

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING

August 12, 2020, 5:00 P.M.

Teams Meeting

A. Morell (Chair)
J. Bennett
L. Pizzolato
M. Ruddock
C. Rahman
T. Rahman
M. Dhaliwal (+7:15)

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

M. Fisher
J. Pratt
S. Builder
A. Canham
R. Culhane
C. Lynd
D. Wright
T. Testa
P. Skinner
S. Powell
B. Williams
K. Auckland
C. Mackie (-6:46)
A. Koning (-6:46)
J. Lock (-6:46)

M. Moynihan
P. Sydor
R. Kuiper
L. Griffith-Jones
C. Giannacopoulos
K. Edgar
L. Nicholls
A. Chahbar
C. Glaser
J. Davies
S. Smith
C. St. John (-6:46)
D. Smith (-6:46)
M. Cosyn- Heath

REGRETS

B. Yeoman, N. Keller

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Morell called the meeting to order at 5:00 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 Cuddy, seconded by Trustee Ruddock.

4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

5. RETURN TO LEARN PLAN

Director Fisher presented for information the Return to Learn Plan. Guiding principles, timelines, plan development, learning partners and the mandated learning models were detailed.

Associate Director Culhane detailed the in-person models for Elementary and Secondary learning. Benefits, confirmation deadlines and plans for Special Education students were outlined. Plans to focus on mental health and well being, and equity were shared.

Associate Director Pratt provided information regarding supportive technology, before and after school programs, transportation and school building access. Enhanced health and safety measures were detailed including the screening and outbreak protocol/confirmed case process.

Director Fisher detailed the Return to Learn Plan Communication Plan and clarified the difference between synchronous and asynchronous learning.

Associate Director Pratt introduced Dr. J. Lock, Southwestern Public Health Unit and Dr. C. Mackie, Middlesex-London Health Unit and explained their roles within the process.

Dr. Lock expressed support for the Board's Return to Learn plan noting it is impossible to create a risk free plan. She reviewed the various controls that were considered when creating the plan. The Southwestern Public Health Unit will continue to provide support to schools noting prevention is the key focus.

Dr. Mackie addressed key concerns regarding potential out breaks in schools, mitigating risk in small spaces, the outbreak protocol, symptom awareness and the risks to mask use for younger children.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding transportation, the screening process, Ministry guidance documents, mask use, the outbreak protocol, mitigating risk and class sizes.

Director Fisher extended appreciation to Dr. Lock, and Dr. Mackie, for their collaboration and support.

Associate Director Pratt introduced M. Cosyn-Heath, Student Transportation Services (STS) and identified her role within the process.

M. Cosyn-Heath outlined the preparations that STS is working on for the upcoming academic year. Plans for physical distancing, prevention, travel time, bus stop locations, bus cleanliness, transporting students with special needs, bus drivers/attendants, the registration system, seating plans and active travel/safety zones were detailed.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding capacity, relocated students, choice of school transportation, opting in/out, bus runs times and active registration.

A motion to recess was moved by Trustee McKinnon, seconded by Trustee Ruddock at 7:15 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 7:26 p.m.

Questions of clarification regarding class sizes, social distancing expectations, transportation, EQAO testing, opting in/out, ventilation/air conditioning, improving school climate, parental/staff attestations, distanced learning, technology/devices, graduation requirements, the Chromebook pilot project, Special Education, additional teacher funding, staffing and updating the FAQ page were addressed by Administration.

In response to a question, Associate Director Culhane advised EQAO testing will occur in grades 9 and 10.

In response to a question, A. Chahbar advised the Ministry of Education guide to reopening schools is a directive that must be followed.

Moved by J. Bennett

Seconded by B. McKinnon

THAT the Chair write a letter to the Premier of Ontario, the Ontario Minister of Education to grant resources such as sufficient funding for School Boards to effectively ensure staff and student safety and well being to be resourced. In addition that the letter advocate for the reduction of class sizes to reflect current social distancing guidelines. That the Director continue to work alongside the Ministry of Education to provide full funding to achieve lower Elementary class sizes.

CARRIED

There was a request to extend an invitation to the representatives from the respective Health Units to a future meeting of the Board to address questions concerning the Ministry's breakout protocols once they are available.

6. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Bennett, seconded by Trustee Cuddy the meeting adjourned at 9:24 p.m.

Arlene Morell
Chairperson