

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

SPECIAL CHAIR'S COMMITTEE

January 6, 2025, 10:34 a.m.
Middlesex Room

MEMBERS

B. Mai (Chair)
D. Cripps (-11:30)
L. Pizzolato (+10:36)

NON-MEMBERS:

B. Smith (-12:00)
C. Sachs (-12:00)
M. Larsen (-12:00)
L. Osbourne (-12:00)
A. Morell (+10:40, -12:00)

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

W. Tucker
K. Wilkinson
D. Hancock
S. Smith (-11:50)

1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda

Chair Mai called the meeting to order at 10:34 am.

The agenda was approved, as printed.

2. Conflicts of Interest

None declared.

3. Streamlining Board Committee Work

Chair Mai presented for input on streamlining Board committee work. Topics included outlining problem statements, corrective actions, and the additional scope of work directed by Trustees and administered by staff.

The background on committee structure, ongoing work, and expected outcomes were discussed, and a priority and recommended action list were reviewed for Trustee input.

Following the presentation, Trustees engaged in an extensive discussion regarding reorganizing existing committee meetings, specifically the Policy Working Committee, Governance and Bylaw Review Committee, Program and School Services Advisory Committee, and Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee meetings.

The Chair clarified the process noting committee workplans would be updated as needed by committees before being centralized to Board meetings to reduce the number of total meetings held per month and ensure all trustees have access to the same information to make timely decisions.

Suggestions included maintaining the Policy Working Committee and amending attendance expectations for all trustees, further collaboration and alignment between trustees and administration, combining the Planning and Priorities Advisory and Program and School Services Advisory committees, prioritizing the financial recovery plan and policies revisions identified through internal review, utilizing the committee of the whole structure for robust discussion and collaboration, amending the Bylaws to address trustee attendance and participation for in-camera meetings, and suspending musical performances at Board meetings temporarily.

It was noted any changes may only be temporary in response to Ministry and audit expectations, and some of the connections between committee work and financial recovery plan is of an in-camera nature.

A Point of Clarification was addressed by the Chair confirming no committee work would be stopped.

Following the discussion, Chair Mai summarized the amended possible action items noting they would be included in the chairs committee report provided at the next regular Board meeting.

4. Trustee's Office Financial Report (Standing Item)

a. OSTA-AECO Education Action Conference Student Trustee PD Request

The PD request for Student Trustees Park, Vimal, and Westlake to attend the OSTA-AECO Education Action Conference was reviewed.

Chair Mai noted no response had been received from the OSTA-AECO Chair regarding waiving Student Trustee Vimal's registration fee.

A question of clarification was addressed regarding the PD allotment adjustment motion carried at the December Board meeting, noting the adjustment was only applicable to the adult Trustees.

The following motion was motion and CARRIED:

THAT Student Trustees Park, Vimal, and Westlake be approved to attend the OSTA-AECO Education Action Conference in Ottawa including transportation, accommodation, registration and meal costs from 2025 February 13-16 provided the expenses fall within their Student Trustee PD funding allotment.

5. In Camera

The committee moved in-camera at 12:04 p.m. and reconvened in public session at 12:10 p.m.

6. Next Meeting Date

The next meeting date is scheduled for 2025 January 21.

7. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Recommendations: None.

Beth Mai
Committee Chair

Recording Secretary: DH