

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 22, 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 Janet Baird-Jackson, Jodie Baker, Peggy Blair, Paul Langis and Jane Morris, and Associate Superintendent Cheri Carter

Resource: Communications Manager Wes MacVicar

Recording Secretary: Audrey Rooseboom

CALL TO ORDER

INTRODUCTION OF STUDENT SENATORS

Trustee Hunking welcomed the student senators noting their role is to bring the student voice to their committee and the student trustees then bring that voice to the Board.

Chair Wagler encouraged the students to bring forward issues they feel are important and expressed appreciation for their time and commitment.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2015 09 122

(R. Wagler – D. Pratley)

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

CARRIED

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

Chair Wagler resumed the Chair at 8:03 p.m. and convened the Regular Board Session.

REGULAR SESSION

MOTION 2015 09 123

(A. Kent – J. Moore)

RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

Oath of Allegiance – Student Senators

All Student Senators in attendance recited the Oath of Allegiance and signed the Declaration of Office for the school year 2015/2016.

ROUTINE MATTERS

Approval of Agenda

Chair Wagler requested an additional item under 7.1 Under New Business: Upcoming Board Meetings re Open Session for Strategic Plan Kick-off for Trustees.

MOTION 2015 09 124

(R. Hunking – C. Schenk)

RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Minutes

The following point was clarified in the September 8, 2015 minutes:

Trustee Pratley is a western region representative on OPSBA, not a member of the board of directors.

MOTION 2015 09 125

(J. Cairncross – J. Moore)

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, September 8, 2015, be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Committee of the Whole, Closed Session

Vice Chair Geddes reported there were no items brought forward from Closed Session.

Good News

Student Trustee Misener reported that this Friday, September 25th Stratford Central SS will be participating in the annual Terry Fox regatta fundraiser. Participants leave the school at lunch, walk around river, ending with free food and beverage for students and fun and games. Over \$50,000 has been raised over the ten years with this event.

Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Misener reported that the student senator election meeting took place today. Student Trustee Misener has been elected Chair. All secondary schools are now represented by two student senators.

Staff Presentations

There were no staff presentations.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Chair's Reports

Chair's Activities Report

Chair Wagler presented the report for information.

Director's Reports

French as a Second Language Instruction

Director Doherty introduced the report, noting that though the report contains the relevant elements, it is not exhaustive. More information can be provided if requested.

Superintendent Morris gave a brief overview of the history of French Immersion (FI) investigation and implementation in Avon Maitland. Three of Avon Maitland schools currently offer FI. Core and FI pathways in Avon Maitland offer 3 program delivery model options: Core French (French as a subject), Extended French (French as a subject plus instruction in French in one other subject) and FI (French as a subject plus French instruction in two or more additional subjects). All students from grades 4 to 9 receive Core French instruction. Students in FI must enter the program in grade 1. The report outlines both Ministry goals and AMDSB specific goals for French language instruction. Avon Maitland supports the professional learning of our French teachers with the result that almost 2 dozen French teachers hold certification as DELF correcteurs.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reviewed the existing enrolment boundaries for current FI programming noting that since inception students have attended FI from beyond our boundaries. Superintendent Baird-Jackson stressed Ministry staff have confirmed that boards are not eligible for any additional transportation funding for program costs or for school consolidation related costs. Nor is Capital funding available for program related costs as per Ministry Memo B:12. Funding increases can only happen through increased enrolment. There is no appeal process for coverage of additional costs we can prove we have incurred.

Superintendent Baker noted the challenges of staffing for both Core French and FI. Approximately 16% of teacher applicants are qualified. In the interest of greater retention, Avon Maitland hires people within our area when possible, as French teachers are in demand across the province. Currently, there are no qualified French teachers on the elementary LTO list and only 1 on the secondary LTO list. Complicating hiring at the secondary level is the requirement for an additional teachable in French.

Associate Superintendent Carter explained that we do receive an additional French as a Second Language (FSL) grant. The charts contained in the report illustrate the incremental components of the FSL grant, portion of grant funding that goes toward FI. Without FI we would still receive the Core French portion of the grant. Incremental is the amount over and above Core we use to defray attached costs such as staffing, transportation and resources.

Superintendent Morris noted Table 8.1 in the report follows grade 1 FI cohorts in Stratford through to FI involvement when they reached our secondary schools. AMDSB only retains data for 10 years, so older data is based on school anecdotal reports. A sharp increase in grade 1 FI enrolment in 2007 may be due to the program being well established by that time, however, enrolment declined in 2008. Director Doherty noted our goal is to align programming to our Strategic Plan. The learning is better when we congregate students in heterogeneous classroom groupings that contain a variety of abilities. Students in specialized pathways are not reflective of our wider society. The report concludes with a non-exhaustive list of possible alternatives that could be considered:

- Status Quo
- Expand French Activities and Opportunities for all students
- Begin FSL core programming earlier than in Grade 4
- Maintain Bedford as the district elementary FI school for students outside of Stratford and formally expand areas
- Expand FI by dividing the District into three catchment areas

Trustee Wagler noted further questions can be brought forward to the next Open Session of the Board on October 13th. Trustees were asked to email questions to Director Doherty and copy trustees to avoid duplicate questions. A question and answer document will be prepared for that session.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Baker presented the report for information.

The following retirements/resignations have been received:

- LaRue Brenner, Educational Assistant at the Education Centre effective August 31, 2015

The following new hires have taken place:

- Ashley Schoonderwoerd, Teacher at Central Perth ES effective September 8, 2015
- Melissa Mari, Teacher at Stratford Central ES effective September 14, 2015

Enrolment Update

Director Doherty reported that in the secondary panel enrolments are still fluid. At the elementary level we are experiencing a significant challenge we did not anticipate. Elementary student count is down 44 from projections which is unusual for this board.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking reported the board of directors is scheduled to meet this Friday and Saturday. The Western Regional meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th in Stratford. The PD session will be provided by OPSBA. AMDSB will provide the location.

Minutes from Board Committees

Finance Committee: June 16, 2015

Correspondence

No items of correspondence were received.

NEW BUSINESS

Upcoming Board Meetings

An additional open session will be held at the October 27th Board meeting as a Strategic Plan Kick-off for trustees.

Trustees are reminded to think about retreat for next meeting, mostly for PD.

Trustee Schenk asked if it would be possible to reschedule the January Board meeting from January 26th to January 19th. A decision will be made at the next meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- Tuesday, October 13, 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
- Tuesday, October 27, 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, September 29, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
- AODA: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
- SEAC: Thursday, October 8, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2015 09 126	(N. Rothwell – R. Hunking)
RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:55 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