

# THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING

February 23, 2021, 7:00 P.M.

### Teams Meeting

#### TRUSTEES

A. Morell  
J. Bennett  
L. Pizzolato  
M. Ruddock  
B. Yeoman  
C. Rahman  
T. Rahman  
N. Keller

B. McKinnon (Chair)  
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  
T. Langelaan  
D. Wright  
T. Testa  
P. Skinner  
S. Powell  
B. Williams  
K. Auckland  
J. Lock (-8:07)  
C. Mackie (-8:07)  
S. Macisaac (-8:07)

M. Moynihan  
P. Sydor  
K. Wilkinson  
L. Griffith-Jones  
C. Giannacopoulos  
L. Nicholls  
G. Vogt  
A. Chahbar  
C. Stager  
S. Smith  
B. Puzanov  
J. Ammendolia (-8:40)  
E. Arnett (-8:07)  
J. Floris (-7:18)  
R. Pollock (-7:18)  
W. Lee (-8:07)

#### 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 Lester B. Pearson Public School.

#### 3. STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION

L. Griffith-Jones introduced Principal J. Floris and teacher R. Pollock from F.D. Roosevelt Public School who presented information regarding their strategies for improving literacy. 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 Ruddock, seconded by Trustee Skinner.

#### 5. OFFICIAL RECORD

None.

#### 6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

#### 7. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Fisher provided details about the second check-in survey inviting students in grades 5-12, their families and staff to provide input regarding the current and 2021-2022 academic school year. Survey responses and TVDSB follow up actions, relevant to the first survey, were detailed.

Director Fisher introduced and welcomed Superintendent T. Langelaan and provided a brief professional background.

**8. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

None.

**9. PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**10. MINUTES OF THE 2021 FEBRUARY 9 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**a. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the 2021 February 9 Regular Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Smith, seconded by Trustee Yeoman.

**b. Business Arising from Minutes**

**Item #12.a 2020-2021 TVDSB Operational Plan**

In response to a question, Director Fisher advised the 2020-2021 Operational Plan may be shared with stakeholders.

**Item #14.a Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)**

In response to a question, it was noted the agenda for the next OPSBA meeting was shared with Trustees earlier in the day.

**Item # 12.b.1 2020-2021 Interim Financial Report**

As a follow up to the presentation at the previous meeting, Trustee Pizzolato reiterated her request for a break down in COVID-19 funding by Provincial and Federal governments. The rationale for the request was provided. In response to a question, Administration advised funding is not received directly from the Federal government, but rather comes through the Province.

**Moved by** L. Pizzolato

**Seconded by** B. Smith

THAT when the Board provides COVID-19 costs at year end, the reports shall include a breakdown of Provincial, Federal and reserve funding sources.

**DEFEATED**

A poll vote was conducted.

YEAS: C. Antone, L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman, B. Yeoman

NAYS: S. Hunt, B. McKinnon, A. Morell, M. Ruddock, P. Cuddy, B. Smith

Absent votes: J. Bennett, J. Skinner

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

## 11. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

Student Trustee Dhaliwal reported on the events of the OSTA-AECO's Board Council Conference noting the Student Trustees participated remotely from 2021 February 18-21.

Student Trustee Keller provided an update on the activities of the Student Advisory Council detailing feedback provided from Student Senators relevant to supporting students with changes to their education.

## 12. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

### a. Health Unit Presentation

Associate Director Pratt introduced Dr. J. Lock, Southwestern Public Health Unit and Dr. C. Mackie, Middlesex-London Health Unit and explained their roles relevant to the TVDSB COVID-19 Protocols.

J. Pratt provided the details regarding the Ministry announcement relevant to asymptomatic COVID-19 testing in schools.

Dr. Lock and Dr. Mackie addressed various questions provided by Trustees in advance of the meeting. This included: clarification regarding the roles of the school nurses, school confirmed cases, COVID-19 related school closures, transmission rates, contact tracing and quarantine requirements for contacts.

Director Fisher extended appreciation to Dr. Lock and Dr. Mackie for their collaboration and support.

### b. Initial Attendance Area Review Report for the Oxford County French Immersion and City of Woodstock Elementary Panel Accommodation Review

Manager B. Puzanov and Watson & Associates representative J. Ammendolia presented the Initial Attendance Area Review Report for the Oxford County French Immersion and City of Woodstock Elementary Panel Accommodation Review. The background, accommodation options and additional considerations were outlined.

**Moved by** B. Yeoman

**Seconded by** B. Smith

**That Administration be directed to proceed with the Oxford County French Immersion and City of Woodstock Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review and establish an Attendance Area Review Committee (AARC) for the purpose of obtaining public feedback regarding the accommodation options included in the Initial Attendance Area Review Report. That a Final report be presented within one hundred and forty days (140) Business Days after the AARC meeting.**

**CARRIED**

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the attendance area review process, school participation through committees and the current holding zones.

## 13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

### a. Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee, 2021 January 14

Trustee Pizzolato referred to the written report of the Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. There were no recommendations.

**b. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2021 February 2**

Trustee Yeoman referred to the written report of the Special Education Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. The Committee met 2021 February 2; highlights of the meeting were shared. There were no recommendations.

**c. Chair's Committee, 2021 February 16**

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

**Moved by** M. Ruddock

**Seconded by** J. Bennett

**That the 2021 April 13 meeting of the Board be rescheduled to 2021 April 6 in light of the new spring break schedule.**

**CARRIED**

**d. Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee, 2021 February 16**

Trustee Skinner referred to the written report of the Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee provided to Trustees in their agenda package. Recommendations of the committee were outlined.

**Moved by** J. Skinner

**Seconded by** B. Smith

**That Section 14.0 of the Board Bylaws be amended as follows:**

**To meet the provisions of Section 228 (1)(b) of the Education Act, a Board Member applying for leave of absence shall make the request directly to the Board.**

**Any action on a request for leave of absence must be recorded as a motion of the Board.**

**CARRIED**

Debate on the motion considered whether this section of the Board Bylaws ought to include more details regarding leave of absence provisions, rather than having those details sit in a policy outside of the Board Bylaws.

Trustee C. Antone requested input into the policy as it relates to the leave of absence of the First Nations Trustee.

A poll vote was conducted.

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

NAYS: L. Pizzolato, C. Rahman

Abstained: none

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

**Moved by** J. Skinner  
**Seconded by** P. Cuddy

**That the Policy Working Committee be asked to create a Trustee Leave of Absence policy to address section 170(1) of the Education Act with respect to pregnancy leaves and parental leaves of members of the Board; and to cover general leaves of absences per section 14.0 of the Board Bylaws.**

**CARRIED**

Trustee C. Antone reiterated her request to have input into the policy as it relates to the leave of absence of the First Nations Trustee.

A poll vote was conducted.

YEAS: J. Bennett, S. Hunt, B. McKinnon, A. Morell, S. Polhill, M. Ruddock, J. Skinner, B. Yeoman, P. Cuddy  
NAYS: L. Pizzolato, C. Rahman, B. Smith, C. Antone  
Abstained: none  
Student Trustees: NAYS: T. Rahman, M. Dhaliwal, N. Keller

**e. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera Report, 2021 February 23**

Trustee Ruddock reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 6:15 p.m. to 6:57 p.m. The session reconvened from 11:06 p.m. to 11:07 p.m. There were no conflicts of interest declared. The committee discussed confidential personal matters. There were no recommendations.

**14. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

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

Trustee Morell advised on the events of the OPSBA Western Region noting the virtual meeting was held 2021 February 20. Trustee Morell reported OPSBA is seeking input from Trustees noting the relevant questions were emailed to Trustees.

Trustee Rahman advised OPSBA is holding a virtual Board of Directors meeting on 2021 February 27 noting Trustees will be provided an opportunity to provide input regarding the agenda.

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

None.

**15. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**16. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None.

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

**Moved by B. Smith**  
**Seconded by P. Cuddy**

That Trustees initiate the program (as described in the accompanying information) to recognize exceptional work by frontline staff in a simple, timely, effective, and on-going manner.

**DEFEATED**

In response to questions, Trustee Smith clarified front line staff are meant to include any staff working in a school such as custodial, teaching and administrative. He further clarified staff can be nominated by anyone in the system. He acknowledged the OPC was not consulted regarding the involvement of Principals.

Trustees in favour of the motion spoke to the value of recognizing employees as a way of creating a positive culture and impacting student outcomes.

Trustees speaking against the motion, also recognized the value of employees, but were concerned the program did not extend to all employees and that OPC was not consulted.

A poll vote was conducted.

YEAS: L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman, M. Ruddock, B. Smith, P. Cuddy  
NAYS: C. Antone, J. Bennett, S. Hunt, B. McKinnon, A. Morell, J. Skinner, B. Yeoman  
Abstained: none  
Student Trustees: YEAS: T. Rahman, M. Dhaliwal

**Moved by J. Skinner**  
**Seconded by P. Cuddy**

**That the motion to initiate the program to recognize exceptional work by frontline staff in a simple, timely, effective, and on-going manner be referred to the Award of Distinction Ad Hoc Review Committee for consideration.**

**CARRIED**

Trustees in favour of the motion spoke to maintaining the intent of the original motion.

## **18. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Questions of clarification were addressed regarding the Student Trustee report, the COVID-19 protocol regarding masking, masking expectations for parents/guardians on school property and asymptomatic COVID-19 testing.

On motion of Trustee Pizzolato, seconded by Trustee Polhill a motion to sit to 11:30 p.m. was DEFEATED.

A poll vote was conducted.

YEAS: C. Antone, L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman  
NAYS: J. Bennett, S. Hunt, B. McKinnon, A. Morell, J. Skinner, B. Yeoman, M. Ruddock, B. Smith, P. Cuddy  
Abstained: none

## **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**

A motion to recess was moved by Trustee Pizzolato, seconded by Trustee Polhill at 11:06 p.m.  
The meeting reconvened at 11:07 p.m.

On motion of Trustee Skinner, seconded by Trustee Cuddy the meeting adjourned at 11:07 p.m.

A poll vote was conducted.

YEAS: J. Bennett, S. Hunt, B. McKinnon, A. Morell, J. Skinner, B. Yeoman, M. Ruddock,

NAYS: C. Antone, L. Pizzolato, C. Rahman, B. Smith

Absent Vote: P. Cuddy, S. Polhill

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**Bill McKinnon**  
Chairperson