

# THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING

October 13, 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  
C. Henriquez (-9:00)  
K. Auckland

M. Moynihan  
P. Sydor  
R. Kuiper  
L. Griffith-Jones  
C. Giannacopoulos  
L. Nicholls  
A. Chahbar  
P. Hicks  
S. Smith  
S. Kahn (-7:16)  
B. Puzanov  
J. Vowles (-7:16)  
K. Takahashi (-7:16)  
K. Beecroft (-7:16)

#### 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 Giannacopoulos introduced Principal S. Khan from Saunders Secondary School and provided a brief description of the grade 9 science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) program.

S. Khan outlined the STEM program noting the growth of the program. S. Khan introduced J. Vowles, K. Takahashi and K. Beecroft who outlined the cross-curricular learning the STEM program offers detailing the success. Connections to the strategic plan were highlighted.

Trustee Bennett extended appreciation to the presenters for their contributions to student learning.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved on motion by Trustee Hunt, seconded by Trustee Ruddock.

#### 5. OFFICIAL RECORD

None.

**6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**7. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Director Fisher announced a review will be completed of the School Resource Officer Program. Details of the review and next steps were outlined.

**8. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**9. PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**10. MINUTES OF THE 2020 SEPTEMBER 22 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**a. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the 2020 September 22 Regular Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Polhill.

**b. Business Arising from Minutes**

None.

**11. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE**

Student Trustee Rahman advised on the activities of the Student Trustees noting the Student Advisory Council will host a meeting soon. The Student Trustees are planning to virtually attend the Fall General Meeting scheduled for 2020 October 22-26.

Student Trustee Keller provided an update on Orange Shirt Day. N. Keller advised that in his role as the OSTA-AECO Indigenous Relations Working Group Co-Chair he collaborated on a letter about Orange Shirt Day. A copy of the letter can be found on the OSTA-AECO website. A copy of the letter will be sent to Trustees.

**12. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION**

**a. Operational Plan Summary, 2019-2020**

M. Fisher presented the Thames Valley's Operational Plan Summary 2019-2020. M. Fisher summarized the progress achieved during the 2019-2020 school year outlining the challenges and successes.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding assessment data and the measurement of results.

**b. Update Return to Learn**

Administration provided an update on the Return to Learn plan noting the Elementary learning model change request deadline is 2020 October 16. The deadline for Secondary is to be determined but will be in advance of the start of quadmester 3 that is scheduled to begin 2021 February 4.

It was noted there will be a changes to the in-person learning schedule for Secondary. These will take effect 2020 November 17. The rationale for the changes were provided and sample daily Secondary schedules were reviewed.

Administration provided updates relevant to staffing/recruitment, Elementary fall reorganization, class sizes and the outbreak protocol.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the learning model change request deadline, the waitlist for full remote learning, English kindergarten at FI schools, the outbreak protocols, the changes to the Secondary schedules, transportation and communication with families.

It was noted graduation ceremonies for 2019-2020 graduates will be held virtually.

There was a request to send out additional communication to parents regarding the deadline for submitting a request for a learning model change.

**c. Ministry of Education Capital Priorities Feedback**

J. Pratt introduced B. Puzanov and provided a brief description of his professional background.

B. Puzanov presented a summary of the Ministry of Education's feedback regarding the TVDSB's 2019-2020 Capital Priorities Grant Program submissions.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the capital submissions, feedback from the Ministry and implications for next steps; and about the decrease in capital funding provided by the Ministry for the new Belmont school.

**13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES**

**a. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2020 September 14**

Trustee Pizzolato referred to the written report of the Special Education Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2020 September 14; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

**b. Policy Working Committee, 2020 September 22**

Trustee Ruddock referred to the written report of the Policy Working Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package. There were no recommendations.

**c. Interim Report of the Rural Education Task Force Committee, 2020 September 28**

Committee Chair A. Morell presented an interim report from the Rural Education Task Force.

A. Morell described the work of the committee to date noting the impacts of COVID-19 on their ability to meet. The committee is requesting an extension to 2021 November 23.

A. Morell further advised on discussions at their 2020 September 28 meeting regarding rural schools as they relate to the Rural and Northern Education Fund, the moratorium on school closures, the importance of integrated local planning, and the need to recognize the importance and value to the community of rural/single community schools. From the

discussion, a recommendation to advocate in these areas was moved and carried by the Task Force. The rationale for the recommendation was detailed.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the recommendations of the Task Force, potential impacts on upcoming planning decisions, the number of schools included in the RNEF, and the criteria for funding for the RNEF.

In response to a question regarding staff resources to support the work of the Task Force and whether the work of the Task Force should be put on pause, the Director advised staffing resources did not need to be a determining factor in deciding on the extension requested.

It was confirmed there are 44 schools in TVDSB qualifying for RNEF.

Due to a power failure the meeting was paused at 10:08 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 10:17 p.m.

On motion of Trustee Morell, seconded by Trustee Ruddock the recommendation was amended to provide clarity to the intent of the motion.

**Moved by S. Polhill**

**Seconded by S. Hunt**

**That the Rural Education Task Force Committee be provided an extension to 2021 November 23.**

**That the Board of Trustees advocate for the following and invite the Rural Education Task Force municipal members to advocate similarly:**

**Maintaining and enhancing the Rural and Northern Education Fund (RNEF) funding model for rural and northern schools.**

**Maintaining the moratorium on school consolidations and closures for the schools that qualify/identified for the Rural and Northern Education Fund in accordance with the Ministry of Education's revised draft of the Pupil Accommodation Guidelines.**

**Strengthening of integrated local planning at the community level and to promote local planning conversations among school boards, municipalities and other relevant local partners to ensure ongoing communication and notification regarding possible school consolidations, closures, additions or new builds.**

**Provincial policies for capacity planning and pupil accommodation reviews that formally recognize the importance and value to the community of rural and single school community schools.**

A poll vote was conducted:

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

NAYS: P. Cuddy, J. Skinner

Student Trustees:

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

**d. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera Report 2020 October 13**

Trustee Ruddock reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:45 p.m. to 5:52 p.m. The committee discussed confidential personal matters. There were no conflicts of interest declared. There were no recommendations.

**14. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

**a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)**

Trustee Skinner provided an update on the recently held OPSBA Annual General Meeting and noted meetings with local governments are planned for the week of October 19.

Questions of clarification regarding participation in Local Governments week were addressed.

**b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)**

Trustee McKinnon reported the TVEF met regarding scholarships. An update will be provided at the 2020 October 27 Regular Board meeting.

**15. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**16. NOTICE OF MOTION**

That the New Belmont Elementary School project be placed on hold and resubmitted with the next round of capital funding for a school of 507 pupils.

**17. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN**

Trustee Smith provided background information and the rationale for the motion.

In response to questions, Board Counsel A. Chahbar provided information on agreements in other areas of the board noting they are not consistent. The differences in terms of content and intent between a reciprocal agreement and a facility use agreement were explained. He advised the current agreement could be reviewed at the will of the two parties.

**Moved by** B. Smith

**Seconded by** P. Cuddy

THAT the agreement between the Thames Valley District School Board and the Municipality of Central Elgin with regard to the use of the Central Elgin facilities by Central Elgin schools be revisited to ensure the agreement accurately reflects the wishes of Council and the Board.

**18. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

In relation to item 13.c on the agenda, there was a request for the members of Rural Education Task Force to consider advocacy efforts in relation to the reduced capital funding for the new Belmont school.

**19. 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.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

On motion of Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Antone the meeting adjourned at 10:58 p.m.

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**Arlene Morell**  
Chairperson