

# THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING

November 24, 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 (+7:04)  
S. Hunt  
M. Dhaliwal

#### ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

M. Fisher  
J. Pratt  
S. Builder  
A. Canham  
R. Culhane  
C. Lynd  
D. Wright  
P. Skinner  
S. Powell  
B. Williams  
C. Henriquez  
K. Auckland  
M. Sullivan (-7:14)  
J. Harmer (-7:14)  
M. Moynihan  
P. Sydor  
K. Wilkinson  
L. Griffith-Jones  
C. Giannacopoulos  
L. Nicholls  
A. Chahbar  
C. Glaser (-8:40)  
S. Smith  
R. Hoffman  
M. Cosyn-Heath (-8:00)  
M. Stanley (-8:40)  
T. McLeod(-8:40)  
C. Pollard (-7:14)  
S. Rankin (-7:14)

#### 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 a virtual performance of O Canada by Masonville Public School.

#### 3. STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

S. Powell introduced Principal M. Sullivan and teachers J. Harmer, C. Pollard and S. Rankin from Lord Dorchester Secondary School who presented information regarding the Lit Fit program noting the program improves literacy through fitness. Connections to the strategic plan were highlighted.

#### 4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

#### 5. OFFICIAL RECORD

None.

#### 6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

## **7. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Director Fisher provided a summary of events that occurred during Bullying Prevention week across the TVDSB.

Director Fisher advised on the positive recognition TVDSB received from the Ministry of Education regarding the implementation of the Return to Learn plan/COVID-19 response.

Director Fisher noted a request was made to Minister S. Lecce for the Ministry of Education to provide clear masks in sizes appropriate for students under the age of 12.

## **8. CHAIR'S VALEDICTORY ADDRESS**

Chair Morell presented her Valedictory Address.

Director Fisher, Senior Team, Trustees,

I am pleased to address the Board this evening,

To begin with this impactful statement from the OPSBA module – Effective Governance for student achievement and well-being: Boards Matter

“Elected school Boards are uniquely positioned to have a direct contribution for the students we serve through our leadership ... when the Board of Trustees engages in higher levels of authentic governance that is truly student centered and make teaching and learning their first priority, change occurs” .. For my valedictory address, my focus is on exerts such as this from our OPSBA professional learning as a guide to achieving what is referred to as higher levels of authentic governance....

While we have faced a year like no others, in the words of a former Board Chair “Trustees have one of the greatest honours that the community can bestow on us, we are the guardians of public education” ... To govern effectively, this relies on essential elements of governing in a manner that is responsive and acts in the best interest of all learners in our care. Our primary job is that of support – support of the public investment – support of our Director and his team, support of our Associate Directors, Superintendents, support of each other and most important.. support of Principals, staff and all those who each and every day – ensure that our students are engaged in their learning.. fundamental to our governance duty is the policy direction, monitoring and oversight – always focused on ALL students .. this is reflected in the OPSBA statement.

When Trustees engage in higher levels of authentic governance that is truly student centered and, make teaching and learning their first priority... how have we achieve this?

Director Fisher – through your leadership – the Board meetings where our strategic plan in action has become part of our work, in real time – not as an add on, BUT critical to our role– to support our work in realizing the goals we set for the system through our strategic plan – and our commitments to public education here in Thames Valley

Further in the OPSBA module - it states “the Board of Trustees keeps in mind the interests of all students within the school district rather than the interest of a few student’s in a particular school” therefore Working as a team: even when we disagree, we work together – we know how to inspire, and what discourages our work as ethical leaders we acknowledge the impacts, we demonstrate appreciation for each other and the Senior team and our team, with a supportive approach.. continually working together towards

collective capacity and conditions for collaborations here in this room as a Board of Trustees, with a strategic focus to maintain the confidence the public has, confidence that parents have in sending their children to our schools and the confidence that our staff have in feeling their efforts are valued and appreciated. For when we as Trustees demonstrate our responsibility for district wide coherence committed to the purposeful success of Thames Valley students ...we then have achieved governance that embraces the moral imperative of our leadership where students are the direct beneficiaries.

While this year has been like no other, looking back I am most proud of the resiliency demonstrated, pivoting to the delivery of education in a manner one could have never imagined possible, while health and safety remains paramount, despite the limitations posed by COVID much has been accomplished, the approval of over a billion dollar budget, effective decision making in a virtual world, furthering the Boards work with a focus on equity in recognition of the diverse geography of Thames Valley,

as leaders give pause to reflecting on the Boards' accomplishments achieved for the students that public education serves.. we are the local guardians of education.

I would like to personally thank Past Chair Bennett and Vice Chair Ruddock, who have demonstrated ethical leadership, guidance and support for the district.. who never lost sight of the 70,000 students in Thames Valley.

In closing, as we reflect on good governance as a moral imperative, I ask each to reflect on:

How do we work towards system wide coherence, understanding our strategic role and the goals of the district ensuring success for ALL our students?

Understanding gets us the long-term support and stability the system and our students require... this is the true nature of governance.

**Moved by J. Bennett**

**Seconded by P. Cuddy**

THAT Chair Morell's Valedictory Address be spread upon the minutes.

**CARRIED**

**9. PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**10. MINUTES OF THE 2020 NOVEMBER 10 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**a. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the 2020 November 10 Regular Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Rahman, seconded by Trustee Ruddock.

**b. Business Arising from Minutes**

None.

## **11. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE**

The Student Trustees reported the first Student Advisory Council meeting is scheduled for tomorrow.

Student Trustee Keller advised on the Indigenous Professional Development Session attended by Trustees and Senior Administration on 2020 November 17 noting two more sessions will be held.

## **12. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION**

### **a. Student Transportation 2020-2021 Update**

CAO, M. Cosyn-Heath from the Southwestern Ontario Student Transportation Services provided an overview of transportation start up for the 2020-2021 school year.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding ridership and scheduling of bus runs.

M. Cosyn-Heath advised on the factors taken into consideration and potential options that were considered when planning the 2020-2021 bus routes.

### **b. Technology-Enabled Learning for Students**

S. Powell introduced System Principals T. McLeod and M. Stanley who delivered a presentation regarding technology-enabled learning for students. C. Glaser provided a summary of the 1:1 Chromebook project.

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding 1:1 Chromebooks already assigned to students, asset management, the redeployment of recalled devices, funding for devices, communication to students, the bring your own device program and accommodations for students with no devices.

## **13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES**

### **a. Audit Committee, 2020 November 10**

Trustee B. Smith presented the report of the Audit Committee. C. Lynd provided an overview of the audited financial statement and responded to questions of clarification.

**Moved by B. Smith**

**Seconded by P. Cuddy**

**That the 2019-2020 internal appropriations of accumulated surplus in the amount of \$4,443,912 for the TVDSB and \$745,795 for the Thames Valley Education Foundation (as outlined in Chart 1) be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by B. Smith**

**Seconded by C. Rahman**

**That the 2019-2020 Audited Financial Statements be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by B. Smith**  
**Seconded by S. Hunt**

**That the appointment of Maranda King and Monica Nusink as audit committee members for a second three-year term ending December 31, 2023 be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**b. Chair's Committee, 2020 November 17**

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 B. Yeoman**

**That an Ad Hoc Committee be struck to review the criteria and format of the Award of Distinction with a report back to the Board of Trustees by 2021 June 22.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by M. Ruddock**  
**Seconded by J. Bennett**

**That the Inaugural Meeting scheduled for December 8 be cancelled and that the Recognition to the Outgoing Chair, the presentation of the gavel, and the Chair's Inaugural Address be incorporated into the 2020 December 15 Board meeting agenda.**

**CARRIED**

**c. Final Report of the Bylaw Ad Hoc Committee, 2020 November 18**

Trustee Rahman presented for approval the recommendations of the Bylaw Ad Hoc Committee regarding proposed changes to the Board Bylaws. An overview of the changes was provided.

**Moved by C. Rahman**  
**Seconded by B. Smith**

**That the Bylaw Ad Hoc Committee be disbanded such that a Board Governance and Bylaw Review Standing Committee of the Board be created.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by C. Rahman**  
**Seconded by P. Cuddy**

**That the mandate of the Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee be approved.**

**CARRIED**

Discussion considered the merits of deferring the motions. It was determined to move forward with each motion.

Supervisor B. Williams reminded Trustees per Section 1.3.1 of the Bylaws a two thirds majority of all members of the Board is required for changes to the Bylaw to be approved.

A motion moved by Trustee Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Bennett to defer the decision on amendments to Section 4 (Board Meetings) was defeated by poll vote.

YEAS: Trustee Antone, Bennett, Hunt, Morell, Pizzolato, Yeoman

NAYS: Trustee Cuddy, McKinnon, Polhill, Rahman, Ruddock, Skinner, Smith

**Moved by C. Rahman**

**Seconded by P. Cuddy**

That the amendments to Section 4 (Board Meetings) of the Bylaws be approved.

**DEFEATED**

A poll vote was conducted:

YEAS: Trustees Antone, Cuddy, Rahman, Skinner, Smith

NAYS: Trustees Bennett, Hunt, McKinnon, Morell, Pizzolato, Polhill, Ruddock, Yeoman

A further review of this section was referred to the new Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee.

**Moved by C. Rahman**

**Seconded by L. Pizzolato**

**That the amendments to Sections 2 (Board Governance Principles), 8 (Inaugural Meeting of the Chair), 11 (Committee of the Whole, In-Camera), and 14 (Leave of Absence) of the Bylaws be approved and that leave of absence provisions be reviewed by the Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee.**

**CARRIED**

In response to a question, it was clarified that the content of Section 14 (Leave of Absence) was struck from the Bylaws as the referred to section of the Education Act was repealed. Section 14 of the Bylaws remains as a placeholder with the understanding the Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee will be reviewing leave of absence provisions for Trustees.

A poll vote was completed.

YEAS: Trustees Antone, Cuddy, McKinnon, Pizzolato, Polhill, Rahman, Skinner, Smith, Yeoman

NAYS: Bennett, Hunt, Morell, Ruddock

**Moved by C. Rahman**

**Seconded by J. Bennett**

**That the proposed amendments to Sections 5 (Public Input), 9 (Role of the Chair and Vice Chair), and 15 (Rules of Order) of the Bylaws be deferred until such time that they may be further reviewed by the Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee.**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by C. Rahman**

**Seconded by P. Cuddy**

That the amendments to Section 10 (Committees) of the Bylaws be approved.

**DEFEATED**

A poll vote was conducted.

YEAS: Trustees Antone, Cuddy, Pizzolato, Polhill, Rahman, Skinner, Smith, Yeoman

NAYS: Trustees Bennett, Hunt, McKinnon, Morell, Ruddock

**d. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2020 November 24**

Trustee Ruddock reported the Committee of the Whole met In-camera from 6:15 p.m. to 6:39 p.m. The committee discussed confidential personal matters.

**Moved by M. Ruddock**

**Seconded by P. Cuddy**

**That the motions at the in-camera session of 2020 November 24 related to personal matters be approved.**

**CARRIED**

**14. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

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

Trustee Skinner reported he intends to attend the Board of Directors OPSBA meeting on 2020 November 28 requesting Trustees send him any relevant information for discussion.

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

Trustee McKinnon reported the TVEF has awarded 130 grants this academic year noting fundraising is ongoing.

**15. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**16. NOTICE OF MOTION**

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.

BE IT RESOLVED:

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.

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

None.

**18. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

In response to a question, regarding inclement weather Director Fisher advised on upcoming consultation with the co-terminus board.

**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 Pizzolato, seconded by Trustee Rahman the meeting adjourned at 10:57 p.m.

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**Arlene Morell**  
Chairperson