

**THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**  
**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**December 10, 2024, 7:01 P.M.**  
**Board Room, Education Centre**

**TRUSTEES**

L. Hopkins	L. Osbourne
M. Larsen	L. Pizzolato
G. McGahey	S. Polhill
B. Mai (Chair)	M. Ruddock
S. Moore	C. Sachs
A. Morell	B. Smith

**STUDENT TRUSTEES**

E. Park  
 S. Vimal  
 L. Westlake

**ABSENT**

D. Cripps

**ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS**

B. Tucker	S. Powell
K. Auckland	P. Skinner
J. Beynon	P. Sydor
J. Bruce	T. Vacante
S. Builder	G. Vogt
A. Canham	K. Wilkinson
K. Crawford	D. Wright
C. Giannacopoulos	A. Chahbar
L. Griffith-Jones	M. Young
C. Lynd	S. Gingras
	S. Smith
	J. Meyer

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Mai called the meeting to order at 7:01 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 recording of O Canada by Lester B. Pearson Public School.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion, the agenda and consent agenda were approved as printed.

**Moved by A. Morell**  
**Seconded by C. Sachs**

**ADOPTED**

**a. CONSENT AGENDA**

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

THAT the minutes of the November 26, 2024, Regular Board meeting be approved.

**5. OFFICIAL RECORD**

Supervisor Smith read the following official record into the minutes:

We regret to record the death of Helen Weiler on November 26, 2024. Helen was a teacher at Masonville Public School.

A moment of silence was observed.

**6. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**7. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Board Chair Mai stated there are no Chair's announcements.

**8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Interim Director Tucker highlighted events that took place throughout the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) including the 200 Trees for 200 Years in Port Stanley initiative by Kettle Creek Public School in honor of Port Stanley's bicentennial, and the Child Care Community Consultation and the Create Safe Spaces for All events.

Caradoc Public School's grade five students expanded their Scientific, Technical, Engineering and Math (STEM) knowledge through the use of a 3D printer to create prosthetics.

Human Rights Equity Advisor Young provided highlights of the Human Rights Symposium held at the Education Centre.

Interim Director Tucker congratulated Superintendent Skinner on her retirement and extended holiday greetings to Trustees.

**9. PUBLIC INPUT**

None.

**10. MINUTES OF THE NOVEMBER 26 REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**a. Confirmation of Minutes**

The minutes of the November 26 Regular Board meeting were approved as printed as part of agenda item #4.a Consent Agenda.

**b. Unfinished Business**

Board Chair Mai 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.

Board Chair Mai provided the rationale noting housekeeping changes will be made to the document.

Discussion noted the adoption of the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Code of Conduct was intended to ensure the TVDSB's compliance with legislation that takes effect on January 1, 2025, while work on the revisions to the TVDSB Trustee Code of Conduct continues.

Questions of clarification were addressed by members of the Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee regarding the potential compliance implications of not meeting the Ministry's deadline and special considerations for the Indigenous Trustee.

**Moved by A. Morell**

**Seconded by B. Smith**

THAT the Ontario Public School Board Association Trustee Code of Conduct for consideration by the Board be committed to the Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee for further review.

**ADOPTED**

**11. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE**

Student Trustees Vimal, Westlake and Park reported preparations are underway for the December Student Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting.

The Student Trustees participated in a Policy Review Panel meeting to review potential changes to the Student Trustee term of office.

Student Trustees Vimal, Westlake and Park engaged in activities to further the progress made by previous TVDSB Student Trustees related to menstrual equity.

Student Trustee Vimal highlighted her activities as Outreach Lead for the Student Wellbeing Advocacy Interest Group and as Vice Chair Associate of Public Education for the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA-AECO).

## 12. **REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION**

### a. **Naming Selection Committees for the Naming of the Following New Schools:**

Superintendent Griffith-Jones presented recommendations for the Naming Selection Committee membership for the purposes of naming the following new schools:

- New Southwest London Public School
- New West London Public School
- New Lucan Public School
- Belmont Public School

It was noted that the estimated timeline indicated in the report should read January 6, 2025.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding new school naming presented at the November 2024 Board meeting.

There was no discussion or questions of clarification.

The motions were moved in gross and adopted unanimously.

**Moved by** S. Polhill

**Seconded by** A. Morell

That the following individuals be appointed to the Naming Selection Committee for the naming of the New Southeast London Public School

Trustees Lori- Ann Pizzolato, Sheri Polhill and Gina McGahey (voting);

Terri Wilkins, School Administrator (non-voting)

Jeff Beynon, Superintendent of Student Achievement for the area (non-voting);

Kathryn Banman, Human Rights Policy Advisor (non-voting); and

Starr McGahey-Albert, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Educator  
Advisor (non-voting)

**ADOPTED**

That the following individuals be appointed to the Naming Selection  
Committee for the naming of the New West London Public School

Trustees Beth Mai, Sherri Moore and Gina McGahey (voting);

Erin Alary, School Administrator (non-voting)

Christine Giannacopoulos, Superintendent of Student Achievement  
for the area (non-voting);

Kathryn Banman, Human Rights Policy Advisor (non-voting); and

Starr McGahey-Albert, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Educator  
Advisor (non-voting)

**ADOPTED**

That the following individuals be appointed to the Naming Selection  
Committee for the naming of the New Lucan Public School

Trustees Arlene Morrell, Christian Sachs and Gina McGahey  
(voting);

Beth Woodland, Administrator (non-voting)

Andrew Canham, Superintendent of Student Achievement for the  
area (non-voting);

Kathryn Banman, Human Rights Policy Advisor (non-voting); and

Starr McGahey-Albert, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Educator  
Advisor (non-voting)

**ADOPTED**

That the following individuals be appointed to the Naming Selection  
Committee for the naming of the New Belmont Public School

Trustees Meagan Ruddock, Bruce Smith and Gina McGahey  
(voting);

Shawn Morrison, Administrator (non-voting)

Paul Sydor, Superintendent of Student Achievement for the area (non-voting);

Kathryn Banman, Human Rights Policy Advisor (non-voting); and

Starr McGahey-Albert, First Nations, Métis and Inuit Educator Advisor (non-voting)

**ADOPTED**

**13. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES**

**a. Audit Committee, 2024 November 19**

Trustee Hopkins referred to the November 19, 2024, written report of the Audit Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package.

There were no recommendations.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding whether the Annual Reports included in the package had been presented to the Audit Committee and whether the report from the Student Mental Health audit could be provided to Trustees.

Board Chair Mai extended congratulations to Trustee Smith as Vice Chair of the Audit committee.

**b. Chair's Committee, 2024 November 20, 2024 November 29 (Special) and 2024 December 4**

Board Chair Mai referred to the written reports of the Chair's Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package.

Recommendations of the committee from the December 4 report were outlined.

Trustee Pizzolato withdrew her name from the 2025 Public Education Symposium (PES) due to the Board's current financial situation.

A point of clarification was made by Board Chair Mai that Trustees are not obliged to use budgeted Trustee professional development (PD) funds approved at Chair's Committee.

A question of clarification was addressed by Board Chair Mai regarding the cost of the PES registration and whether Trustees not using professional development funds can re-allocate the funds for use by Trustees representing OPBSA .

There was no debate or questions of clarification.

The motion was adopted unanimously.

**Moved by** L. Hopkins

**Seconded by** A. Morell

THAT the adult Trustee PD funds be reduced to \$2500 per Trustee for the 2024-2025 year; and

THAT the remaining funds be allocated to address the funding deficit.

**ADOPTED**

**c. Director of Education Performance Appraisal Committee, 2024 December 2**

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

There were no recommendations or questions of clarification.

**d. Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee, 2024 December 9 (Interim)**

Trustee Morell referred to the written report of the Planning and Priorities Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package.

The recommendations of the committee were outlined.

Trustees against the motion argued investing funds into a diverse pool of instruments allows for greater student choice and caters to a broader student audience boasting student engagement, that the decision is operational and not within the scope of Trustee's governance role.

Trustees in favour of the motion argued that the curriculum outcomes are the same for students, regardless of instruments used.

It was also noted by Administration that the outcomes from music programs are the same regardless of the type of program offered.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding the cost of other musical instrument sets in schools and whether new or refurbished instruments are being purchased.

In response to a question, Interim Director Tucker clarified that the work to find cost savings at the Education Centre for the 2024-2025 year has been completed.

Trustee Pizzolato moved a motion to defer the pending question.

A point of order was not well taken by the Chair that the motion to defer was not recognized as it was contingent on budget reduction work at the board office which Administration noted has been actioned.

A point of order was well taken by the Chair that Trustees are debating the main motion not the motion to defer.

Trustee Pizzolato provided the rationale.

Trustees in favour of the motion argued more budget information will come forward from Administration in the spring to better inform the decision.

Trustees against the motion argued deferring would result in a full school year without a music program.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding whether a deferral would allow Administration sufficient time to procure instruments.

Administration clarified the expenses are considered in-year expenses.

**Moved by** L. Pizzolato

**Seconded by** C. Sachs

THAT the motion, "THAT funding in the amount of \$43,800 be allocated to fund the guitar program at the three new Thames Valley District School Board schools," be deferred until the May Board meeting.

**DEFEATED**

**Moved by** A. Morell

**Seconded by** B. Smith

THAT funding in the amount of \$43,800 be allocated to fund the guitar program at the three Thames Valley District School Board schools.

**WITHDRAWN**



There was no discussion or questions of clarification.

**Moved by A. Morell**

**Seconded by L. Hopkins**

THAT the Trustee's business travel and supplies and services budget be reduced by \$7,500.

**ADOPTED**

**e. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2024 December 10**

Trustee Pizzolato reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:01 p.m. to 6:20 p.m.

There were no conflicts of interest declared. The committee discussed confidential, property, personal and legal matters.

The meeting stood at ease.

**Moved by L. Pizzolato**

**Seconded by C. Sachs**

THAT the motions at the in-camera session of December 10, 2024, related to property and personal matters be approved.

**ADOPTED**

**14. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES**

**a. Accessibility Working Group**

As there is currently no Trustee representative on the Accessibility Working Group committee, no update was provided.

**b. Award of Distinction**

Trustee Morell indicated there is no update from the Award of Distinction Committee.

**c. Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee**

Trustee Moore indicated there is no update from the Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee.

**d. Environmental Education and Management**

Trustee Smith indicated there is no update from the Environmental Education and Management Committee.

**15. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES**

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

Trustee Moore provided an update on OPSBA's recent Board of Director's meeting highlighting various presentations received. OPBSA is working with school boards to provide support to those experiencing budgetary challenges that interfere with Trustee access to professional development.

It was noted new rules around electronic meeting attendance will be implemented in September 2025. OPSBA will be working with school boards to help navigate this process for Trustees.

A webinar on the political climate in Canada was noted and links to research reports from the Ottawa-Carleton District School Board on French as a Second Language and Special and Inclusive Education will be provided to Trustees.

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

Trustee Larsen provided an update on the Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF), noting 373 requests have been received by The Caring Fund since September.

Trustees suggested the TVEF be invited to present at a future Board meeting.

**c. Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations**

Trustee Sachs indicated there is no update from the Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations.

**16. COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

**17. NOTICE OF MOTION**

None.

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

None.

**19. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS**

Trustees asked questions of clarification regarding washroom facility design and student assessment of material provided during inclement weather school closures.

**20. ADJOURNMENT**

Board Chair Mai thanked Trustees for their teamwork.

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

**Beth Mai**  
Chairperson

Recording Secretary: JM

**THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

**December 17, 2024, 7:16 P.M.  
Board Room, Education Centre**

**TRUSTEES**

D. Cripps  
L. Hopkins  
B. Mai (Chair)  
S. Moore  
A. Morell

L. Osbourne  
M. Ruddock  
C. Sachs  
B. Smith

**ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS**

B. Tucker  
K. Wilkinson  
S. Smith  
K. Rea

**ABSENT**

M. Larsen  
G. McGahey  
L. Pizzolato  
S. Polhill

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Mai called the meeting to order at 7:16 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 recording of O Canada performed by H.B. Beal Secondary School.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

On motion by Trustee Smith and seconded by Trustee Ruddock the agenda was approved as printed.

**5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**6. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, IN-CAMERA, 2024 DECEMBER 17**

Board Chair Mai reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 5:01 p.m. - 7:11 p.m.

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

The committee discussed confidential personal and legal matters.

THAT the motions at the in-camera session of December 17, 2024, related to personal matters be approved.

**ADOPTED**

**7. ADJOURNMENT**

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 7:19 p.m.

**Beth Mai**  
Chairperson

Recording Secretary: SS

**THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING**

January 14, 2025, 6:22 pm  
Board Room, Education Centre

**TRUSTEES**

D. Cripps  
M. Larsen  
B. Mai  
G. McGahey (+6:28)  
S. Moore  
A. Morell

L. Osbourne  
L. Pizzolato  
S. Polhill  
M. Ruddock  
C. Sachs  
B. Smith

**ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS**

B. Tucker  
G. Vogt  
K. Wilkinson  
S. Smith  
S. Hickson  
K. Rea

**STUDENT TRUSTEES**

S. Vimal  
E. Park  
L. Westlake

**ABSENT**

S. Polhill

**1. CALL TO ORDER**

Board Chair Mai called the meeting to order at 6:22 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 recording of O Canada by H.B. Beal Secondary School.

**4. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Without objection, the agenda was approved as printed.

**Moved by** S. Moore

**Seconded by** A. Morell

**ADOPTED**

**5. CONFLICT OF INTEREST**

None declared.

**6. EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT CHARGES - UPDATE AND NEXT STEPS**

Manager Puzanov presented the Education Development Charges - Update and Next Steps for approval. The history of the project and rationale for the recommendation were detailed.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding the Thames Valley District School Board's (TVDSB) options to purchase land in the future and the origin of the decision to cap Education Development Charges.

**Moved by D. Cripps**

**Seconded by A. Morell**

THAT Administration cease the preparation of the education development charges background study and not consider the passage of education development charge bylaws across the TVDSB's jurisdiction in Middlesex, Elgin and St. Thomas, Oxford, and London at this time; and

THAT Administration inform municipalities, the Ministry of Education, and development and building industry members across the district.

**ADOPTED**

**7. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, IN-CAMERA, 2025 JANUARY 14**

Trustee Cripps reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera on January 14, 2025 from 4:07 p.m. to 6:14 p.m. There were no conflicts of interest declared. The committee discussed legal and personnel matters.

**Moved by D. Cripps**

**Seconded by A. Morell**

THAT the motions at the in-camera session of January 14, 2025 related to personnel matters be approved.

**ADOPTED**

**8. ADJOURNMENT**

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 6:31 p.m.

**Beth Mai**  
Chairperson

Recording Secretary: SH