

# THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

## REGULAR MEETING

**April 27, 2021, 7:00 P.M.**  
**Teams Meeting**

### **TRUSTEES**

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

S. Polhill  
 B. Smith  
 J. Skinner  
 P. Cuddy  
 C. Antone (-10:45)  
 S. Hunt  
 M. Dhaliwal

### **REGRETS**

B. McKinnon

### **ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS**

M. Fisher	M. Moynihan
J. Pratt	P. Sydor
S. Builder	L. Griffith-Jones
A. Canham	C. Giannacopoulos
R. Culhane	L. Nicholls
C. Lynd	G. Vogt
T. Langelaan	A. Chahbar
D. Wright	S. Smith
T. Testa	A. Ribout (-7:19)
P. Skinner	S. Hambides (-7:19)
S. Powell	B. Milne (-7:19)
K. Auckland	B. Williams

#### **1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Vice-Chair Ruddock 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 Stoney Creek Public School.

#### **3. STRATEGIC PLAN IN ACTION**

C. Giannacopoulos introduced Principal Hambides and Vice-Principals A. Ribout and B. Milne from Strathroy District Collegiate Institute who presented information regarding their strategies for supporting First Nations, Métis and Inuit students and their families. 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 Antone, seconded by Trustee Bennett.

#### **5. OFFICIAL RECORD**

B. Williams, Supervisor, Corporate Services, read the following official record into the minutes:

We regret to record the death of David Fraser on March 29. David was a Casual Educational Assistant and worked most recently in a long-term assignment at Westminster Secondary School.

#### **6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**7. DIRECTOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Director Fisher announced 2021 April 18-24 is volunteer week noting the theme is *The Value of One, Power of Many*. Director Fisher extended appreciation to all volunteers for their time and dedication to support TVDSB students.

Director Fisher extended appreciation and best wishes to T. Testa in future endeavors noting she has accepted a position with Western University.

**8. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Vice-Chair Ruddock advised Trustee Forums will take place virtually on 2021 May 6 noting additional information may be found on the Board website.

**9. PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**10. MINUTES OF THE 2021 APRIL 6 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**a. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the 2021 April 27 Regular Board meeting were approved on motion of Trustee Polhill, seconded by Trustee Ruddock.

**b. Business Arising from Minutes**

**Item #9.b London Central Secondary School**

A motion by Trustee Skinner to direct the Director to not change London Central Secondary school (Central) to a semester schedule at this time in order to allow for a more extensive school community consultation was ruled out of order by the Chair of the meeting citing the motion operates outside the scope of the Board. Board Counsel A. Chahbar advised the Board, per the Education Act, how the motion is out of scope of the Board, the responsibilities of the Director to report, and the potential consequences to the Board.

A motion by Trustee Rahman to accept the online petition brought forward by the Central Community was ruled out of order by the Chair of the meeting. A. Chahbar provided the legal rationale.

Director Fisher advised on the decision to switch to semestered programming at Central noting the Ministry of Education also has mandated quadesters for all Secondary Schools in the next academic year.

A motion by Trustee Skinner to direct the Chair to write a letter to the Director requesting that the decision to change Central to a semester system be put on hold pending extensive school community consultation was ruled out of order as the motion was considered to be out of the scope of the Board. A. Chahbar repeated his legal opinion on the matter.

A motion by Trustee Skinner, seconded by Trustee Rahman to appeal the decision of the Chair was carried by a poll vote.

Poll Vote:

Yeas: C. Antone, P. Cuddy, L. Pizzolato, S. Polhill, C. Rahman, J. Skinner, B. Smith  
Nays: J. Bennett, S. Hunt, A. Morell, M. Ruddock, B. Yeoman

A motion to recess was moved by Trustee Cuddy, seconded by Trustee Smith at 8:08 p.m. The meeting reconvened at 8:19 p.m.

A motion by Trustee Cuddy, seconded by Trustee Smith to defer the decision to the 2022 January 25 meeting of the Board was defeated by poll vote:

Poll Vote:

Yeas: C. Antone, P. Cuddy, L. Pizzolato, C. Rahman, J. Skinner  
Nays: J. Bennett, S. Hunt, A. Morell, S. Polhill, M. Ruddock, B. Smith, B. Yeoman  
Student Trustees: Yeas: T. Rahman, N. Keller, M. Dhaliwal

On permission of the full Board, the motion was withdrawn.

## **11. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE**

The Student Trustees advised on the outcomes of the Student Trustee Elections and Student Leadership Conference. Appreciation was extended to all staff that provided support during these events.

## **12. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION**

### **a. 2021-2022 Learning Model Update for Trustees**

R. Culhane provided an update on the 2021-2022 Learning Model. It was noted the Ministry of Education has indicated boards must offer in-person and full remote learning (FRL) options.

The guiding principles, considerations for learning model decisions, Elementary/Secondary in-person learning models, Elementary/Secondary FRL models and the declaration were reviewed.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding late registrations, locations for full remote learning schools, the criteria/process for selecting FRL schools, extra curricular activities, device deployment, class sizes, funding, synchronous/asynchronous learning, French Immersion programming, ESL programming and the ability for the system to pivot to FRL.

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

### **a. Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee, 2021 February 11**

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

### **b. Audit Committee, 2021 March 30**

Trustee Morell highlighted items from the written report of the Audit Committee provided to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. There were no recommendations.

**c. Chair's Committee, 2021 April 20**

Trustee Morell 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** A. Morell

**Seconded by** J. Bennett

That a leave of absence for Trustee McKinnon be approved from May 1 to June 30, 2021

**CARRIED**

**d. Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee, 2021 April 20**

Trustee Polhill highlighted items from the written report of the Board Governance and Bylaw Review provided to the Trustees in advance of the meeting. Recommendations of the Committee were outlined.

The motion by Trustee Polhill seconded by Trustee Skinner to approve amendments to section 5.0 Public Input of the Board Bylaws was withdrawn. Trustees were invited to submit feedback on the section to Corporate Services.

**e. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2021 April 27**

Trustee Morell reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:30 p.m. to 6:36 p.m. There were no conflicts of interest declared. The committee discussed confidential legal and personal matters.

**Moved by** A. Morell

**Seconded by** S. Hunt

That the motions at the in-camera session of 2021 April 27 related to personal and legal matters be approved.

**CARRIED**

**14. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

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

Trustee Rahman provided an update on OPSBA noting the upcoming AGM is scheduled for 2021 June 12. Trustee Rahman provided an update regarding the equity audit, Bill 260, Bill 254, Bill 251, the Provincial budget and legislative updates.

Trustee Rahman reported a summary of the OPSBA updates was sent to Trustees by email.

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

None.

**15. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**16. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None.

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

Trustee Morell spoke to the motion noting concerns regarding plans to offer remote learning in Ontario as a permanent option for Ontario's students, and that remote learning be administered through TVO.

Trustee Morell stated OPSBA does not support e-Learning/online learning becoming provincially centralized or outsourced to an external agency, which risks privatization with competing priorities and agendas. There is concern that this approach may open the door to further privatization, increasing commercially packaged programs for credits that do not have the necessary rigor and alignment to the Ontario curriculum and Growing Success practices. The strength of the current consortium model being operated in Ontario was described.

In moving the motion, Trustee Morell suggested the letter include the Board's opposition to remote learning as the government is proposing and that the letter be shared with all Thames Valley members of Provincial Parliament, municipal leaders, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association, the Ontario Student Trustee' Association and local board employee groups.

Trustee Morell further suggested the OPSBA template letters be shared with the Board's parent groups for their consideration and distribution.

On request of Trustee Antone, the letter will include input from the Indigenous Trustee.

**Moved by** A. Morell

**Seconded by** C. Rahman

Be it resolved that the Chair write a letter to the Minister of Education, to advocate in support of the concerns expressed by OPSBA and the OSTA-AECO public statement regarding the Ministry of Education's proposed plan regarding remote learning as a permanent option.

**CARRIED**

The following Notices of Motion were deferred to the 2021 May 11 Board meeting:

Be it resolved that the Chair to write a letter to the Minister of Education (with a copy to OPSBA, OPSBA member boards, local MPPs, MPs, etc.) requesting all students, educators and staff in Ontario to be taught the signal for help (palm forward and tuck thumb, trap thumb).

Be it resolved that the TVDSB's OPSBA directors, bring this item forward to OPSBA for consideration of support at the next Director's meeting.

**18. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding full remote learning and the Canadian Cognitive Abilities Test (CCAT 7) testing for the 2021-2022 academic year.

**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 Yeoman, seconded by Trustee Rahman the meeting adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

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**Meagan Ruddock**  
Vice-Chairperson