

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

September 22, 2020, 7:00 P.M.

Teams Meeting

TRUSTEES

A. Morell (Chair)
J. Bennett
L. Pizzolato
M. Ruddock
B. Yeoman
C. Rahman
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

M. Moynihan
P. Sydor
R. Kuiper
L. Griffith-Jones
C. Giannacopoulos
L. Nicholls
A. Chahbar
S. Smith
K. Auckland
K. Lynds(-7:07)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Morell called the meeting to order at 7:00 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. STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

Superintendent Builder introduced Principal K. Lynds from Trafalgar Public School.

K. Lynds outlined the first day of school and the various activities in the school. Connections to the strategic plan were highlighted.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

5. OFFICIAL RECORD

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

We regret to record the deaths of the following individuals:

Alison Clare on June 26. Alison was an Educational Assistant at Sir Isaac Brock Public School.

Heidi Werner on July 3. Heidi was a teacher at Westmount Public School.

David Hurry on July 21. David was a Carpenter with the TVDSB.

Aneel Janmohammad on July 26. Aneel was a teacher at South Secondary School.

Jennifer Lefteris on July 26. Jennifer was a teacher at Stoney Creek Public School.

Dale Ferns on August 16. Dale was a Secondary occasional teacher and most recently held a long term assignment at H.B Beal Secondary School.

Justin Bongers on September 2. Justin was a teacher at Masonville Public School.

6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

7. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Fisher his extended appreciation to staff for their efforts implementing the Return to Learn plan.

Director Fisher introduced and welcomed incoming Superintendents K. Auckland, C. Giannacopoulos and D. Wright.

8. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair Morell welcomed students and staff back for the 2020-2021 school year.

Chair Morell expressed gratitude to the local Health Unit for their collaboration and support in preparing the 2020-2021 academic school year. It was noted the ongoing partnership as the year progresses is appreciated.

Chair Morell extended appreciation to staff for their contributions in preparation of the school year.

Chair Morell introduced and welcomed incoming Student Trustees, N. Keller, M. Dhaliwal and T. Rahman.

9. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

10. MINUTES OF THE 2020 JUNE 23 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND OF THE SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE BOARD ON 2020 JULY 14, 2020 JULY 21, 2020 AUGUST 12, 2020 AUGUST 25, AND SEPTEMBER 8

a. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2020 June 23 Regular Board meeting and the Special Board meetings of 2020 July 14, 2020 July 21, 2020 August 12, 2020 August 25 and 2020 September 8 were approved on motion of Trustee Hunt, seconded by Trustee McKinnon.

b. Business Arising from Minutes

In response to a question, Chair Morell advised no communication had yet been received from the Ministry in response to letters written over the summer.

Questions of clarification regarding masking in schools was addressed by Administration.

Moved by J. Skinner

Seconded by B. Smith

That the Board meeting schedule found in Appendix A of the 2020 July 14 Board meeting minutes, be changed so that the Special Board meetings become regular Board meetings

with the exception of the 2020 December 1, Special board meeting saved for Board elections.

CARRIED

It was clarified that the Board meeting schedule would be reviewed before the end of January as part of the work of the Bylaw Adhoc Committee.

11. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

Student Trustee Keller advised Orange shirt day will be on 2020 September 30. Resources can be found on the TVDSB website. Student Trustee Keller explained the personal significance of Orange Shirt Day to him and the impact it has on Indigenous students.

12. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a. Return to Learn Update

Director Fisher presented for information an update on the Return to Learn Plan.

Associate Director Culhane provided an update on full remote learning, Teachers on Special Assignment (TOSAs), communicating with families, IT support, device deployment, Special Education, Indigenous education, safe schools and mental health.

It was noted training on Brightspace is available for parents/guardians.

Associate Director Pratt provided an update on staffing, transportation and the outbreak protocol.

Director Fisher advised on the recent confirmed case of COVID-19 in the H.B. Beal community.

It was noted all confirmed cases of COVID-19 will be reported on the TVDSB website.

Question of clarification were addressed regarding keeping students connected, internet support for families, class sizes, criteria for remote learning, dropping/adding courses in Secondary, paper copies of lessons/ technology support, SAL, transportation, teacher qualifications, IEPs, social distancing on the bus, the Chromebook 1:1 Pilot project, Ministry/MLHU requirements for masking in schools.

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

a. Chair's Committee, 2020 September 15

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 S. Polhill

THAT membership to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association be renewed.

CARRIED

A poll vote was conducted.

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

NAYS: B. McKinnon

Abstained: none

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

b. Audit Committee, 2020 September 15

Trustee Morell highlighted items from the written report of the Audit Committee provided to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. There were no recommendations.

c. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2020 September 22

Trustee Ruddock reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:00 p.m. to 5:08 p.m. There were no conflicts of interest. The committee discussed confidential negotiation matters.

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by C. Rahman

That the motions at the in-camera session of 2020 September 22 related to negotiation matters be approved.

CARRIED

14. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Skinner advised on the upcoming OPSBA AGM. Details were sent to Trustees prior to the meeting.

b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)

Trustee McKinnon reported the "Best First Day" campaign for students was a success. The details of the campaign were outlined.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Autism Ontario - Membership to the Special Education Advisory Committee

A letter from Autism Ontario London was received regarding membership the Special Education Advisory Committee.

Moved by J. Bennett

Seconded by C. Rahman

THAT Sherri Moore be appointed to the Special Education Advisory Committee for the remainder of the 2019 December 1 to November 30 2022 term.

CARRIED

16. NOTICE OF MOTION

That the agreement between the Thames Valley District School Board and the Municipality of Central Elgin with regard to the use of the Port Stanley arena by Kettle Creek P.S. be revisited to ensure the agreement accurately reflects the wishes of Council and the Board.

17. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

18. DIRECTOR'S NEWS FROM THE SYSTEM

M. Fisher showcased the Strategic Plan in action with a slideshow demonstrating each of the Strategic Priorities in action at a TVDSB school.

19. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Bennett, seconded by Trustee Ruddock the meeting adjourned at 9:31 p.m.

Arlene Morell
Chairperson