

THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

January 28, 2025, 7:01 p.m.
Board Room, Education Centre

TRUSTEES

D. Cripps	L. Osbourne
L. Hopkins	L. Pizzolato
M. Larsen	S. Polhill
B. Mai (Chair)	M. Ruddock
G. McGahey	C. Sachs
S. Moore	B. Smith
A. Morell	
	E. Park (-8:30)
	L. Westlake (-7:40)
	S. Vimal (-7:30)

ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS

B. Tucker	S. Powell
K. Wilkinson	T. Vacante
A. Canham	P. Sydor
K. Auckland	D. Wright
J. Bruce	A. Chahbar
J. Beynon	M. Young
S. Builder	K. Rea
K. Crawford	S. Smith
C. Giannacopoulos	S. Hickson
L. Griffith-Jones	J. Meyer
C. Lynd	J. Wood (-7:44)
	C. Stager (-9:00)
	A. McKerlie (-7:44)
	M. Saunders (-7:20)
	T. Chisholm (+7:12)

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 performance of O Canada by Byron Somerset Public School Recorder Ensemble and Stars Small Group Ensemble.

4. SPECIAL MUSICAL PRESENTATION

Trustee Moore welcomed the Byron Somerset Recorder Ensemble and Stars Small Group Ensemble. Trustee Moore extended appreciation to the groups for their performance and to Conductor J. Lee for leading the playing of O Canada and two musical selections.

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

5. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

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

Moved by C. Sachs

Seconded by L. Hopkins

ADOPTED

a. CONSENT AGENDA

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

THAT the minutes of the December 10, 2024, Regular Board meeting, the December 17, 2024, Special Board meeting and the January 14 Special Board meeting be approved.

6. OFFICIAL RECORD

Coordinator Hickson read the following official record into the minutes:

We regret to record the death of Rebecca McColl on 2025 January 16. Rebecca was a Teacher at Laurie Hawkins Public School.

We regret to record the death of Sebastian Gagen on 2025 January 23. Sebastian was a student at Sir Wilfrid Laurier Secondary School.

A moment of silence was observed.

7. CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

None declared.

8. CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Board Chair Mai announced the Ministry of Education has approved funding for the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) to build an additional three schools located in Southwest London, Thamesford, and North Central London.

Board Chair Mai extended appreciation to the Planning department for their work on the submissions, municipal partners for their advocacy and the Ministry of Education for their funding support.

Board Chair Mai also extended appreciation to administrative staff who support the operations of the Board meeting.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Interim Director Tucker highlighted the Strathroy District Collegiate Institute's (SDCI) shared skilled trades centre, a partnership with the Strathroy Caradoc Technical Training Group and Holy Cross Catholic Secondary School, noting the centre is operational, allowing students from both schools the opportunity to use state of the art equipment in their technical courses.

An update on the Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF) Caring Fund was provided.

Kindergarten information sessions were held recently with 300 families in attendance across the valley.

Interim Director Tucker highlighted the Move Program, a pilot program in collaboration with GoodLife Fitness Foundation, which offers high-needs secondary students two hours of fitness instruction per week. The program is available in seven Thames Valley schools to promote physical fitness and well-being.

The theme for the 2024 Student Art Contest was Create Safe Spaces for All. The winning entries will be displayed in the mayor of London's office and printed on note cards to be used within the TVDSB.

10. PUBLIC INPUT

None.

11. MINUTES OF THE 2024 DECEMBER 10 REGULAR BOARD MEETING, 2024 DECEMBER 17 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING AND 2025 JANUARY 14 SPECIAL BOARD MEETING

a. Confirmation of Minutes

The minutes of the December 10, 2024 Regular Board meeting, December 17, 2024 Special Board meeting and January 14, 2025 Special Board meeting were approved as printed as part of agenda item #5.a Consent Agenda.

b. Unfinished Business

None.

12. STUDENT TRUSTEE UPDATE

Student Trustees Park, Westlake and Vimal highlighted initiatives from the Mental Health and Well-Being, Indigenous Relations, and Student Success and Equity

working groups including a survey on the availability of multi-faith prayer rooms in schools.

Student Trustees have been invited to speak at the Southwest Student Leadership Conference to promote the Student Advisory Council (SAC).

Student Trustee Westlake noted Indigenous Student Trustee elections will be held February 19 with elections for the City of London and county Student Trustees scheduled for February 20.

Student Trustee Vimal highlighted planning activities for the upcoming Education Action Conference.

13. REPORTS FROM ADMINISTRATION

a. Monitoring the Multi-Year Strategic Plan: 2024-25 Indicators and Reporting Cycle

Interim Associate Director Wilkinson introduced Manager Stager and Research and Assessment Associates McKerlie and Wood who provided a PowerPoint presentation on the TVDSB's Multi-Year Strategic Plan indicators and reporting schedule for 2024-2025.

There were no questions of clarification.

Board Chair Mai and Interim Director Tucker extended appreciation to the presenters.

14. REPORTS FROM BOARD COMMITTEES

a. First Nations Advisory Committee, 2024 November 19

Trustee McGahey referred to the written report of the First Nations Advisory Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package.

There were no recommendations or questions of clarification.

b. Audit Committee, 2024 December 3 (Special)

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

There were no recommendations or questions of clarification.

c. Special Education Advisory Committee, 2024 December 4 and 2025 January 7

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

Trustee Pizzolato asked Trustees to send feedback on the Individual Education Plan (IEP) video created by the Special Education department which is available on the TVDSB website.

Trustee Pizzolato extended appreciation to TVDSB staff across the system for their efforts to reduce wait times for speech language pathology services.

The recommendation of the committee from the January 7 report was outlined.

There were no questions of clarification.

Trustee Pizzolato provided the rationale for the motion and made a housekeeping change before putting the motion on the floor.

Trustees in favour of the motion argued the letter advocates for greater emphasis on all exceptionalities and a more consistent approach to teacher pre-service programs across the province.

Trustees against the motion argued the training being advocated for in the letter is already mandatory across the province.

Moved by L. Pizzolato

Seconded by S. Moore

THAT the Chair of the Board, in cooperation with the Chair of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), write a letter to the Minister of Education copying other boards of education and the College of Teachers, expressing Thames Valley District School Board's SEAC concerns about University teacher pre-service programs. The letter will include a request to require all University teacher pre-service programs to include mandatory training on special education, including detailed understanding of all exceptionalities and their characteristics, effective development and implementation of Individual Education Plans (IEP), the Identification, Placement and Review Committee process (IPRC) and effective instructional and assessment methods.

ADOPTED

d. Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee, 2024 December 9 (Special) and 2025 January 14

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

It was noted that Trustee Pizzolato was acclaimed to the position of Vice Chair.

There were no questions of clarification.

The recommendation of the committee from the January 14, 2025, report was outlined.

As part of the January 14, 2025, report related to the Secondary School Transit Pass Pilot Program, Manager Stager advised the Research and Assessment department would need to re-prioritize current projects to accommodate the additional workload required by staff to administer the program.

Trustee Pizzolato provided the rationale for the motion.

Trustees in favour of the motion argued the project aligns with provincial priorities, the Student Achievement Plan and the Multi-Year Strategic Plan (MYSP). The project has the potential to increase graduation rates and student achievement and decrease student absence rates. Trustees argued the project provides an opportunity to partner with community agencies to share the work and the costs, allowing the work and time already invested in the project to continue.

There were no arguments against the motion.

A question of clarification was addressed by Administration regarding the cost of the transit passes.

Board Chair Mai declared the motion was adopted unanimously.

Moved by L. Pizzolato

Seconded by C. Sachs

THAT the Board approve the Thames Valley District School Board's roles and responsibilities for the draft memorandum of understanding (MOU) for the Secondary School Transit Pass Pilot

Program with the City of London and the London Transit
Commission

ADOPTED

e. Chair's Committee, 2025 January 6 (Special) and 2025 January 21

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

Board Chair Mai noted a report on streamlining committee work was provided at the January 6, 2025, meeting for Trustee input. The feedback from Trustees was reviewed. There was no further discussion or recommendations.

f. Program and School Services Advisory Committee, 2025 January 7

Trustee Smith referred to the written report of the Program and School Services Committee provided to the Trustees in the agenda package.

It was noted that Trustee Osbourne was acclaimed to the position of Vice Chair.

There were no recommendations or questions of clarification.

g. Policy Working Committee, 2025 January 14

Vice Chair Cripps referred to the written report of the Policy Working Committee provided to Trustees in the agenda package.

It was noted that Trustee Sachs was acclaimed to the position of Vice Chair.

There were no recommendations or questions of clarification.

h. Indigenous Task Force, 2025 January 15

Trustee McGahey referred to the written report of the Indigenous Task Force provided to Trustees in the agenda package.

There were no recommendations or questions of clarification.

Board Chair Mai confirmed the Indigenous Task Force's final report would be presented at the February Board meeting.

i. Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee, 2025 January 20

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

Trustee Osbourne invited Trustees to provide feedback regarding the start time of the Committee of the Whole, In-Camera meetings. No feedback was provided.

It was noted that Trustee Morell was acclaimed to the position of Vice Chair.

There were no questions of clarification.

The recommendations of the committee were outlined.

Trustee Osbourne provided the rationale for the motion.

There was no discussion or questions of clarification.

Board Chair Mai declared the motion was adopted unanimously.

Moved by L. Osbourne

Seconded by S. Moore

THAT the Board direct the Chair of the Board of Trustees to investigate the shortlist of Integrity Commissioners provided by the Ontario Education Services Corporation (OESC) and provide the Board with information about their credentials and the cost of their service.

ADOPTED

Trustee Osbourne provided the rationale for the motion.

Clarification was provided by Board Chair Mai regarding the wording of section 4.6.5 as it relates to the spokesperson for the Board.

Without objection, a housekeeping change was made to the Trustee Code of Conduct to update the wording of section 4.6.5 to "The Chair of the Board is the spokesperson to the public on behalf of the Board, unless otherwise determined by the Board."

A question of clarification was addressed regarding dividing the motion.

Without objection, the motion was withdrawn.

Moved by L. Osbourne

Seconded by A. Morell

THAT the Trustee Code of Conduct and Trustee Code of Conduct Enforcement Process be approved by the Board.

WITHDRAWN

Discussion focused on the wording contained in section 9 of the Trustee Code of Conduct Enforcement Procedure and whether the wording was mandatory or could be changed.

Trustees in favour of the motion argued using the wording 48 hours may create a standard that is not reasonable based on the operating hours of the Board.

Moved by S. Moore

Seconded by L. Osbourne

TO strike the words "48 hours" and **insert** the words "two business days"

WITHDRAWN

Legal council provided clarification based on the discussions at committee. It was noted the committee's intent was to attach a time frame to the term "immediately" for clarity.

Moved by S. Moore

Seconded by S. Polhill

TO strike the words "within 48 hours"

DEFEATED

The Board moved to the Committee of the Whole, in-camera on the motion of Trustee Pizzolato, seconded by Trustee Sachs at 8:30 p.m., reconvening in public session at 8:42 p.m.

There was no debate or questions of clarification.

A member commented on the need to inform a Trustee of a Code of Conduct complaint before bringing it to the Board of Trustees.

Moved by L. Osbourne
Seconded by S. Polhill

THAT the Trustee Code of Conduct and Trustee Code of Conduct Enforcement Process be approved by the Board.

ADOPTED

Trustee Osbourne provided the rationale for the motion.

There was no debate or questions of clarification.

Moved by L. Osbourne
Seconded by C. Sachs

TO amend Thames Valley District School Board Bylaw 6.8.4 to address the contradiction.

ADOPTED

Trustee Morell provided clarification on the specific contradiction within the bylaws.

A question of clarification was addressed by Board Chair Mai regarding the wording between section 6.8.2 and 6.8.4.

Board Chair Mai declared the motion was approved unanimously.

Moved by L. Osbourne
Seconded by C. Sachs

TO strike “The Notice of Motion must be received by Board Services by 9:00 a.m. on the Thursday before the meeting” from Thames Valley District School Board Bylaw 6.8.4.

ADOPTED

Board Chair Mai provided context and clarification on the motion.

There was no debate or questions of clarification

Board Chair Mai declared the motion was adopted unanimously.

Moved by L. Osbourne
Seconded by S. Polhill

TO amend the Thames Valley District School Board Bylaw 6.6.2 to include a provision to recess and reconvene Committee of the Whole In-Camera sessions prior to the adjournment of the Board meeting.

ADOPTED

Board Chair Mai provided the rationale.

A question of clarification was addressed by Board Chair Mai regarding the definition of “time sensitive.”

There was no debate.

The motions were moved in gross.

Board Chair Mai declared the motion was adopted unanimously.

Moved by A. Morell
Seconded by M. Ruddock

TO strike “not remain” and insert “recess or rise and report”, and **strike** “in session” and **insert** “no”.

TO add “In cases where an extension will not permit enough time to complete the agenda, non-urgent matters will be deferred until the next meeting. To address time-sensitive items, the committee will recess and may reconvene following the Public Session” after “...declaring the meeting adjourned”

ADOPTED

j. Committee of the Whole, In-Camera, 2025 January 28

Trustee Pizzolato reported the Committee of the Whole met in-camera from 4:02 p.m. to 6:14 p.m. There were no conflicts of interest declared.

The committee discussed confidential, property, legal and personal matters.

Moved by L. Pizzolato
Seconded by L. Hopkins

THAT the motions at the in-camera session of January 28, 2024, related to property and legal be approved.

ADOPTED

15. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

a. Award of Distinction

There is no update as the committee has not met.

b. Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee

There is no update as the committee has not met.

c. Environmental Education and Management

Trustee Smith provided an update from the Environmental Education and Management Committee noting the committee is revising policies and procedures related to environmental programming and stewardship. A presentation was received by the committee on TVDSB's progress to reduce its environmental footprint.

16. TRUSTEE UPDATES FROM EXTERNAL COMMITTEES

a. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Moore provided an update from the Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA), noting several TVDSB Trustees attended the Public Education Symposium.

The OPSBA Directors meeting will be held in February.

b. Thames Valley Education Foundation (TVEF)

Trustee Polhill indicated there is no update.

c. Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations

Trustee Sachs provided an update from the Thames Valley Council of Home and School Associations, noting a presentation on parenting in the digital age was received by the committee.

17. COMMUNICATIONS

None.

18. NOTICE OF MOTION

None.

19. MOTION – NOTICE OF WHICH HAS BEEN GIVEN

None.

20. QUESTIONS/COMMENTS BY MEMBERS

None.

21. ADJOURNMENT

Without objection, the meeting adjourned at 9:06 p.m.

Beth Mai
Chairperson

Recording Secretary: JM