

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
Tuesday, February 24, 2015
8:00 p.m.
Maitland Room, Seaforth Education Centre
62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, ON

PRESENT:

Trustees: Lynette Geddes, Robert Hunking and Randy Wagler

Present via teleconference:

Alyson Kent, Doug Pratley, Nancy Rothwell, and Colleen Schenk

Absent: Judy Cairncross, Julie Moore

Senior Staff: Ted Doherty, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, Superintendents Mike Ash and Jodie Baker

Present via teleconference: Superintendents Janet Baird-Jackson, Peggy Blair and Jane Morris

Resource Staff: Steve Howe

Recording Secretary: Barb Crawford

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wagler called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2015 02 19

(R. Hunking – C. Schenk)

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.

Chair Wagler clarified that 30 minutes will be scheduled for the trustee questions / issues agenda item, followed by discussion on the concussion procedure and the graduation rate. Pending time available following the two staff discussions, trustees will continue with issues and questions. The Open Session meeting will adjourn at 7:45 p.m.

Approval of Committee of the Whole, Open Session Agenda

MOTION 2015 02 20

(A. Kent – C. Schenk)

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

CARRIED

Trustee Open Time – Questions / Issues

Chair's Activities Report

Trustee Pratley inquired about the need for the Chairs' Activities report and whether it serves a purpose depending on how much time it takes to prepare.

Vice Chair Geddes felt the report is good in terms of having discussion to ensure everyone knows what has been happening, and felt that it was important to continue with the report once a month. Trustee Hunking concurred that the report was helpful but suggested that routine items are not necessary to report on but perhaps only extraordinary matters. Trustee Kent also agreed that the report is helpful in keeping up with what is happening. Trustee Rothwell further noted as a new trustee the report was helpful to understand some of the duties of the Chair.

Overall, trustees agreed the Chairs' Activities report is helpful in understanding what the Chair has been involved in and attending. Trustees further agreed that it was not necessary that the Chair report on routine matters but suggested events and activities that the Chair attends that are extraordinary would be worthy of mention. As well when the Chair has been interviewed by the media on a specific item, it would be helpful to have the details of the interview.

Participation on Committees and Expectations

Chair Wagler brought forward the question of what the expectations are of trustees on certain committees ie AODA.

The question was deferred to the March 24th board meeting for further discussion.

Follow-up Retreat/Session

Chair Wagler asked trustees if they felt a follow-up orientation session would be necessary in the spring. Chair Wagler suggested if trustees felt the need for further orientation then a session could be planned for later in the spring. Trustees noted pending release of the new accommodation guidelines there may be orientation required as well as strategic planning.

Trustee Pratley announced an OPSBA region meeting will be held on April 11th in London, hosted by the Thames Valley District School Board. The meeting will be from 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. OPSBA annual general meeting is scheduled for June 11th to 13th in Collingwood.

Trustee Pratley inquired about exam days, and specifically inquired about assessment and evaluation of students.

Superintendent Morris explained the Growing Success document specifically talks about the final evaluation. Superintendent Morris further noted Regulation 304 which is School Year Calendar and PA, these guidelines outline requirement for boards preparing and submitting school year calendars. If the board wished for less than 10 exam days then it would have to be articulated on the calendar. There is a draft calendar ready following consultation with the Huron-Perth Catholic DSB. If the decision was to look at something different for the calendar then it would have to be submitted prior to February 2016.

Director Doherty commented that some schools have become creative in terms of what they do during an exam day, for example in Science there may be an in-class test prior to exam and then they use the exam period to do lab work. The Program department has been positively promoting other types of assessment practices other than exams.

Concussion Protocol

Superintendent Morris reported that Administrative Procedure #319 re Concussion Protocol is now written and posted on the Board website. The AP is a thorough document to ensure procedures are compliant with expectations of PPM 158 re School Board Policies on Concussions. The AP was reviewed by the Medical Officer of Health for Perth and Huron, and Avon Maitland principals and teachers.

Secondary Graduation Rate

Superintendent Ash announced the Ministry will publish school board grad rates this year for the first time. These grad rates are expected to be published during March but no date has been confirmed at this time. The grad rate is based on students who started school during the 2009/2010 school year. If a student registered with us before October 31st, then subsequently changed to another board before March 31st that student would be counted with the other board for the cohort analysis. The grad rate is a calculation only for publically funded day schools and the one that will be published is a 5-year grad rate with results of 2013/2014. Students that are not graduates from our system are students that are not capable of getting 30 credits due to disabilities. Trustee Kent suggested in celebrating all of our success it would be helpful to have some statistics about that certification and some of the other programs that we have that may not be calculated in the Ministry's grad rates.

Trustee Open Time

Trustees discussed the need to eliminate and sort outdated files in the FirstClass email to better manage the conference folders. Administration noted a consultant has been reviewing other options for email and trustees will be kept apprised of a decision. Director Doherty noted one product that administration has been researching is gmail in the google suite. In the meantime staff will be asked to look at various folders to determine if there is still a need and if the conferences are serving a purpose.

School Climate Survey

Trustee Hunking inquired about the school climate survey and whether a question concerning mental health could be added. Superintendent Ash explained if a question about mental health or well-being was to be included on the survey it would need to be at a very high level given the need to remain anonymous.

School Boundaries

Trustee Hunking asked when the board has altered secondary boundaries have we 'grandfathered' students and families. Superintendent Ash commented that depending on the accommodation review, where adjustment of boundaries were made, and in order to make the transition as smooth as possible it may have been necessary to 'grandfather' depending on the impact to families.

Trustee Hunking asked if the province decided to fund to keep smaller schools open, and we have closed many of our smaller schools what impact does that have. Director Doherty explained that it would be difficult to have the Ministry change funding to keep smaller schools open, because that means funding would be taken from another source. When our board has chosen to close small schools it was for academic reasons. In a small school, every grade is divided and there are fewer staff. Most of the savings from consolidation goes back to province, which means they are able to sustain level of funding to school boards and maybe prevent cuts that would have otherwise happened. Superintendent Baird-Jackson added from the Ministry's perspective we are not seeing additional funding in the foreseeable future. The Ministry has just released B and SM Memo on Capital Planning Capacity Program. Highlights from 2015: B03 notes the focus of the \$8.3M in funding is provided through School Board Administration and Governance Grant to boards to hire additional capital planning-related resources.

The Committee of the Whole, Open Session adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION**MOTION 2015 02 21****(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)****RESOLVED THAT** this Board reconvene into Regular Session.**CARRIED**

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

Chair Wagler called roll to ensure trustees were still present via teleconference. Trustees Kent, Pratley, Rothwell, and Schenk were present. Chair Wagler, Vice Chair Geddes and Trustee Hunking were present at the Education Centre.

Director Doherty and Superintendents Ash and Baker were present at the Education Centre. Superintendents Baird-Jackson, Blair and Morris were present via teleconference.

ROUTINE MATTERS

Chair Wagler noted no student trustees were present due to inclement weather.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2015 02 22

(N. Rothwell – R. Hunking)

RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved.

CARRIED

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

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

Approval of Minutes

Trustee Pratley added that he had shared a concern regarding the February 2nd inclement weather day, in that the city of Stratford had cleared the main routes early in the morning, but the lack of snow removal from sidewalks made for unsafe walking conditions for the students. Therefore it would be helpful if there was a better way of assessing walking conditions for students earlier in the day to determine if it would be necessary to cancel schools in Stratford.

MOTION 2015 02 23

(A. Kent – R. Hunking)

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, February 10, 2015, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Trustee Hunking will follow up with the Student Senate Committee regarding their feedback from the survey.

Committee of the Whole, Closed Session

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

Strategic Plan Reflection

Good News

Superintendent Ash announced an event that took place at D&D Automation in Stratford on Wednesday, February 18th. The event focus was on ICE – innovation, creation and entrepreneur. Students were mentored by the staff on how to solve a problem, for example related to how to prevent snowmobiles from chewing up concrete in a garage. It was an exemplary event.

Superintendent Ash reported Brian Dingham, a teacher from Stratford Central Secondary School, arranged a workplace health and safety blitz for students in the Co-op program. The students rotated through a number of stations where local employers and community members provided instructions and demonstrations. The Minister of Labour sent Mr. Dingman a letter extending sincere appreciation for such an innovative program. Congratulations to Mr. Dingman and everyone involved including employers, congratulations citing the unique program for Avon Maitland and to the province of Ontario.

Superintendent Blair reminded trustees that last June we were informed by Dr. Ross Greene's staff that we would be nominated for the Trail Blazer award re Lives in the Balance. This award recognizes educators, clinicians, staff members, and parents for their efforts on behalf of kids with social, emotional, and behavioural challenges and for helping others learn about, embrace, and implement Dr. Greene's model. The schools that started with Dr. Greene are Upper Thames Elementary School, Goderich Public School, Seaforth Public School, Stratford Northwestern Elementary School and Anne Hathaway Public School.

Chair Wagler announced along with Trustees Hunking and Schenk they had attended the annual principals' conference last week held in Niagara Falls. The event focussed on innovation and Chair Wagler noted the energy, the out-of-the-box thinking and discussion really bode well for us. Throughout the two days, while it was noted we have much work to do, we are innovative already and building on a great foundation in our board. Chair Wagler expressed appreciation and thanks to the principals and the organizers.

Staff/Student Presentations

Superintendent Ash provided a comprehensive update on the Operations and Student Success department. The department includes Information Services, Information Technology, Safe Schools, Pupil Accommodation Planning, and Student Success (AMDEC, Crown Ward Educational Championship Team, Youth Support Teacher, School Support Initiatives, Student Success Teachers and Teams, Alternative Education, Supervised Alternative Learning, Student Re-engagement Program and Adult and Continuing Education.

The BIPSA Theory of Action is "If we honour all student pathways with a focus on individual strengths, needs and learning preferences, then we will recognize that each student has his or her own unique pattern of learning and can succeed."

Superintendent Ash highlighted the strategies new this year, the indicators of success and the other indicators that are being developed and monitored.

Director Doherty thanked Superintendent Ash for the presentation and noted that the next few board meetings will focus on student presentations. Trustees will receive presentations from the HR department and the facilities department at a later date.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

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 updated the report noting on February 9th he attended the D&D Battle of the Bots in Stratford. Chair Wagler also participated in a robotics demonstration at the February principals' conference.

Director's Reports

Expense Statements for September 1, 2014 to January 31, 2015

Superintendent Baird-Jackson presented the report for information noting that five months into the school year it is expected that teacher related salary expense should be at approximately 45%, ten-month employee salary expense should be at approximately 50% and twelve-month expenses should be at approximately 42% of the budgeted amounts. Superintendent Baird-Jackson added that on international education the school administration fees and contracts are offset by revenue from international education. In terms of electricity, staff continues to monitor the billings and follow up with the providers. Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported in summary there's nothing untoward and staff continues to monitor everything closely.

Trustee Pratley questioned why, in Board Administration under salaries and wages at 40% and benefits at 30%, are these not in sync.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson explained in terms of benefits it depends where people are, some are under budget due to employees earning over the YMPE (year's maximum pensionable earnings), and the other is that there was an accrual reversal for retirement gratuities that is going to be paid out after this cut off.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Baker clarified that Margo Broadbent's retirement date should be 2015.

Senior Staff Updates (verbal)

Superintendent Baker announced T4s are completed and ready for distribution. HR staff continue to interview for almost all employee groups for the supply lists.

Superintendent Ash noted his department is in the process of reviewing the wide area network infrastructure to ensure we are capable to handle the increase in demand. Meetings have been scheduled to review the process and it is expected this will go through an RFP process to look for upgrades to our system.

Superintendent Morris reported OSSLT is moving to an online platform for 2016. This year a group of grade 9 students are going to be involved in a pilot field test in the first two weeks in March. Our district is participating in that pilot and the purpose is for us to ascertain that we have enough bandwidth to be working on an online test and to also test out our devices.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson announced the Ministry on February 13th released the Capital Planning Capacity Program. As a follow up to what they had first announced in the budget and then in GSN, there is \$8.3 million in total in two areas – data management at \$3.2 million to ensure boards are keeping all of the data that the Ministry is requiring and capital building at \$5.1 million.

Superintendent Blair announced a new speech and language pathologist, Amanda Miltenburg, has started and is well underway in her role. The Resource Teacher Pilot is also underway with 5 resource teachers in the elementary panel helping to re-examine practices that promote partnership with classroom teachers. Their focus is on junior math and students with potential learning challenges in the area of mathematics.

Communications Manager Steve Howe reported at this time there are 42 international registrations for September 2015.

Director Doherty reminded trustees that earlier in the school year staff had announced an opportunity to branch out with academy sites. The baseball academy continues to grow and it is hopeful there will be some international students scheduled to attend the academy. Two hockey academies will be offered this fall, one at Mitchell District High School and the other at Stratford Northwestern Secondary School. Staff are conversing with the Stratford Festival regarding an Arts academy in the future.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking sent an update to trustees from the February 20th OPSBA Executive Council meeting and noted the attachment summarized the discussions. Weekly collective bargaining highlights will be sent regarding labour relations. Other updates included media and communications, Finance, FDK and Childcare, Legislative Updates, AODA Update, OPSBA Membership Fee Model, and the 2014 Municipal Election Results Overview.

The OPSBA Annual general meeting is scheduled for June 11th to 13th in Collingwood.

Trustee Pratley commented that as his first time at Executive Council it was very interesting and enlightening, and that he was appreciative to be in that group.

Minutes from Board Committees

Finance Committee: June 24, 2014

Student Senate Committee: January 27, 2015

Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- Tuesday, March 24, 2015 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session; 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Open Session; 7:30 p.m. Student Senate Committee; 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- Tuesday, April 14, 2015 – 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

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

- SAL: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
- AODA: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
- HPSTS Joint Orientation Session with AMDSB and HPCDSB: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.
- PIC: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2015 02 24	(C. Schenk – R. Hunking)
RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:57 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