

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING

July 21, 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. Wright
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
S. Macey

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Morell called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Skinner, seconded by Trustee Smith.

4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

5. DIRECTOR'S UPDATE

Director Fisher provided an update on Thames Valley District School Board's (TVDSB) response to the Covid-19 pandemic noting Administration is focusing on a plan to safely reopen schools.

Director Fisher advised on the School Reopening Plan released by the Ministry on 2020 June 29 outlining the three potential reopening models. Director Fisher detailed the factors for consideration, guidelines, costs and concerns. It was noted transportation planning will be coordinated with STS, the Health Unit and the co-terminus Board. TVDSB's plan will be presented to the Ministry for approval.

Director Fisher provided an update on the two test sites, noting TVDSB is currently the only Board in the Province testing school reopening protocols on site.

Director Fisher provided an update on health and safety related to school cleaning, hand-washing, student/staff illness, COVID-19 screening/testing/outbreaks, mental health and plans for social distancing.

Director Fisher advised on the High School Here I Come program noting registration opens on 2020 August 12. As part of Phase 3, all TVDSB playgrounds are open.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding school reopening daily schedules, the impact on part time/casual staff, staffing, transportation and a full-time return to school.

6. PUBLIC INPUT - BUDGET

Public input was received; there was one individual delegation and one written submission.

Trustees asked questions of the presenter.

7. SPECIAL EDUCATION PLAN

a. Special Education Advisory Committee Report, 2020 July 13

Trustee Pizzolato referred to the written report of the Special Education Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2020 July 13; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

Questions of clarification pertaining to the meeting, the Special Education Plan, and back to school plans for Special Education students were addressed.

In response to a question, A. Canham detailed concerns discussed at the SEAC meeting regarding the Special Education Plan.

In response to a question, R. Culhane advised TVDSB will be reaching out to Special Education students at the end of August to offer transitional support for returning to school.

b. Special Education Plan

A. Canham presented for approval the updated Thames Valley District School Board Special Education Plan 2020-2021. A copy was provided to the Trustees prior to the meeting.

It was noted the revised Special Education Plan 2020-2021 was endorsed by the Special Education Advisory Committee at their 2020 July 13 Special meeting.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the minority reports, staffing, Provincial categorizations for exceptionalities and advocating for an additional exceptionality.

In response to a question, A. Canham advised that it is the responsibility of Administration to respond to the Minority reports.

Moved by L. Pizzolato

Seconded by C. Rahman

THAT a gifted program review be established by Administration to review data, research and information with input from the gifted subcommittee at SEAC.

CARRIED

There was a stated expectation that a report with recommendations would be submitted to SEAC.

A poll vote was requested.

YEAS: L. Pizzolato, C. Rahman, P. Cuddy, C. Antone, J. Skinner, S. Hunt, B. Smith

NAYS: B. Yeoman, B. McKinnon, J. Bennett, A. Morell, M. Ruddock, S. Polhill

Student Trustees: YEAS: S. Chun, E. Butler, C. Kennedy

Moved by J. Bennett
Seconded by B. Yeoman

THAT the Thames Valley District School Board Special Education Plan 2020-2021 be approved.

CARRIED

A poll vote was requested.

YEAS: C. Rahman, S. Polhill, P. Cuddy, C. Antone, B. Yeoman, B. McKinnon, J. Bennett, A. Morell, J. Skinner, S. Hunt, B. Smith, M. Ruddock

NAYS: L. Pizzolato

Student Trustees: YEAS: S. Chun, E. Butler, C. Kennedy

A motion to recess was moved by Trustee McKinnon, seconded by Trustee Ruddock at 8:06 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:16 p.m.

Moved by J. Skinner
Seconded by B. Smith

THAT the TVDSB Board of Trustees send a letter to the Minister of Education advocating that Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder (FASD) be recognized as an exceptionality category with the appropriate funding. The letter is to be distributed to OPSBA and the other Boards in the province.

CARRIED

8. BUDGET DEBATE AND APPROVAL

The Finance team presented for approval the 2020-2021 Preliminary Budget.

C. Lynd highlighted decreases to revenues and increases to expenses contributing to the overall deficit. The in-year deficit elimination plan was reviewed.

In response to a question, L. Nicholls advised professional development funding is guided by the collective agreement. R. Culhane detailed the professional development opportunities available for teachers and advised on funds available through school funding. The new teacher induction program was detailed noting capacity building to provide support for Principal and Vice- Principals will be a focus.

Moved by B. Yeoman
Seconded by B. McKinnon

THAT the Chair write a letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees to the Minister of Education expressing concerns related to unfunded expenses attributed to COVID-19 and the utmost importance of keeping our students and staff safe & healthy during the pandemic.

CARRIED

Suggested content to include in the letter was captured by Chair Morell.

Moved by B. Yeoman
Seconded by B. McKinnon

That the Chair write a letter on behalf of the Board of Trustees to the Minister of Education regarding increased flexibility in balancing the budget for the fiscal year 2020-2021 through Regulation 280.

To change the requirement for a compliant in-year deficit by 1% to a 2% total. The additional 1% year-in deficit (2020-2021 fiscal year), is a one-time stop gap measure to only fund COVID-related expenses from accumulated surplus, providing the in-year deficit is less than 50% of the Board's accumulated surplus. This will ensure deficit recovery as a one-time expense in the 2020-2021 fiscal year and financial stewardship.

CARRIED

Moved by C. Rahman
Seconded by B. Smith

Recognizing that there will be additional costs, unknown to the Board at this time, related to COVID-19, the Board include in its budget a COVID-19 allocation of \$1.8M (the remainder of the allowable in year deficit of 1%) as an expense for the 2020-21 school year.

CARRIED

Trustees in favour of the motion spoke to the importance of preparation and utilizing all the available resources to support staff and students for reopening.

Questions of clarification regarding the remainder of the allowable deficit were addressed.

Trustees against the motion spoke to the need for restraint, with the unknown costs ahead for school reopening resulting from the pandemic.

A poll vote was completed.

YEAS: M. Ruddock, P. Cuddy, L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman, J. Skinner, B. Smith

NAYS: B. McKinnon, B. Yeoman, S. Hunt, J. Bennett, A. Morell

ABSTAINED: C. Antone

Student Trustees: YEAS: E. Butler, S. Chun, C. Kennedy

Discussion considered the use of the budget to fully fund the purchase and installation of the remaining AEDs required for all schools in Thames Valley. Through discussion it was agreed to fund the purchase and installation of the remaining AEDs through OSBIE's Human Element Loss Prevention credits.

Moved by B. McKinnon
Seconded by M. Ruddock

THAT the 2020-2021 revenue budget of \$1,022,410,397 and the 2020-2021 expense budget of \$1,031,609,438 be approved.

CARRIED

Moved by B. Smith
Seconded by P. Cuddy

THAT the projected 2020-21 deficit for compliance purposes of \$(9,316,423), be funded from the August 31, 2020 accumulated surplus through the following appropriations:

**Unappropriated Accumulated Surplus (1,782,370)
Other Operating Appropriations (75,281)
IT Technology and Infrastructure (5,381,135)
Amount for Future Internally Supported Capital Projects (718,460)
Future Amortization of Internally Supported Capital Projects (1,359,177)
Operating Deficit for Compliance Purposes (9,316,423)
Items Unavailable for Compliance (Accrued Interest) 117,382
Operating Deficit (9,199,041)**

CARRIED

**Moved by J. Bennett
Seconded by S. Polhill**

THAT whereas the Ministry requires the 2020-2021 in-year deficit elimination plan be approved, the expenses will be addressed in 2021-2022 through the following measures:

**One time project expenses that do not continue in 2021-2022 \$7.2 m
Additional allocation of Secondary Teachers to support programming to be addressed (approx. 4 FTE) 0.4 m Total \$7.6 m**

CARRIED

9. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Plans were discussed for the Trustee tour of the school reopening test sites. A communication plan will be created regarding school reopening, this may include scheduling a Special Meeting of the Board.

In response to a question, Director Fisher advised on an upcoming meeting with the City Manager (London) to review potential concerns regarding student drop off/pick up plans for school reopening.

A request for established protocols for consultation during emergency situations, was referred to the Policy Working Committee for consideration. The current Emergency Response Plan was outlined by Associate Director Pratt.

In response to a question, Director Fisher confirmed working collaborations with outside organizations are reviewed as required.

There was a request for the Bylaw Ad Hoc Committee to reconvene in August/September.

10. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee McKinnon the meeting adjourned at 10:11 p.m.

Arlene Morell
Chairperson