

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL MEETING

August 25, 2020, 6:00 P.M.
Teams Meeting

TRUSTEES

A. Morell (Chair)
J. Bennett (+6:10)
L. Pizzolato
M. Ruddock
B. Yeoman
C. Rahman (-11:02)
T. Rahman
N. Keller

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

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
C. Henriquez
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
J. Davies
M. Kreiger

REGRETS

C. Antone

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Morell called the meeting to order at 6:05 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 Smith, seconded by Trustee Rahman.

4. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

5. RETURN TO LEARN UPDATE

Director Fisher provided an update on Return to Learn advising on the recent meeting with the Ministry of Education concerning plans for Secondary school students.

Associate Director Culhane provided an update on the changes to the Secondary model based on recommendations by the Ministry of Education. The revisions to the model were detailed. Full remote learning expectations and capabilities were outlined.

Associate Director Culhane reported the deadline to complete the Student Health Agreement is 2020 September 14. It was noted this will be mandatory for each student.

Associate Director Culhane provided an update on the High School Here I Come program.

The professional learning planned for staff prior to the start of the school year was reviewed.

Associate Director Pratt provided an update on enhanced health and safety measures, staffing, transportation and masking/face coverings.

Director Fisher advised on masking/face coverings, the Return to Learn communication plan and where to locate answers to frequently ask questions and access additional information.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding HVAC, students going home for lunch, COVID-19 contact tracing, transportation, before/after school programs, the student health agreement, the Secondary model, alignment with the co-terminus Board, opting in/out, staggered start dates, class sizes, social distancing expectations, masking/face coverings, exam schedules, COVID-19 self screening, staffing, technology/devices, Grad Coach support, opening windows in classrooms/portables, the outbreak protocol, course selection for remote learning and health and safety guidelines for administrative/support staff.

In response to a question, C. Henriquez advised on HVAC maintenance performed in schools.

In response to a question, A. Chahbar advised mandating masks in kindergarten to grade 3 is not enforceable.

A motion to recess was moved by Trustee McKinnon, seconded by Trustee Ruddock at 8:38 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:51 p.m.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding Grants for Student Needs (GSN) allocations, student co-op, November/February entry points, class sizes, staffing, creating classrooms off site and transportation.

Moved by L. Pizzolato

Seconded by C. Rahman

BE IT RESOLVED THAT masks shall be mandatory in all TVDSB buildings and on student transportation for all students JK-3, staff and visitors where 2m (6ft) of physical distancing is not possible until such time as masks are no longer required or recommended in the general population to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT individuals may be exempt based on medical conditions or otherwise. Alternatives are explored for staff and students that are medically exempt from wearing face masks.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT Staff will work towards mask compliance with students compassionately with no disciplinary actions for students who have difficulty complying.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that frequent mask breaks will be available.

CARRIED

Trustees in favour of the motion spoke to the importance of creating a safe environment for all students and staff.

Trustees against the motion expressed concerns regarding the inability to enforce the motion.

A poll vote was requested.

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

NAYS: J. Bennett, B. Yeoman

Abstained: A. Morell

Absent: C. Antone

Student Trustees: YEAS: T. Rahman, N. Keller, M. Dhaliwal

6. 2020-2021 BUDGET AUTHORIZATION

J. Pratt presented for approval the use of \$9,395,781 from the unappropriated accumulated surplus to fund COVID-19 related expenses in 2020-21.

The use of funds from the unappropriated accumulated surplus is a result of the change in the requirement for a compliant in-year deficit by one percent to a two percent total. By Board motion at the 2020 July 21 meeting, Trustees authorized the Chair to write the Ministry to request this change. In response, the Ministry announced on 2020 August 14 that school boards would be allowed to incur an in-year deficit up to 2 per cent of their operating allocation, for this year only.

Plans for use of the funds to address funding shortfalls in COVID-19 related expenses were outlined.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding staffing, unfunded liabilities, custodial allocations, and IT support.

It was noted updates will be provided to the Board of Trustees related to COVID-19 as expenses are actualized. Revised estimates will reflect all anticipated costs as determined by 2020 November 30.

On motion of Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Skinner a motion to sit to 11:15 p.m. was CARRIED.

Moved by B. Smith

Seconded by B. McKinnon

THAT an amount up to an additional 1% of the 2020-2021 TVDSB projected operating revenues, totaling \$9,395,781, may be used from the unappropriated accumulated surplus balance to fund COVID-19 related expenses in 2020-2021.

CARRIED

A poll vote was requested.

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

NAYS: L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman

Absent: C. Antone

Student Trustees: YEAS: T. Rahman, N. Keller, M. Dhaliwal

Moved by B. Yeoman

Seconded by B. Smith

That the Chair write a letter to Ontario's Chief Medical Officer of Health and the Ministry of Education regarding standardization of mask wearing protocols in schools and public places in Ontario.

CARRIED

7. REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, IN-CAMERA, 2020 AUGUST 25

Trustee Ruddock reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:37 p.m. to 5:57 p.m. The committee discussed legal matters. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

Moved by M. Ruddock
Seconded by B. McKinnon

THAT the motions at the in-camera session of 2020 August 25 related to legal matters be approved.

CARRIED

8. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee McKinnon, seconded by Trustee Ruddock the meeting adjourned at 11:15 p.m.

Arlene Morell
Chairperson