

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR MEETING

January 12, 2021, 7:00 P.M.

Teams Meeting

TRUSTEES

A. Morell (Chair)
L. Pizzolato
M. Ruddock
B. Yeoman
C. Rahman
T. Rahman
N. Keller

B. McKinnon
S. Polhill
B. Smith (-7:28)(+7:41)
J. Skinner
P. Cuddy
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
K. Auckland

M. Moynihan
P. Sydor
K. Wilkinson
L. Griffith-Jones
C. Giannacopoulos
L. Nicholls
G. Vogt
A. Chahbar
S. Smith
A. Chevalier (-7:19)
M. MacGregor (-7:19)
S. Leeming (-8:05)
S. Macey (-7:30)

REGRETS

J. Bennett, C. Antone

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 Sir Arthur Currie Public School.

3. STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

M. Moynihan introduced Principal M. MacGregor and Vice-Principal A. Chevalier from Mountsfield Public School who presented information regarding their strategies for addressing literacy skill development. Connections to the strategic plan were highlighted.

Trustees asked questions of clarification to the presenters.

4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

5. OFFICIAL RECORD

None.

6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

7. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Fisher advised on the Ministry announcement regarding the mandate to pivot to full remote learning (FRL) for Elementary and Secondary students and efforts taken to support the transition.

Director Fisher announced the construction of a new Elementary school in Southeast London after final approval was received by the Ministry of Education. The new Southeast London school is expected to open to students in September 2022.

Director Fisher provided updates regarding device deployment, school registration, First Nations Metis and Inuit Education, Special Education, emergency childcare, community communication and engagement, the student census and staffing.

8. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

9. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

10. MINUTES OF THE 2020 DECEMBER 15 REGULAR BOARD MEETING

a. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2020 December 15 Regular Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Pizzolato, seconded by Trustee Polhill.

b. Business Arising from Minutes

None.

11. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

Student Trustees provided an update on their progress with their advocacy work noting a focus on mental health and equity. The Student Trustees advised they are planning a student leadership conference for 2021 Spring.

12. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a. 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget Documents

1. Guiding Principles for the Development of the Annual Thames Valley District School Board Operational Budget

Guiding Principles and the 2021-2022 Preliminary Budget Assumptions for the development of the annual Thames Valley District School Board operational budget.

2. Report on Budget Timing

C. Lynd provided information on the preliminary 2021-2022 budget timeline noting the timing of the monthly reports to Trustees are based on anticipated dates for the Grants for Student Needs (GSN) announcement and the release of the Ministry of Education financial reporting tool (EFIS) package. The dates are subject to change.

b. Readiness Plan to Welcome International Students

International Education Lead S. Leeming presented the Readiness Plan to Welcome International Students. It was noted the Ministry of Education requires International Education programs to submit a Readiness Plan to welcome International students to Ontario. The Ministry requires the Board to endorse International Programming. The Readiness Plan is approved by the Ministry.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the readiness plan and international programming.

Moved by P. Cuddy

Seconded by A. Morell

That in compliance with the new public health guidelines that have been established by the Ontario Ministry of Education and the Canadian Federal Government for accepting international students, we remain committed to our International Education students and program.

CARRIED

13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

a. Policy Working Committee, 2020 December 15

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

b. Chair's Committee, 2021 January 5

Trustee Ruddock highlighted items from the written report of the Chair's Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package.

It was noted that the following motion was deferred at the 2020 July 14 meeting to the 2021 January 26 meeting:

That all Program and School Services Advisory Committee meetings and Planning and Priority Advisory Committee meetings be video recorded and broadcast as is done for formal meetings of the Board.

Trustee Ruddock presented the recommendation of the committee regarding the future schedule of Board and Advisory meetings.

Moved by M. Ruddock

Seconded by J. Skinner

That the current Board meeting structure of two meetings a month continue through to the end 2021 June 30, with the Advisory Meetings being suspended.

CARRIED

Trustees in favour of the motion spoke to the value of having two Board meeting each month and reflected on the preferences of staff at this time.

Trustees against the motion spoke to the value of the advisory committee and suggested any scheduling change be presented through a change in the bylaws.

A poll vote was conducted.

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

NAYS: L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman, B. Smith, B. Yeoman

Abstained: none

14. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Morell provided an update on OPSBA noting registration is now open for the Public Education Symposium to be held virtually 2021 January 28.

The activities of the OPSBA Policy and Program working teams was detailed.

Trustee Morell advised the OPSBA legislative update was emailed to Trustees on 2021 January 8.

OPSBA's work with Project Compass was outlined.

b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)

Trustee Skinner provided an update on the TVEF Holiday Caring Champions campaign noting the campaign raised over \$100,000.

Trustee Skinner advised the TVEF is planning a virtual 5k event for 2021 May.

15. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

16. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

17. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN

Moved by L. Pizzolato

Seconded by C. Rahman

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.

CARRIED

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding executing and moderating the virtual forums and ensuring equity for interested participants.

Trustees in favour of the motion spoke to the importance of engaging the community and receiving community input.

Trustees speaking against the motion advised on the previously approved motion for one Trustee Forum annually and spoke to the need to focus on higher priority tasks in the coming year.

A poll vote was conducted.

YEAS: A. Morell, L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman, J. Skinner, B. Smith, P. Cuddy

NAYS: S. Hunt, B. McKinnon, M. Ruddock, B. Yeoman

Abstained: none

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

18. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

In response to a question, A. Chahbar provided an update on the potential arrangement for students to use arenas in Central Elgin.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding device deployment, professional development for staff, switching between learning models, student assessments and report cards, providing supports for parents, learning loss, return dates for Secondary students, reopening of self-contained classrooms and grade 8 registration.

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 Rahman, seconded by Trustee Ruddock the meeting adjourned at 9:19 p.m.

Bill McKinnon
Chairperson