

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

December 15, 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
S. Hunt (-8:06)
M. Dhaliwal

REGRETS: C. Antone

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

M. Fisher
S. Builder
A. Canham
R. Culhane
C. Lynd
D. Wright
T. Testa
P. Skinner
S. Powell
B. Williams
W. Zavarella(-7:15)
C. Smith(-7:15)

M. Moynihan
P. Sydor
K. Wilkinson
L. Griffith-Jones
C. Giannacopoulos
L. Nicholls
G. Vogt
A. Chahbar
S. Smith
B. Puzanov
C. Morgado(-7:15)

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair McKinnon 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 a virtual performance of O Canada by Springfield Public School.

3. STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

L. Griffith-Jones introduced Principal W. Zavarella, Vice-Principal C. Smith and Teacher C. Morgado from East Carling Public School who presented information regarding Outdoor Education programming. Connections to the strategic plan were highlighted.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

5. OFFICIAL RECORD

None.

6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

7. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Fisher extended appreciation to staff, Trustees and families acknowledging the obstacles faced during the 2019-2020 academic year. He further noted the 2020-2021 Operational Plan will be introduced in the new year.

8. RECOGNITION OF 2020 CHAIR

Vice-Chair Ruddock extended appreciation, on behalf of the Trustees, to Chair Morell for her commitment and dedication as Chair in 2020.

9. PRESENTATION OF THE GAVEL

On behalf of the students, Trustees, staff and community of the Thames Valley District School Board, the Gavel of Office was presented to Chair McKinnon by Trustee Polhill.

10. INAUGURAL ADDRESS

Chair McKinnon presented the following Inaugural Address:

"Thank you to my Colleagues for providing me the opportunity to serve Public education in Thames Valley as Chair of the Board.

I would like to recognize Past Chair Morell for her magnificent Work as Chair, her contribution to our board over the last two year has given us great confidence to move forward.

I would also like to thank Vice-Chair Ruddock and Committee Chairs Rahman and Pizzolato for their efforts in advance.

As we move toward a new year and reflect on how quickly time passes, we should give thanks for all we have in Thames Valley. Lead by an exemplary Senior team and dedicated staff in very position, at every site. They deserve our thanks.

We must in these times continue to champion and celebrate all staff who, each and every day provide exceptional service to our students.

As Trustees, we are the stewards of public education that is charged with the education of all our learners. From full day kindergarten (FDK) to adult. It is our students who give us purpose and hope.

Success for every student and a culture of high expectations must always be our goal.

Trustees must continue to provide excellent governance for Thames Valley District School Board. We must work together cooperatively and respectfully so that decisions that we make are in the best interest of our students.

I will be asking each of you for any advice for me on what you believe would enable me to be a better Board Chair.

This year has been especially hard for all of us, we all get inspiration in different forms. For myself It is attending concerts, plays, commencements, or just going into a classroom and listening to learning as it happens. Sometimes I have been asked why it took so long to come inside this building, I would make up a little excuse as to why. I think today I will let you in on my reason for taking a few extra seconds outside.

I stop at the tree outside our window with the sign In Memory of Trustee Terry Roberts. Trustee Roberts or TRR (I can explain that to anyone who asks at a later date) like Trustee Bennett and Trustee Polhill have given me many great insights and history to our Board.

I can still Hear Trustee Roberts saying “ Kid we're going to be alright, listen and learn “ in a voice that expressed confidence.

2020 has been tough for a lot of us but let's keep fighting together and let's have a great 2021.

Thank you"

Moved by S. Polhill

Seconded by P. Cuddy

THAT the Chairperson's Inaugural Address be spread upon the minutes.

CARRIED

11. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

12. MINUTES OF THE 2020 NOVEMBER 24 REGULAR BOARD MEETING AND THE 2020 DECEMBER 1 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

a. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2020 November 24 Regular Board meeting and 2020 December 1 Special Board were approved on motion of Trustee Pizzolato, seconded by Trustee Polhill.

b. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

13. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

The Student Trustees reported they hosted the first Student Advisory Council meeting of this academic year. The details of the meeting were provided noting the Jam Board was well received.

Student Trustee Keller advised on the Indigenous Professional Development Session attended by Trustees and Senior Administration on 2020 December 8.

14. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a. London Accommodation Recommendation

B. Puzanov presented the recommended approach and next steps to address accommodation pressures in the City of London.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the timeline, empty pupil places, previous attendance area reviews, French Immersion schools, revisions to policies/procedures relevant to the review and the collaboration between TVDSB staff and Watson and Associates.

Moved by P. Cuddy

Seconded by B. Smith

THAT Administration be directed to prepare an Initial Attendance Area Review Report for both the elementary and secondary panels in the City of London for the purpose of reducing enrolment pressure at overutilized schools and improving the use of empty pupil places at underutilized schools.

CARRIED

15. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

a. First Nations Advisory Committee, 2020 November 17

Trustee Morell referred to the written report of the First Nations Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2020 November 17; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

b. Policy Working Committee, 2020 November 24

Trustee Ruddock referred to the written report of the Policy Working Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package. Recommendations of the committee were outlined.

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by C. Rahman

THAT the Electronic Meeting Policy (#2004) be approved.

THAT the Conflict of Interest and Nepotism Policy be approved.

THAT the revisions to the Student Concussion Policy (#4004) be approved.

THAT the Exclusion of a Student Policy be approved.

CARRIED

c. Chair's Committee, 2020 December 8

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 J. Skinner

THAT the appointment of Trustees to committees of the Board for 2020-2021, as outlined on the Committees of the Board and Community Representation 2020-2021, be approved.

THAT Trustee L. Pizzolato be appointed as a Student Trustee mentor.

CARRIED

d. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2020 December 15

Trustee Ruddock reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 6:15 p.m. to 6:29 p.m. The committee discussed confidential, negotiation and personal matters.

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by B. Smith

That the motion at the in-camera session of 2020 December 15 related to negotiation matters be approved.

CARRIED

16. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Morell provided highlights from the 2020 November 28 OPSBA meeting and the 2020 December 3 OPSBA Indigenous Trustees Council meeting.

The activities of the OPSBA Working Teams were detailed.

Trustee Morell advised the Public Education Symposium will be held virtually in 2021 January.

b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)

Trustee Skinner reported the TVEF launched the Holiday Caring Champions campaign noting the campaign has raised approximately \$30,000 to date.

17. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

18. NOTICE OF MOTION

In a continued effort to enhance communication and connectedness with our public-school supporters, Thames Valley District School Board will organize and facilitate two Trustee forums in each Trustee area (wards/county) for the 2021 calendar year.

19. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN

In response to a question, M. Fisher advised Administration supports the motion noting the removal of suspension record(s) will not hinder a students ability to access supports.

WHEREAS: The amended Ontario Regulation 440/20 called for the following changes:

(1) A pupil in junior kindergarten, kindergarten or grade 1, 2 or 3 shall not be suspended under section 306 of the Act for engaging in an activity described in subsection 306 (1) of the Act.

(2) A pupil in junior kindergarten, kindergarten or grade 1, 2 or 3 shall not be suspended under section 310 of the Act for engaging in an activity described in subsection 310 (1) of the Act unless the principal has conducted an investigation respecting the allegations.

(3) The condition set out in subparagraph 7.1 i of subsection 310 (1) of the Act does not apply in respect of a suspension under section 310 of the Act of a pupil in junior kindergarten, kindergarten or grade 1, 2 or 3.

WHEREAS: Students from historically racialized and underserved communities have been suspended at a higher rate.

Moved by C. Rahman

Seconded by L. Pizzolato

THAT suspensions on a student record that would now be in violation of Regulation 440/20 be expunged. This would include suspensions that occurred when the student was in junior kindergarten, kindergarten, grade 1, 2 or 3 be expunged from their OSR.

CARRIED

20. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

In response to a question M. Fisher advised TVDSB is in constant contact and collaboration with the local Health Units regarding COVID-19.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding Ministry funding associated with the London-Middlesex Region moving into the Red Zone.

21. 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.

22. ADJOURNMENT

On motion of Trustee Yeoman, seconded by Trustee Cuddy the meeting adjourned at 8:33 p.m.

Bill McKinnon
Chairperson