special Meeting of the Board is called to receive the preliminary budget.

CARRIED

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by J. Bennett

THAT Trustees B. McKinnon, C. Rahman, and C. Antone be appointed as mentors to the three incoming Student Trustees.

CARRIED

A motion to sit past 11:00 p.m. to 11:15 p.m. was moved by Trustee Skinner, Seconded by Trustee Hunt and carried.

A poll voted was recorded.

Yeas: Trustees Antone, Bennett, Cuddy, Hunt, Morell, Pizzolato, Polhill, Rahman, Ruddock, Skinner, Smith, Yeoman

Nays: Trustee McKinnon

e. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2020 June 23

Trustee Ruddock reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. The committee discussed confidential negotiations, legal and personal matters.

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by B. Yeoman

That the motions at the in-camera session of 2020 June 23 related to negotiation matters be approved.

CARRIED

14. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Skinner provided an update on OPSBA noting the professional development plan was updated for Trustees. Trustee Skinner provided information on the statements released by OPSBA.

b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)

Trustee McKinnon reported on the total funds raised for the Caring Fund and advised the annual report soon will be made available online. The Annual General Meeting of the Foundation takes place tomorrow.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

17. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

18. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

In response to a question regarding the potential impacts of the Shaw Valley development in St. Thomas, Chair Morell invited Trustee Smith to follow up with Associate Director Pratt.

Trustee Hunt expressed appreciation to Administration for the delivery of the surveys to families in regards to the reopening of schools in the fall and in regards to experiences with distance learning over the last number of months.

19. DIRECTOR'S NEWS FROM THE SYSTEM

Director Fisher reported three TVDSB students were the recipients of the Schulich Leadership STEM Scholarship noting there were over 300,000 applicants. Director Fisher extended congratulations to these students noting only 100 scholarships were awarded.

Director advised 35 schools maintained their EcoSchool Certification helping students develop both ecological literacy and environmental practices to become environmentally responsible citizens.

20. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Antone, seconded by Trustee McKinnon the meeting adjourned at 11:06 p.m.

Arlene Morell
Chairperson