

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

**MINUTES**

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**8:00 p.m.**  
**Tuesday, November 10, 2015**  
**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

Vice Chair Geddes attended via teleconference and Trustee Schenk attended via Skype.

**Senior Staff:** Ted Doherty, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, Superintendents Janet Baird-Jackson, Jodie Baker, Peggy Blair, Paul Langis, Jane Morris and Associate Superintendent Cheri Carter

**Student Trustees:** Shannon Edwards and Zach Misener

**Resource:** Communications Manager Wes MacVicar

**Recording Secretary:** Barb Crawford

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wagler called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session. Vice Chair Geddes attended via teleconference, therefore Trustee Kent was selected as acting Vice Chair for the November 10<sup>th</sup> meeting.

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION 2015 11 143** (R. Hunking – D. Pratley)

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

**CARRIED**

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

Chair Wagler resumed the Chair at 8:04 p.m. and convened into Committee of the Whole, Regular Session.

Chair Wagler confirmed that Vice Chair Geddes and Trustee Schenk were attending electronically.

**REGULAR SESSION**

**MOTION 2015 11 144** (L. Geddes – R. Hunking)

**RESOLVED THAT** this Board reconvene into Regular Session.

**CARRIED**

**ROUTINE MATTERS****Approval of Agenda****MOTION 2015 11 145****(R. Hunking – J. Moore)****RESOLVED THAT** the agenda be approved as presented.**CARRIED****Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**Approval of Minutes**

The following corrections were noted:

The OPSBA Public Education Symposium is January 28 to January 30, 2016.

Student Trustee Zach Misener was not in attendance at the October 27<sup>th</sup> Regular meeting.

OPSBA's GSN submission is expected to be presented at the end of November.

**MOTION 2015 11 146****(C. Schenk – R. Hunking)****RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, October 27, 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**

No items were brought forward from Closed Session.

**Strategic Plan Reflection – Trustee Alyson Kent**

As I sat down to make some notes for this Strategic Plan reflection, I was reminded again of how proud I am to be a part of this Board. I'm not usually the "cheerleader" type, but I'm going to be a bit effusive here. I believe that Avon Maitland is doing an excellent job preparing our students for the future. Our Strategic Plan is comprehensive and impressive. It describes an educational environment with admirable priorities that include all students. Now in the final year of our four year plan, we recently began discussion about our planning for the next four years. I think that our current plan does an excellent job of speaking to what we are trying to achieve. I am particularly fond of our goals for students' outcomes - creativity, communication, collaboration, critical thinking and problem solving. These are definitely the skills that I'm looking for my daughters to have when they graduate high school in just a few years.

There is so much that goes into running a school board, and after 5 years in my role as Trustee, I know that I can't possibly understand all of it. But I think I know the important things. One of those is that, at the centre of everything else, we must maintain our focus on student learning and well-being. As we make decisions on accommodation, program, property, or finance, we regularly need to ask ourselves, what does this mean for our students? It's easy to get bogged down in the operation of the organization, but I'm confident that our Board puts student achievement and well-being at the forefront of all our endeavours.

In thinking about how we maintain focus on our students, I want to talk for a moment about the concept of inspiration. Four years ago we included the word "inspire", along with engage and innovate, at the head of our Strategic Plan. I think that inspiration is an exciting and very special concept. It's about that spark...you know... that one person, event, project, film, piece of music or reading that grabs your attention and drives you in a certain direction. It's that moment where the lightbulb goes on, where the apple hits you on the head, where the penny drops, or any of those other clichés. After that moment, you can't go back. You can't un-know it. I like this idea because it's about igniting passion. And that's exciting. If we can inspire our students to be passionate about that one thing (or many things) then they will move forward with their own learning, seeking to

discover more. If we can help our students find out just what it is that motivates them as individuals, then we will know that they are on their way to a positive learning experience. For our youngest students this could be the realization that letters put together in patterns form words. For older students it might be finding the sense of community that comes with playing in a band or on a team. It could be successfully completing a challenging science experiment or math problem. Or seeing the robot you built execute the task you designed it to carry out.

In the classroom, the drivers behind this inspiration are our teachers, EAs and ECEs. Their knowledge, attitude, and dedication to their roles make a significant difference in the lives of the students they see every day. We hope that these classroom leaders find their own inspiration in their colleagues, principals, and, indeed, in their students. We hope our students inspire one another. Throughout the board, we hope our leaders provide inspiration to those with whom they work. One of the key skills possessed by a good leader is the ability to inspire and motivate others. And when it works, it's very special.

In Avon Maitland we are fortunate to have many good leaders, including our director, and the trustees and staff here in this room, who inspire others every day. We should all be proud to be part of this system. The work that goes on in our district inspires me to work harder and learn more about becoming a better Trustee. I'd like to thank all of you for the inspiration you've given me.

### **Good News**

Trustee Hunking announced the installation of the new primary/junior playground equipment at Seaforth Public School has been completed.

Student Trustee Misener noted this week there will be many schools observing Remembrance Day on Wednesday and presenting various events to commemorate the day.

Trustee Cairncross announced the Goderich District CI girl's field hockey team won silver at OFSAA.

Trustee Moore announced the primary/junior playground equipment at Milverton Public School has been installed. Trustee Moore expressed appreciation for the collaborative support from the community.

Superintendent Baker announced Josh Zelek, a grade 9 student from Stratford Central Secondary School placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at OFSSA cross country.

### **Student Trustee Update**

Student Trustee Edwards noted the student senators have been brainstorming ideas for their symposium which will focus choosing student involvement/engagement.

### **Staff Presentations**

#### SHSM ICE Training

Superintendent Langis introduced Pathways (Co-op, OYAP, SCWI, SHSM, and Tech) Coordinator Jeff Piro and SHSM Support Lead Ken Bailey, as well as Listowel District Secondary School students Rodney Kraemer and Kaedyn Koch-Nichol. Their presentation highlighted the SHSM program and ICE (innovation, creativity and entrepreneurship) training that has been offered at AMDSB, as well as recent training session presented by Ministry and curriculum leads. The addition of two new SHSM programs was also announced. Health & Wellness at Listowel District Secondary School and Manufacturing at Central Huron Secondary School are now offered, bringing the total of SHSM programs in Avon Maitland to 21.

#### Strategic Plan Update for 2015/2016

Director Doherty advised that Senior Staff were presenting one element each of what has changed or what has turned green for 2015/2016. The information is available on the Board's website at [iamalwayslearning.ca](http://iamalwayslearning.ca) and as progress continues it will be updated as the year unfolds.

Superintendent Blair began with an update to positive, inclusive learning environments and noted Learning Services Department continues the focus with Learning for All Coaches and classroom partnerships and maintaining the focus on all students.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported on safety culture and advised that the safety survey will be reissued in the spring.

Superintendent Morris moved to the Maximizing Student Outcomes tab and noted the leveraging of technology to get at the 4Cs and P. There are three elementary and three secondary schools continuing with New Pedagogies for Deep Learning (NPfDL). More information on NPfDL can be found on the Strategic Plan website.

Superintendent Langis spoke to the Strategies and Indicators of Success relative to secondary schools and the continuation of engaging and focussing on professional learning for literacy. There is an increase in the Topic Development component for the spring 2016 OSSLT for the first time eligible students who are registered in the applied course.

Superintendent Baker talked about instructional leadership and highlighted the work that is planned to involve deeper learning for all administrators.

Director Doherty concluded that this is a small example of some of the work that is currently happening and encouraged trustees to view the Strategic Plan on the Board's website.

### **Public Delegations**

There were no public delegations.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**

### **Committee Reports**

Report of the Audit Committee re Approval of the Consolidated Financial Statements for the Period September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015 (handout)

Audit Chair Kent noted the Audit Committee met earlier this evening and reviewed the draft financial statements. Associate Superintendent Carter highlighted the reporting framework and the consolidated financial statement notes.

### **MOTION 2015 11 147**

**(A. Kent – J. Cairncross)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the draft Consolidated Financial Statements for the period September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015, as presented.

**CARRIED**

## **INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS**

### **Director's Reports**

EQAO 2014/2015 Assessment Results: Primary, Junior and Grade 9 Mathematics and OSSLT Assessments

Superintendent Morris introduced MISA lead Sandy Lee. Sandy Lee stated that the primary and junior students did not write last spring so there are no results for those students or those schools. Provincial results were not released for grade 9 because there were three school boards that did not write in the spring due to labour actions. A summary of overall Board results and highlights were presented.

The board will review the 2014/2015 EQAO data for refinement of the board plan (BIPSAW)., and schools will further review their data for refinement of their school plan (SIPSAW).

### **Director's Activities Report**

Director Doherty presented the report for information.

### **Staff Adjustments**

Superintendent Baker presented the report for information.

The following retirements/resignations have been received:

- Gilbert Pinkney, Educational Assistant at Downie Central PS effective October 26, 2015
- Victoria Lewis, Educational Assistant at Stratford Northwestern SS effective November 30, 2015
- Helen Orr, Principal at Bedford PS effective December 31, 2015
- Jane Corrigan, Educational Assistant at Goderich District CI effective January 29, 2016
- Linda Matthews, Teacher at Stratford Northwestern SS effective February 3, 2016

The following new hires have taken place:

- Barret Gloucher, Custodian at FE Madill/Goderich District CI effective October 26, 2015
- Linda Brink, Clerical Support at the CEL, Wingham effective November 9, 2015
- Julia Johnson, Teacher at Huron Centennial PS effective December 1, 2015

#### OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking reminded trustees that input on OPSBA's GSN brief can be forwarded to Trustee Pratley by November 13<sup>th</sup>. Director Doherty noted Superintendents Baird-Jackson and Blair, and Associate Superintendent Carter attended the GSN consultation and provided staff input at that time. Trustee Hunking also reminded trustees that OPSBA – PES registration is open.

#### Minutes from Board Committees

Audit Committee: June 9, 2015

SEAC: October 8, 2015

#### Correspondence

### **NEW BUSINESS**

Trustee Rothwell inquired about the status of the French Immersion Interest Survey.

Superintendent Morris responded that the survey has been created and an electronic link will be available soon. The survey and link will be sent to schools within the next few weeks to ensure that it is included in the December and January school newsletters. The link will also be forwarded to municipalities. CATYO is currently underway and the families that have registered students will be sent a letter and a copy of the survey in the first week of December. All JK and SK students will receive a paper copy of the survey as well.

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- Tuesday, November 24, 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, December 8, 2015 – 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session, 7

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

- SAL: Tuesday, November 24, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
- AODA: Wednesday, November 25, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, December 2, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

### **ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION 2015 10 147**

**(L. Geddes – N. Rothwell)**

**RESOLVED THAT** this meeting be adjourned at 9:45 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