

**AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD**

***Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning***

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**Tuesday, January 27, 2015**

**8:00 p.m.**

**Maitland Room, Seaforth Education Centre**

**62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, ON**

**PRESENT:**

**Trustees:** Judy Cairncross, Lynette Geddes, Robert Hunking, Alyson Kent, Julie Moore, Doug Pratley, Nancy Rothwell, Colleen Schenk, Randy Wagler

**Senior Staff:** Ted Doherty, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, Superintendents Mike Ash, 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 Wagler called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION 2015 01 01**

**(R. Hunking – A. Kent)**

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

**CARRIED**

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

Chair Wagler resumed the Chair at 6:00 p.m. and convened into Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

**Committee of the Whole, Open Session**

Item 3.3.5 re Feedback on Survey from Ministry Financial Training Session on December 11, 2014 was removed from the Committee of the Whole, Open Session agenda.

**Approval of Committee of the Whole, Open Session Agenda**

**MOTION 2015 01 02**

**(R. Hunking – C. Schenk)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the agenda for Committee of the Whole, Open Session, be approved as modified.

**CARRIED**

### Trustee Open Time – Questions / Issues (30 minutes)

#### Question re EQAO

Superintendent Morris explained that Avon Maitland District School Board does require schools to count a mandatory 15% of the grade 9 math test towards final mark and each school can increase the percentage at their discretion. Superintendent Morris confirmed that since follow up in 2012, every secondary school has done something different with respect to grade 9 math. Grade 9 is different in that teachers are permitted and encouraged to mark parts of the test, in grades 3, 6 and 10 teachers are not allowed to mark the tests. The range was varied in that some counted the assessment for nothing on students mark and others counted up to 30%. Some were different in academic or applied. Secondly EQAO has done extensive reporting on school boards that counted EQAO and the positive impact that it has had. For further reference for trustees, the EQAO Research report and Program Memo 49 have been uploaded to the FAQ – Trustee conference folder in FirstClass.

#### Question re Ombudsman Impact

Trustees briefly discussed how the role of the Ontario Ombudsman would work. With respect to school boards, the new rules stipulate that existing appeal or hearing processes within the system must be followed before the ombudsman can investigate a complaint. At this time administration is not aware of any direct issues. There are policies and procedures that school boards must follow so it is uncertain what will transpire.

#### School Year Calendar

The School Year Calendar Committee met earlier today to discuss the 2015/2016 calendar. Trustees discussed various scenarios. If required, a modified calendar must be approved before the end of February, however if the only changes are moving PA days then the calendar can be approved in May. The Committee is scheduled to meet in early February.

#### OPSBA Labour Relations Symposium March 26 – 27, 2015

Vice Chair Geddes and Trustee Hunking will attend the Labour Relations Symposium.

#### OPSBA Western Region – Discussion re draft paper EQAO and Large Scale Testing

Trustees reviewed the draft paper in November 2014 and Vice Chair Geddes responded to OPSBA that Avon Maitland had no revisions. Boards have been invited to send a team to an EQAO Strategic Planning Session on Monday, February 2<sup>nd</sup> in Kitchener. Trustee Schenk will be attending on the Board's behalf as well as student trustees Misener and Shaw. Trustees were asked to forward additional comments to Trustee Schenk.

#### OPSBA Board of Directors re Notice of Motion from Bluewater DSB

Chair Wagler shared the information received from the OPSBA meeting that Vice Chair Geddes had attended at the end of November. Trustees agreed to receive the report for information only.

#### Trustee Orientation Follow-up from January 13, 2015

Chair Wagler covered the final topics from the Trustee Orientation held on January 13<sup>th</sup>. Trustees discussed confidentiality, conflict of interest, board member code of conduct, and breach of code of conduct.

#### Strategic Plan Reflection

Chair Wagler noted each month trustees have been asked to reflect on the Strategic Plan and present a reflection for 3 to 5 minutes. The reflection could include how the Plan may impact the trustee or demonstrate how the work of the trustee aligns with the Strategic Plan.

The Committee of the Whole, Open Session adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Trustees met at 7:30 p.m. with the Student Senate Committee. The students were introduced to the new trustees. The students talked about the upcoming OSTA conference held in Ottawa from February 26<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>. The students also advised that they have set up a Facebook account for Avon Maitland students and parents. The students will be posting a variety of questions such as how do students feel about exams in classes.

The Regular Board session convened at 8:00 p.m.

## REGULAR SESSION

<b>MOTION 2015 01 03</b>	<b>(C. Schenk – A. Kent)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> this Board reconvene into Regular Session.	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

## ROUTINE MATTERS

### Approval of Agenda

An additional item was added to New Business re Membership in OSTA-AECO. The Chair's Activity report was moved from 5.2 to 6.2 for information.

<b>MOTION 2015 01 04</b>	<b>(C. Schenk – J. Moore)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the agenda be approved as amended.	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

### Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

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

### Approval of Minutes

<b>MOTION 2015 01 05</b>	<b>(A. Kent – R. Hunking)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, November 25, 2014, be approved as presented.	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

It was noted on page 2 of the minutes from December 1, 2014, in accordance with Policy 9, it should read "*Should no member receive a clear majority of the votes cast, the name of the member receiving the smallest number of votes shall be dropped. In the event that the balloting results in a tie vote between the two members receiving the smallest number of votes, these two members shall draw lots to decide whose name shall continue to be on the slate of nominees. The board shall proceed to vote anew and so continue until one member receives a clear majority of the votes cast and such member shall be declared elected.*"

<b>MOTION 2015 01 06</b>	<b>(J. Cairncross – L. Geddes)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board Inaugural meeting held Tuesday, December 1 2014, be approved as amended.	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

<b>MOTION 2015 01 07</b>	<b>(C. Schenk – R. Hunking)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board poll vote held Tuesday, December 4, 2014, be approved as presented.	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

### Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

### **Committee of the Whole, Closed Session**

There were no items brought forward from Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

### **Strategic Plan Reflection – Trustee Hunking**

Disclaimer ... This is maybe a reflection not necessarily a strategic plan reflection.

Some say what you are critical of in others is also the same fault in oneself. Therefore I am pointing a finger at myself as much as anyone else. At times the words advocating, consulting and communicating could be interchangeable here as can be trustee, board and administration.

The relevance of school boards &/or trustees is becoming under more scrutiny these days. What has helped lead to this? What is being done to contravene this train of thought?

Maybe I am trying to simplify a complicated situation. Okay, yes I am. Does some of it come down to a current catch phrase, transparency? Communicating about what we are doing. Seeking input & consulting when necessary and even when it might not seem necessary, advocating for the needs of our students. Sometimes the issue of policy over operations may come into play or trustee of constituents over trustee of board.

Not just communicating what we are doing but also why. The why should include background information and desired outcomes. We expect that of our teachers with their students and parents, to know what is happening in their classroom. The relevance, how good of a job do we do in communicating new pedagogy or strategy or initiative to our communities? Whether it be face to face or Facebook, Twitter, websites or blogging the tools are there. The communication department does an excellent job of getting the 'good news' out there.

Do we make effective use of parents, school councils, student senators, pic, community or even staff when envisioning or implementing? Director Doherty did just that in developing our current strategic plan. What of ministry consultations? Do we notify and provide the public with necessary information and in a timely fashion for them to participate? Who and how is the public informed, trustees or administration? Participation is beyond our control but we did our part if it is out there. ARCs are maybe a different story. Like parents, at times it seems we as trustees and a board we are left out of ministry consultations.

Who drives the change? As trustees and as a board do we reply to Ministry and OPSBA consultations? Take a look at the OPSBA EQAO survey, 82 responses from all the boards and trustees within the province. Not very good. The new health curriculum and the PARG, how are they playing out? Do we use the various organizations to voice our concerns over issues being imposed that we view as not 'best for the student'? Do we do a good job at advocating on issues for our board and ultimately our students? Complaining is not advocating. Do we just 'grin and bear it'? An unattributed quote 'the biggest communication problem is we do not listen to understand. We listen to reply'. Questioning is part of understanding.

If we do an effective job at communicating, consulting and advocating – our relevance is obvious. A goal of mine.

### **Good News**

Superintendent Ash reported on January 13<sup>th</sup> an exhibition was held at the Reach Centre in Clinton featuring First Nations Art. The First Nations dual credit is an apprenticeship with a number of colleges including Fanshawe, Lambton and Conestoga. The focus is on aboriginal art. The exhibit highlighted the work of the students involved in the program.

Superintendent Morris announced a partnership with D&D Automation. On February 9<sup>th</sup> and March 11<sup>th</sup> the first annual D&D Awesome Battle of the Bots will be held at 658 Erie Street in Stratford. Over twenty five local elementary schools are registered to compete in a Lego Robotic build and programming competition.

Communications Manager Steve Howe reminded trustees of the PIC information night on Wednesday, February 4<sup>th</sup> featuring 'Creating Pathways to Success'.

### **Public Delegations**

There were no public delegations.

## **Staff/Student Presentations**

### Program Department – Superintendent Morris and System Principal Trocchi

Director Doherty commented that early in the tenure of the board, administration presents and combines their work related to the Strategic Plan and BIPSA into an orientation for trustees. Throughout the next several board meetings trustees will receive presentations from staff highlighting the services of their departments.

Superintendent Morris and Vince Trocchi, System Principal – Program presented the work of the Program Department and sections of the Strategic Plan that highlights literacy and numeracy. It was noted that Debbie Johnson, System Principal – School Effectiveness will be attending at future presentations.

The presentation focussed on the Boards' priority 'Maximize Student Outcomes for 2014/2015'. The presentation has been uploaded in the trustee conference folder. The link for Achieving Excellence A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario is

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/about/renewedVision.pdf>

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**

There were no reports or recommendations for immediate action.

## **INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS**

### **Chair's Reports**

#### Chair's Activities Report

Chair Wagler noted an error in item 2.7. The interview was with Laura Cudworth.

### **Director's Reports**

#### Kilometrage Allowance for Travel on Board Business – Biannual Review and Reporting

Director Doherty reviewed the detailed process calculation for the kilometrage rate for employees. As the change is less than two cents (\$.02), the kilometrage rate will remain at forty five cents (\$0.45) per kilometer for the balance of fiscal 2014/2015. The carpool kilometrage rate will increase to fifty-five cents (\$0.55) increased effective January 1, 2015.

#### Expense Statements for September 1, 2014 to December 31, 2014

Director Doherty noted the expense statements will be provided to the board at the second meeting of the month until June. The report is intended as a mechanism to keep the Board and general public informed as to how spending is in-line. It was noted that not all expenses flow evenly throughout the course of year, things like salary and benefits should be evenly spread. Finance Administrator Cheri Carter who authored the report, referenced the category Facilities supplies and services. At this time last year the year-to-date spending was approximate 1.4 million and this year it is 1.88 million. This is in part due to the lag on the utility billing and staff are working with the providers to eliminate that lag so it's regular flow through and no spikes in billing throughout the year.

### **Staff Adjustments**

Superintendent Baker pointed to section 2.0 where there are a number of new hires for elementary teachers. In consultation with Senior Administration to examine a number of areas to add increment of staff, it was decided to add Special Education Resource Teachers, Learning for All Coaches, ESL support, Tech Coaches and Student Success.

### **Senior Staff Updates (verbal)**

Superintendent Baker reported the HR department has been busy with procedural writing ie documenting informal processes. Staff continues to recruit French teachers for both the elementary and secondary, and recruit EAs and DECEs, as well as completing support staff interviews.

Superintendent Ash reported two weeks ago, through the Next Generation of Learning (NGL), iPads were distributed to every secondary teacher and all grade 7 & 8 teachers. It is anticipated the phase 3 of the rollouts will be completed over the next few weeks. For the 2015/2016 school year we will be fully implemented in all grade 7 & 8 classrooms as well as couple of schools with grade

9. Superintendent Ash noted that recently the Board was approved for a pilot program, along with other boards in province, to support students who have special challenges receiving support through CAS. Through that grant the Board is hiring an itinerant teacher to do some support work in each secondary school.

Superintendent Morris noted an open house format for kindergarten registration in five sites will be held for parents who have missed the registration that was completed in November 2014. The Avon Maitland DSB will be offering the DELF to FSL secondary students again this year. Registration for the DELF is to be completed by March 27, 2015.

Superintendent Blair announced that a Special Education Part I AQ is being offered at the Seaforth Education Centre on Thursday evenings until June. This course is available for elementary and secondary teachers and occasional teachers.

Director Doherty noted the Board is able to support board-wide trips through international education funding. Trustees will recall in July 2014 there was a 3 week trip to Italy for grade 11 and 12 students. That trip will be repeated again this July for 3 weeks. Another trip has been organized for 16 students in grade 7 to 12 to go to St. Maartens. Former AMDSB Principal Herb Klassen is currently a principal in St. Maartens and has invited the students. A trip to South Korea for 16 grade 7 students is also planned for July for 3 weeks.

Director Doherty also noted the superintendents are reviewing the names of their respective departments to include the word 'service'.

Director Doherty reported he continues to visits schools as often as possible and has also been attending staff meetings at the 7 to 12 and 9 to 12.

### OPSBA Update

#### Minutes from Board Committees

SEAC: October 1, 2014, November 5, 2014

Student Senate Committee: November 25, 2014

#### Correspondence

- a) Letter dated November 25, 2014 from Thames Valley District School Board to OPSBA re raising awareness of Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder
- b) Letter dated November 28, 2014 from Bluewater DSB to Premier Wynne re review of all grant categories

### **NEW BUSINESS**

#### Membership in OSTA-AECO

Following discussion during the Student Senate and Trustee session, trustees agreed to a membership for the students in OSTA-AECO, as well as sending 2 or 3 students to the student conference from February 26<sup>th</sup> to March 1<sup>st</sup>.

#### **MOTION 2015 01 08**

**(R. Hunking – A. Kent)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the student senates' membership in OSTA-AECO effective January 2015.

**CARRIED**

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)**

- Tuesday, February 10, 2015 – 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- Tuesday, February 24, 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)**

- SAL: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
- Student Senate Committee: Tuesday, January 27, 2015 – 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.
- OPSBA Public Education Symposium: January 29 – January 31, 2015
- SEAC: Wednesday, February 4, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
- Audit Committee training: Thursday, February 12, 2015 at Best Western Lamplight Inn, London
- MPPs and Trustees: Tuesday, April 7, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION 2015 01 09**

**(D. Pratley – C. Schenk)**

**RESOLVED THAT** this meeting be adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario

Date approved

Randy Wagler  
Chair of the Board

Ted Doherty  
Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board