

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
REGULAR BOARD MEETING

September 24, 2024, 7:02 P.M.
Oxford County Administration Building, 21 Reeve St.
Woodstock

TRUSTEES

D. Cripps	L. Osbourne
L. Hopkins	L. Pizzolato
M. Larsen	S. Polhill
B. Mai (Chair)	M. Ruddock
S. Moore	C. Sachs
A. Morell	B. Smith
	E. Park
	L. Westlake
	S. Vimal

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

B. Tucker	S. Powell
L. Nicholls	P. Skinner
A. Canham	P. Sydor
K. Auckland	G. Vogt
J. Bruce	K. Wilkinson
S. Builder	D. Wright
C. Giannacopoulos	A. Chahbar
L. Griffith-Jones	M. Young
C. Lynd	C. Weedmark
K. Osborne	S. Smith
	J. Peterson (-7:18)
	S. Hickson (-8:30)
	J. Meyer

1. CALL TO ORDER

Board Chair Mai called the meeting to order at 7:02 p.m.

2. LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Board Chair Mai acknowledged the traditional territory on which the Board meeting is held.

3. O CANADA

The meeting was opened with a performance of O Canada by the Algonquin Public School Choir.

4. SPECIAL MUSICAL PRESENTATION

Trustee Cripps welcomed the Algonquin Public School Choir. Trustee Hopkins extended appreciation to the Choir for their performance and to S. Wijnker for leading the playing of O Canada and the musical selection.

The meeting stood at ease while the Choir vacated the Board room.

5. GREETINGS FROM DEPUTY WARDEN OXFORD

Board Chair Mai extended appreciation to the Oxford County Council for hosting the meeting and introduced Deputy Warden Peterson who brought greetings on behalf of Oxford County.

Board Chair Mai extended appreciation to Deputy Warden Peterson.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Without objection, the agenda was approved with the following amendments:

- Add a verbal report from the Chair of the Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee (TVPIC) as item #16.a Reports From Committees.
- Add Committee Reports as item 16.b
- Move agenda item #16.h ahead of agenda item #16.c

a. CONSENT AGENDA

The following motion was adopted as part of the consent agenda:

THAT the minutes of the 2024 June 25 Regular Board meeting, the 2024 August 27 Special Board meeting, the 2024 September 6 Special Board meeting, the 2024 September 9 Special Board meeting and the 2024 September 10 Special Board meeting be approved.

7. OFFICIAL RECORD

Supervisor Smith read the following official record into the minutes:

We regret to record the death of Jennifer Clifford on 2024 July 24. Jennifer was an Educational Assistant at East Carling Public School.

We regret to record the death of Mark Janes on 2024 July 24. Mark was a Secondary Teacher at Lord Dorchester Secondary School.

We regret to record the death of Cam Lawton on 2024 August 1. Cam was a Custodian at Arthur Stringer Public School.

We regret to record the death of Allyson Jean Van Niekerk on 2024 August 28. Allyson was an Elementary Teacher at WD Sutton Public School.

A moment of silence was observed.

8. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

9. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Chair Mai welcomed and introduced Interim Director of Education B. Tucker.

Board Chair Mai announced the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) welcomes the assistance of the Ministry of Education in supporting the Board through its auditing processes and is committed to taking steps to ensure public accountability and trust in the system.

Board Chair Mai wished First Nations Trustee Antone well and thanked her for her contributions and service to the TVDSB.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Interim Director Tucker highlighted the communication strategy implemented to help launch the TVDSB's new Multi-Year Strategic Plan creating awareness of the plan and the TVDSB's new logo.

September 30th is the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, as well as Orange Shirt Day. In recognition, the flags will be lowered at all TVDSB schools. It was noted the Indigenous Education Portfolio has developed age-appropriate resources and lesson plans to support student learning about this important day.

Other school events highlighted included summer school programming and the Airshow London Education Day.

Interim Director Tucker noted the TVDSB has eight school construction projects in progress and an additional five unfunded business cases that were submitted to the Ministry of Education for approval.

As part of the TVDSB Best First Day backpack drive, 4,000 backpacks were distributed to students. To further support student needs, the Thames Valley Education Foundation has launched a new Food Security Program enabling schools to enhance or establish breakfast programs for students.

11. APPOINTMENT OF FIRST NATIONS TRUSTEE

Board Chair Mai referred to the correspondence included in the agenda package regarding the appointment of a First Nations Trustee to fill the vacancy left by Trustee Antone's resignation.

There was no debate or questions of clarification.

Moved by S. Moore
Seconded by A. Morell

THAT Gina McGahey shall be appointed as the First Nations Trustee to the Thames Valley District School Board for the term ending 2026 November 14.

ADOPTED

12. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

13. MINUTES OF THE 2024 JUNE 25 REGULAR BOARD MEETING, 2024 AUGUST 27 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, 2024 SEPTEMBER 6 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING, 2024 SEPTEMBER 9 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AND 2024 SEPTEMBER 10 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

a. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the 2024 June 25 Regular Board meeting, 2024 August 27 Special Board meeting, 2024 September 6 Special Board meeting, 2024 September 9 Special Board meeting and 2024 September 10 Special Board meeting were approved, as printed, as part of agenda item #6.a Consent Agenda.

b. Unfinished Business

None.

14. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

Student Trustees Vimal, Park and Westlake reported that Student Trustees participated in a mock Board meeting as part of an orientation session held at the Education Centre. As part of her role with the Ontario Student Trustee Association (OSTA), Student Trustee Vimal is planning cabinet meetings and supporting student well-being initiatives.

Student Trustees are planning for the upcoming Student Advisory Council (SAC) meeting and are working to create awareness of the Student Trustee role.

It was noted the Student Trustees have created a social media post recognizing the importance of Orange Shirt Day.

Trustees suggested messaging be forwarded to secondary school families to create awareness of the Student Trustee role and encourage students to run for Student Senate.

15. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a. **Municipal Bus Passes for Secondary Students Update**

Superintendent Lynd presented an update on providing municipal bus passes for secondary students, noting a motion was passed at the August 2024 City of London Council meeting to defer the pilot project to the 2025/2026 school year given the time and resources required to develop the program. Administration is committed to working with the City of London and its stakeholders to fulfill the motion and will provide updates as they become available.

There were no questions of clarification.

b. **Community Engagement**

Interim Director Tucker noted community engagement is an important aspect of the work of the TVDSB Trustees and Administration and suggested working with TVPIC in addition to exploring the option of hosting open houses to gather community input into the TVDSB's strategic directions.

Associate Director Nicholls noted that community collaboration sessions have been held in Elgin and Oxford Counties with plans to host a future session in Middlesex County.

Interim Director Tucker indicated plans to meet with County Council Chief Administrative Officers (CAO) to share ideas, opportunities and learnings.

Superintendent Bruce provided details of the Special Education community engagement session being hosted at the Education Centre 2024 October 9.

Trustee Sachs provided the rationale for the motion.

There was no debate or questions of clarification.

Moved by C. Sachs

Seconded by S. Moore

THAT a conversation around community engagement as it relates to the Multi-Year Strategic Plan be committed to Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee.

ADOPTED

16. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

a. Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee Report

Board Chair Mai invited Committee Chair Noon to provide an update. Chair Noon welcomed Associate Director Canham to the committee and thanked Superintendent Builder for her mentorship. Chair Noon highlighted the committee's plans to support School Council Chairs and increase parent engagement.

b. Committee Reports

Without objection, a motion to bring a motion related to an existing agenda item as per section 6.8.3 of the bylaws was adopted.

Trustee Morell provided the rationale for the motion.

There was no debate.

A question of clarification was addressed by Supervisor Smith regarding the reporting process.

Moved by A. Morell

Seconded by S. Moore

THAT beginning immediately, the Board revert to the practice where staff prepare committee meeting reports for Board packages.

ADOPTED

Without objection, a motion to bring a motion related to an existing agenda item as per section 6.8.3 of the bylaws was adopted.

Without objection, a housekeeping amendment **TO strike** "Committee workplans" was adopted.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Trustee Morell regarding whether a specific date needs to be added to the motion and if the committee can provide financial implications as part of its recommendations.

Moved by A. Morell

Seconded by S. Moore

Commit to Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee a review of the practice where staff prepare committee meeting

reports for Board packages and bring recommendations to the Board no later than the December 2024 Board meeting.

ADOPTED

There was no debate or questions of clarification.

Amendment:

Moved by B. Smith

Seconded by S. Moore

TO add the word "Board" after the words "December 2024"

ADOPTED

c. Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee, 2024 June 18 and 2024 September 10

Trustee Pizzolato referred to the 2024 June 18 written report of the Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package.

The committee recommendations from the 2024 June 18 PAPA meeting were passed at the 2024 June 25 Board meeting through an interim report.

Trustee Larsen referred to the 2024 September 10 written report of the Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package.

A question of clarification was addressed by Trustee Larsen regarding whether the budget enhancements were captured in the minutes of the PAPA meeting.

d. Director of Education Performance Appraisal Committee, 2024 July 8, 2024 July 25 and September 17

Trustee Morell referred to the written reports of the Director of Education Performance Appraisal Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package.

There were no recommendations or questions of clarification.

e. Policy Working Committee, 2024 August 27 (Special) and 2024 September 10

Trustee Cripps referred to the written reports of the Policy Working Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package.

Recommendations of the committee were outlined.

Board Chair Mai asked that the School Councils Procedure (3016a) be reviewed for housekeeping items prior to posting online.

There was no debate or questions of clarification.

Moved by D. Cripps

Seconded by L. Pizzolato

THAT the School Councils Policy (3016) be approved.

ADOPTED

Trustees against the motion argued the scope of the policy is too narrow.

There were no questions of clarification.

A point of order was well taken by the Chair that a question of clarification was not recognized during discussion of the item.

Board Chair Mai invited Trustees to provide specific feedback to the Policy Working Committee and Administration regarding the policy and reminded Trustees they are welcome to attend committee meetings of the Board and provide input to ensure business is conducted in a timely manner.

Moved by D. Cripps

Seconded by C. Sachs

THAT the Expense Reimbursement Trustee Policy (1005) be approved.

DEFEATED

The Board Chair reminded Trustees that this policy will not be returning to the Board for 12 months as outlined in the bylaws.

f. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2024 September 10

Trustee Moore referred to the written report of the Special Education Advisory Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package.

There were no recommendations.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding wait times for special education and whether the presentation slides from the 2024 September SEAC meeting could be shared with Trustees.

The meeting stood at ease.

Supervisor Smith advised a revote of the Expense Reimbursement Trustee Policy be completed to permit Trustees the option to abstain from the vote.

g. Audit Committee, 2024 September 10 (Special)

Trustee Hopkins referred to the written report of the Audit Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package.

There were no recommendations or questions of clarification.

h. Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee, 2024 September 16

Trustee Cripps referred to the written report of the Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package.

The recommendation of the committee was outlined.

Trustee Cripps noted work on the appendices contained in the bylaws is ongoing and detailed the process for reviewing the core content of the bylaws.

Board Chair Mai confirmed the review process and instructed Trustees on the process of amending sections of the bylaws, noting approval of the bylaws will be conducted once the review has been completed.

Amendments to the TVDSB bylaws were made according to Roberts Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) and captured in real time by Coordinator Hickson.

Moved by D. Cripps

Seconded by L. Pizzolato

THAT the revised Thames Valley District School Board Governing Bylaws and Appendices be approved.

ADOPTED

i. Chair's Committee, 2024 September 17

Trustee Cripps referred to the written report of the Chair's Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package.

Recommendations of the committee were outlined.

There was no debate or questions of clarification.

Moved by D. Cripps

Seconded by C. Sachs

THAT the proposed revisions regarding mentor appointments for Student Trustees, and payment of board related expenses be included in the draft Chair's Committee Terms of Reference and that the draft Terms of Reference be approved by the Board of Trustees.

ADOPTED

There was no debate or questions of clarification.

Moved by D. Cripps

Seconded by S. Moore

THAT the membership to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association be paid in the amount of \$165,261.37 for TVDSB to continue receiving financial and organizational benefits.

ADOPTED

There was no debate or questions of clarification.

Moved by D. Cripps

Seconded by S. Moore

THAT Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee be directed to review, for alignment with legislation, the following statement in the bylaws appendices and report back to the Board:

“Inappropriate communications or social media posts will be subject to review by Chair’s Committee. Trustees may be subject to feedback, warning, or discipline, as recommended by the Chair’s Committee to the Board under the current Trustee Code of Conduct procedures found in the Bylaws.” - Appendix E - Guidelines for Trustee Communications, 6.0 Inappropriate Communications

ADOPTED

j. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2024 September 24

Trustee Cripps reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:00 p.m. to 6:15 p.m. There were no conflicts of interest declared. The committee discussed confidential, property, and personal matters.

A point of order was well taken by the Chair that a seconder is required before calling the question.

Moved by D. Cripps

Seconded by A. Morell

That the motions at the in-camera session of 2024 September 24 related to personnel matters be approved.

ADOPTED

17. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

a. Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Moore provided an update from the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPBSA), noting consultation with OPBSA has taken place regarding the impact of Ministry of Education memorandum related to electronic meeting and in-person attendance requirements. Meetings for the 2024-2025 academic year have been set.

Upcoming events such as local government week were detailed.

Trustee Moore encouraged members to review the letter from OPBSA contained in the agenda package which outlines savings realized by the Board through its membership with the Association.

b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)

Trustee Cripps provided highlights from the Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF) noting 91 requests have been fulfilled by the Caring Fund during the month of September.

The Best First Day campaign distributed over 4,000 backpacks to students and the TVEF has launched the Food Security Program, providing funding to schools to support student nutrition programs.

c. Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations

Trustee Sachs provided an update on the Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations, noting the first meeting of the academic year was hosted in Woodstock. The committee will be rotating meetings throughout the region.

d. Active and Safe Routes to School

Trustee Larsen reported there is no update.

18. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

19. NOTICE OF MOTION

Motion 1:

THAT the Policy Working Committee, working with the Student Advisory Council, review the term length for Student Trustees as outlined in the Student Trustees of the Board Policy (2010) and make recommendations to the Board.

Motion 2:

THAT the PWC committee prioritize the Home and School Association policy.

The Chair of the Policy Working Committee confirmed this item was added to the agenda and the motion was withdrawn.

20. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

21. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

Trustee Cripps extended appreciation to Oxford County for hosting the TVDSB.

22. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 9:01 p.m.

Beth Mai
Chairperson