

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, November 11, 2014

8:00 p.m.

Maitland Room, Seaforth Education Centre

62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, ON

PRESENT:

Trustees: Michael Bannerman, Lynette Geddes, Robert Hunking, Alyson Kent, Julie Moore, Colleen Schenk, Al Sygrove, Jenny Versteeg, Randy Wagler

Senior Staff: Ted Doherty, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, Superintendents Mike Ash, Janet Baird-Jackson, Jodie Baker, Peggy Blair and Jane Morris

Student Trustees: Zach Misener and Kaitlinn Shaw

Resource Staff: Steve Howe

Recording Secretary: Barb Crawford

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sygrove called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2014 11 146

(M. Bannerman – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT this Board convene into Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

CARRIED

Vice-Chair Moore was Chair for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

REGULAR SESSION

MOTION 2014 11 147

(M. Bannerman – A. Kent)

RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

ROUTINE MATTERS

Chair Sygrove called the regular session to order at 8:00 p.m. and asked for items of New Business. No items were included.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2014 11 148

(C. Schenk – R. Hunking)

RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No trustee declared a pecuniary interest regarding any item presented in this agenda.

Approval of Minutes**MOTION 2014 11 149****(M. Bannerman – A. Kent)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, October 28, 2014, be approved as presented.

CARRIED**MOTION 2014 11 150****(J. Versteeg – M. Bannerman)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, November 4, 2014, be approved as presented.

CARRIED**Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was not business arising from the Minutes.

Committee of the Whole, Closed Session

Vice Chair Moore declared there were no reports.

Strategic Reflection – Trustee Versteeg

At Listowel Eastdale Public School the staff collected pictures of real soldiers to teach the kids to remember on Remembrance Day, and last week my daughter asked me for a photo of my Dad. I found one of him in uniform, and while I have taken time to remember him today, I cautioned my daughter that her grandfather would have felt unworthy. Dad was a farm boy who became a commissioned officer in the RCAF, but he never went overseas, and he saw that as a very clear distinction when he observed Remembrance Day. So Becky then asked for a picture of her great grandmother, and I happily obliged.

Aaltje VanDonkergoed was a young farm wife with five little girls living in Holland during the war. She and her husband were active members of the resistance, and they regularly helped Canadian airmen find their way to safety. I've stood beside my husband while veterans told stories about how they finally got up their nerve as POWs to jump off a moving train only to land in Grandma's yard, and miraculously start their journey home from there. Grandma's farm home had a big fireplace, and on occasion, she hid several such fugitives in it, while her 5 little daughters played in front, and enemy soldiers searched her home.

I usually puzzle out this story in the context of God's faithfulness. Grandma, who was desperately afraid of the dark, lived to see over 90 great-grandchildren, a generation which now numbers well over 100. Today I'm telling the story in the context of both the character attribute of the month, which is courage, and needs no further explanation, and also in the context of 4Cs and a P, which does need a bit more explanation. But not much. Grandma took a big stone fireplace and turned it into a life preserver. What part of Collaboration, Communication, Creativity, Critical Thinking and Problem Solving didn't she understand in those few minutes that determined the fate of those young men?

Hold that thought. I'm making a transition here.

During the coming year, the new board of trustees will begin to engage the community as they research the next segment of the board's strategic direction. Direction in an organization this size really is done on a continuum. In that context, it is interesting to stop and think about where we've come in the last few years, especially since the lofty mission of unlocking potential in all of our students became the specific goal of teaching the 4Cs and a P to improve student outcomes. The world is vastly different than the one grandma lived in, but these competencies are timeless. No matter what direction the strategic plan takes, they will remain fundamental to the future.

That said, where does AMDSB go from here in delivering sustainable quality public education? I don't know. The answer lies with the new board, democratically elected, thanks to the lives of people like in those in the pictures at Eastdale, and also to people like those around this table who continue to champion the bigger picture of what society should be. I wish the new board God's richest blessing.

Good News

Trustee Kent announced the Foundation Gala was very successful and approximately \$30,000 was raised. These funds are used to support arts and human diversity workshops for Avon Maitland students.

Superintendent Ash introduced guest Paul Carroll, Coordinator for the Great Lakes Storm of 1913 Remembrance Committee. Mr. Carroll recognized the Board for their partnership in supporting students and staff to participate in various ways throughout the past two years. Mr. Carroll further acknowledged the partnership between the Committee and the Centre for Employment and Learning. The Committee recently received the Canada's History Governor-General's Award for Community Programming. At the Town of Goderich council meeting last evening the Committee gave the medal and citation back to the community into the custody of the Town of Goderich.

Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Zach Misener noted the senators are researching guest speakers for the future symposium.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

Staff/Student Presentations

BIPSA re Positive Inclusive Learning Environments

Director Doherty reminded trustees that a new website had been created over a year ago to show the Board's Strategic Plan and the updated BIPSA. Director Doherty clarified that there will be constant change to this site, but tonight the intent is to show the tabs within the Creating Positive, Inclusive Learning Environments from 2013/2014 and 2014/2015 specifically Pathways, Inclusive Education and Safe Environment.

Superintendent Ash began with Pathway reflections from 2013/2014 and noted these strategies are still in progress for this school year. Superintendent Ash highlighted the 2014/2015 strategies and indicators of success, including the pilot of All About Me, development of exit surveys for students, surveying re-engaged students and students in Supervised Alternative Learning, and the development of a mechanism for tracking student destinations.

<http://iamalwayslearning.ca/pages/2014-2015/inclusivelearningenvironments.php#target>

Superintendent Blair talked about Inclusive Education and reflected on the statement "If we create a learning culture where all students feel a sense of belonging and their outcomes are leveraged through new pedagogies and embedded technology, then all students will be deeply engaged in authentic tasks which accelerate learning." Focus will be on inclusion of students from self-contained to regular classrooms, and promoting social inclusion of peers in regular classroom settings and within the secondary school communities. Additional strategies for 2014/2015 include providing mental health and wellness awareness and literacy training, and working with community partners in developing clear pathways to service.

<http://iamalwayslearning.ca/pages/2014-2015/inclusivelearningenvironments.php#target>

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported the focus for safe environment is to continue working together to create a safe culture and safe learning environment. Superintendent Baird-Jackson outlined the training that has been put in place beginning with the secondary Tech departments, followed by Science departments. Training for EAs on safety awareness has also been put in place. A number of strategies from 2013/2014 have moved to green lights and in 2014/2015 staff will continue to build on what was achieved in all those areas.

<http://iamalwayslearning.ca/pages/2014-2015/inclusivelearningenvironments.php#target>

COMMITTEE REPORTS**Report of the Audit Committee re Approval of the Consolidated Financial Statements for the Period September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014**

Audit Chair Versteeg highlighted the annual report noting the Audit Committee met with KPMG prior to the Board meeting for in-depth discussion on the consolidated financial statements as at August 31, 2014. Audit Chair Versteeg briefly reviewed the consolidated financial statement changes and notes.

MOTION 2014 11 151**(J. Versteeg – L. Geddes)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the draft Consolidated Financial Statements for the period September 1, 2013 to August 31, 2014, as presented.

CARRIED

Superintendent Baird-Jackson recognized members of the Finance Department who have worked within a compressed timeframe this year.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**Recommendations for Immediate Action****Information and Progress Reports****Chair's Activities Update**

Chair Sygrove presented the report noting activities between October 15th to November 11th, and upcoming events to November 26th.

Computer Hardware and Training for Trustees

Director Doherty introduced the report as follow up to discussions over the past few months regarding trustee technology, and staff was asked to present options regarding different devices for trustees.

Superintendent Ash reported the options presented were based on the needs of trustees including communication via email, other Web 2.0 tools such as Skype, ability to review and manage documents from Microsoft Office Suite ie Excel, Powerpoint, etc. Superintendent Ash provided samples devices for trustees. Trustees were asked to consider their options and to inform the Director's Office of their decision. Training sessions will be provided by IT training staff when the devices are available.

Senior Staff Updates (verbal)

Superintendent Blair reported the Learning Services department is working on an upcoming professional capacity building session with elementary teachers and school administrators. This is a co-experience in partnership with ETFO.

Superintendent Morris noted the November 7th PA day was an interview day for elementary teachers, and for secondary teachers there were organized half day sessions and some full day sessions across the district and devoted to content area ie safety guidelines, fire extinguishers, etc. The Calling All Three Year Olds (CATYO) screening has begun with nine schools completed to date. Screening will begin again on Thursday. The CATYO schedule is available on the Board's website. If any parent did miss registration at their school they can call other schools to arrange CATYO. Fall of 2015 is the new date for implementation of the revised health and physical education curriculum. There is a survey that is being distributed next week to one parent in every school. Principals are contacting school councils to determine who will be the person to complete the survey.

Superintendent Ash reported teams of school administrators, teachers, and support staff from secondary schools will be attending a session by the Canadian Human Rights Trust and funded by the Ministry of Education. The message will be around safe and accepting schools.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson announced the progress at North Perth continues. All footings and foundation are in from the senior end of the school, and now the contractors are working on the footings and foundation through the junior and primary wings.

Superintendent Baker reported the HR department continues to seek and interview qualified education assistants, DECEs and French teachers for the supply list. The department is tracking all staff members to ensure everyone has completed mandatory training ie WHMIS, safety training awareness, etc. Staff continues to promote the fitness challenge at the Education Centre.

Director Doherty announced the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) is hosting an event for school councils at the Mitchell District High School on Wednesday, November 12th. Guest speaker is Jacqui Strachan from People for Education. As well Finance Manager – School Services Karla Vink will also be available to answer questions about school council generated funds.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Geddes reported the final OPSBA Board of Directors' meeting, for this term, is November 28th and 29th in Toronto.

Minutes from Board Committees

SEAC: October 1, 2014

Correspondence

a) Letter from Director Doherty to Michelle Dennis re letter of October 20, 2014

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- Tuesday, November 25, 2014 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Open Session, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- Tuesday, December 1, 2014 – 7:00 p.m. Inaugural Board Meeting
- Tuesday, January 27, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session

Future Meetings/Events with Trustee Representation (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- Parent Involvement Committee School Council Forum: Wednesday, November 12, 2014 – 6:30 p.m. at Mitchell District High School
- SAL: Tuesday, November 25, 2014 – 9:00 a.m.
- AODA: Wednesday, November 26, 2014 – 4:00 p.m.
- Reception for Retiring Trustees – Wednesday, November 26, 2014 – 5:30 p.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, December 3, 2014 – 4:00 p.m.
- Trustee Orientation Session: Tuesday, January 13, 2015

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2014 11 152

(M. Bannerman – J. Versteeg)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
Date Approved

Al Sygrove
Chair of the Board

Ted Doherty
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board