

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

MINUTES

INAUGURAL and REGULAR BOARD MEETING
8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, December 8, 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

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 5:05 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2015 12 155

(R. Hunking – N. Rothwell)

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 5:05 p.m. and convened into Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

Approval of Committee of the Whole, Open Session Agenda

The following additional items were added to the Committee of the Whole, Open Session Agenda:

3.3.3 Discussion re Activity Reports from the Chair and Director

MOTION 2015 12 156

(R. Hunking – J. Cairncross)

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

CARRIED

Open Session Reports

Board Review – Self Evaluation

Chair Wagler reminded trustees as part of year end processes, trustees review accomplishments, regrets, opportunities and barriers to reflect on various aspects of the Board of Trustees' role. The self-evaluation is a method to reflect and look ahead. Trustees provided their detailed comments and a summary of the evaluation will be presented at the February 9th Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

Chair and Director Activity Reports

Vice Chair Geddes reflected on the monthly Activity Reports from both the Chair and the Director. Trustees discussed how they wanted to receive these reports in the future. Trustees agreed in keeping with the intent of the reports, they would receive monthly email updates from the Chair and Director. The trustees further agreed that it would still be their expectation that as issues arise daily details would be emailed to the trustees in a timely manner in order to ensure trustees continue to be appraised as situations and issues arise.

REGULAR SESSION

MOTION 2015 12 157

(C. Schenk – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

INAUGURAL SESSION

CALL TO ORDER

The Secretary of the Board, Ted Doherty, called the Inaugural meeting to order at 8:00 p.m. Director Doherty welcomed everyone to the Inaugural Meeting of the Avon Maitland District School Board. The Secretary called the roll. Nine trustees were present in the room.

REVIEW OF ELECTION PROCEDURE BY SECRETARY

In accordance with the governance by-laws, Director Doherty noted the election procedures for the positions of Chair and Vice Chair. There will be no declaration of the count of ballots. Director Doherty called for a motion naming two scrutineers for the election.

MOTION 2015 12 158

(R. Wagler – C. Schenk)

RESOLVED THAT the two scrutineers for the election be Superintendent Langis and Associate Superintendent Carter.

CARRIED

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

Election of Chair of the Board

The Secretary called for a nominating ballot for the office of the Chair of the Board.

The Director reported that the following trustees had been nominated:

Trustees Doug Pratley, Colleen Schenk, and Randy Wagler

In accordance with the Board Governance Bylaws, the nominated trustees were asked if they would allow their names to stand for election. Trustees Pratley and Schenk agreed to stand for election. Trustee Wagler declined. Trustees Pratley and Schenk were given an opportunity to address the Board. Trustees Pratley and Schenk each addressed the Board of Trustees.

Ballots were distributed for voting.

The first ballot resulted in the election of Trustee Colleen Schenk.

Trustee Schenk took the Chair and presided for the remainder of the meeting.

Election of the Vice Chair of the Board

The Chair called for a nominating ballot for Vice Chair.

The Chair reported that the following trustees had been nominated:

Trustees Robert Hunking, Alyson Kent, and Doug Pratley.

In accordance with the Board Governance Bylaws, the nominated trustees were asked if they would allow their names to stand for election. Trustees Hunking and Kent agreed to stand for election. Trustee Pratley declined. Trustees Hunking and Kent were given an opportunity to speak to the Board. Trustees Hunking and Kent each addressed the Board of Trustees.

Ballots were distributed for voting.

The first ballot resulted in the election of Trustee Kent.

Trustee Alyson Kent took the Vice Chair's seat.

DESTRUCTION OF BALLOTS

MOTION 2015 12 159

(N. Rothwell – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT the ballots from the elections for Board Chair and Vice Chair be destroyed.
CARRIED

REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD

Chair Schenk's Inaugural Address to the Board

Engage, inspire, innovate....always learning. Almost 4 years ago this tagline was developed for our Strategic Plan, through many hours of consultation with staff, trustees and community members. It is an excellent message....one we are proud of and one that we can live up to ... live up to ... to indeed help deliver the best education possible to our students.

I would like to take this opportunity to especially thank our out-going Chair Randy Wagler and Vice Chair Lynette Geddes for a job well done.

In 2016 we will ...as a board begin the process of formulating a new Strategic Plan, building forward and taking our learning into the second decade of the new millenium.

Do you realize that in 2016, it will be 170 years since the first school board was established in Ontario. It is amazing to think of all the changes that have happened since then, and all of the progress that has been made because of dedicated individuals ... really volunteers who tirelessly work to make the education system the very best for our students.

Think of all the progress in technology that has been made. I am sure that Egerton Ryerson never dreamed where and how technology would evolve to support learning. Speaking of Mr. Ryerson, he said and I quote: "on the importance of education generally we may remark, it is as necessary as the light, it should be as common as water, and free as air. Education among the people is the best security of a good government and constitutional liberty; it yields a steady, unbending support to the former, and effectively protects the latter."

We are very fortunate to have a wonderful education system that does not differentiate between the halves and the have nots. We are very fortunate to have an education system that is free and available to all ages. We are very fortunate to have an inclusive education system that provides learning for all. We are very fortunate to have well rounded, enthusiastic staff at all levels throughout our entire system, and this speaks highly of the value and insight of our Strategic Plan.

We are a board that is known for being proactive and ahead of the curve in many areas. Many of you may not be aware that we were one of, if not the first board in Ontario to have student trustees ... to give students a voice at the board table and to listen and encourage them to bring current issues to our attention, indeed our son Todd was a student trustee, and I have always felt that by encouraging students to become involved in the board we were training them for future involvement in world affairs.

We have a good and proven foundation in our board, and I firmly believe that we can improve even further as we continue to serve. I also firmly believe that the chair is not a lone position. Yes, the chair is the spokesperson for the board; however; if the chair is to be effective, he or she must listen, learn, consult, and ask for help and advice when needed.

I ask you to partner with me, to collaborate, to suggest changes if you believe that they would benefit our board and our system, and to begin this year with renewed energy as we move forward.

Thank you once again to all of our staff and you, our trustees ... you really help grow our students. I humbly thank you for your support. I will do my best to lead with your help, advice and partnership.

There is much talk of peace and joy at this time of the year. There is true joy in celebrating the gift of education. Whatever you are celebrating ... be it Christmas, Hannukah, or another festivity, may it be full of special times with family and friends and may 2016 bring you peace, good health and happiness. Thank you.

Chair Schenk called for a 15 minute Recess.

ROUTINE MATTERS

Chair Schenk called the Regular meeting to order at 8:47 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2015 12 160

(R. Wagler – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION 2015 12 161

(R. Hunking – J. Cairncross)

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, November 24, 2015, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Committee of the Whole, Closed Session**Proposed Amendments to the Collective Agreement between AMDSB and ETFO Regular Teachers and ETFO Occasional Teachers****MOTION 2015 12 162****(A. Kent – D. Pratley)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the amendments to the Collective Agreement with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) Regular Teachers.

CARRIED**MOTION 2015 12 163****(A. Kent – R. Wagler)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the amendments to the Collective Agreement with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario (ETFO) representing the Occasional Teachers' Bargaining Unit.

CARRIED**Computer Hardware RFP Approval****MOTION 2015 12 164****(A. Kent – L. Geddes)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board award the computer hardware procurement contract to supply, for a one year term with an optional second and third year term, based on acceptable pricing and the performance of the successful bidders.

CARRIED**Ad Hoc Committee****MOTION 2015 12 165****(A. Kent – J. Cairncross)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board strike an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Trustees Moore, Pratley and Wagler and Director Doherty. This Committee is charged with composing a protocol with suggested changes to Policies and/or Administrative Procedures so that the Board can respond quickly and in an appropriate manner to emergent situations.

CARRIED**Good News**

Superintendent Morris acknowledged strong relationships with community partners across the district who support Avon Maitland students. Recently Teahen Construction from Stratford donated \$1500.00 to the Eat and Learn program. Each year this program receives donations from partners across the district including Tim Hortons and the Egg and Milk Marketing Board.

Superintendent Langis acknowledged donations from the Stratford Area Builders Association for one \$500.00 scholarship in the Stratford area. The Huron Manufacturing Association also provides four apprentices in Huron County a \$1000.00 scholarship.

Trustee Pratley acknowledged the good will and community spirit shown by students at Stratford Central Secondary School who collected food for the House of Blessing in Stratford. As well the students are collecting funds for Syrian refugees.

Trustee Moore announced this year North Easthope students hosted a store where they populated items from donations from the community and parents. Students raised \$580.00 and donated to the House of Blessing and Wilmot Centre.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**Director's Reports**Appointment of Audit Committee Members

Associate Superintendent Carter reported all school boards are required to have an Audit Committee and the Committee in addition to trustees, shall consist of two external representatives for a two year term. Community members are selected on the basis of their financial training and experience. These positions are volunteer and are advertised externally.

MOTION 2015 12 166**(J. Moore – N. Rothwell)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board confirm Ron Burt and Bob Pike as Community Members of the Audit Committee, and that Alicia McDonald be an alternate Community Member.

CARRIED**INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS****Director's Reports**Annual Accessibility Plan under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*

Superintendent Blair presented the annual report and introduced Principal Cheryl Peach and System Principal Eleanor Salmon who provided a detailed presentation of the Annual Accessibility Plan.

Trustee Honoraria

Associate Superintendent Carter reported the annual trustee honoraria is determined under the *Education Act* pursuant to Ontario Regulation 357/06, now amended by Ontario Regulation 190/14. It was noted trustees would receive an increase of approximately \$138.00 compared to 2014. The increase is due to the requirement to capture all kindergarten students as 1.0 ADE effective 2014/2015.

Trustee Expenses and Attendance

Associate Superintendent Carter presented the annual expense and attendance report in accordance with Board Policy #9. The report captures trustees expenses related to travel, conference expenses, registrations and other miscellaneous expenses. The specific roles of Chair, Vice Chair and OSPBA delegates tend to attract more expenses particularly kilometrage. The attendance report shows trustees attendance either in person or by electronic means.

Mornington Central Public School Transportation Update

Superintendent Morris advised trustees that a meeting had been held on Monday, December 7th with school staff, and today, December 8th Principal Parkinson was contacting families to advise of the change from K to 6 to K to 8 at Mornington Public School.

Director's Activities Update

Directory Doherty presented the report for information.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking presented the report for information. The report covered the topics from the OPSBA Board of Director's meeting held on November 27th and 28th.

Minutes from Board Committees

SEAC: November 4, 2015

Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Cairncross inquired about the French Immersion Interest Survey and how it was delivered to the communities. Superintendent Morris confirmed that on November 25th principals received paper copies of the survey for distribution to JK/SK students in their schools. The survey link was also included within school newsletters. Goderich Public School was sending a separate newsletter home with students with a link to the Interest Survey prior to Christmas holidays.

Trustee Committee Assignments

Trustees discussed the timing of the change in committee assignments for this years' assignments. Trustees agreed that new assignments would begin in January 2016.

MOTION 2015 12 167**(D. Pratley – J. Moore)**

RESOLVED THAT the Board of Trustees for Avon Maitland District School Board begin their Committee assignments January 1, 2016.

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

- Tuesday, January 19, 2016 – 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 9, 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)

- Joint Health & Safety Committee: Thursday, December 10, 2015 – 8:30 a.m. – 12:30 is workshop; 1:30 meeting
- SAL: Tuesday, December 15, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, January 6, 2016
- SAL: Tuesday, January 26, 2016
- OPSBA Public Education Symposium: January 28 – 30, 2016

ADJOURNMENT**MOTION 2015 12 168****(R. Wagler – N. Rothwell)**

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
Date approved

Colleen Schenk
Chair of the Board

Ted Doherty
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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MINUTES

TELEPHONE POLL

Wednesday, December 16, 2015

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

Recording Secretary: Barb Crawford

A telephone poll was conducted on Wednesday, December 16, 2015 for one agenda item:

1. Trustee Committee Assignments

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Trustee Committee Assignments

Chair Schenk, Vice Chair Kent and Director Doherty reviewed trustee committee preferences and have assigned trustees to their respective committees.

MOTION 2015-12-169

(9 Trustees)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the trustee committee, pool and other assignments for 2016 as set out in the 2016 Trustee Board Committee Assignments chart.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
Date approved

Colleen Schenk
Chair of the Board

Ted Doherty
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board



**Minutes of the Special Education
Advisory Committee Meeting**

**Wednesday, December 2, 2015
4:00 pm – Maitland Room
Avon Maitland Education Centre**

Voting Members/

Alternates Present: L. Geddes, C. Bennewies, K. Fox, D. Barkley, D. Pratley, T. Sparling.

Non-Voting Members: E. Bannerman, G. Haber,

Staff Present: P. Blair, E. Salmon

Member Regrets: J. Costello, L. Harper, M. Krebs, T. McGregor

Guests Present: P. Langis, H. Finch

Recorder: C. Trotter

1.0 Routine Matters

1.1 Approval of the Agenda

Motion to approve the December 2, 2015 agenda: L. Geddes seconded by D. Barkley

CARRIED

1.2 Approval of the November 4, 2015 SEAC Minutes

Motion to accept the minutes T. Sparling seconded by D. Barkley

CARRIED

2.0 Business Arising from the Minutes

2.1 Update: Tentative provincial deal for support staff. This has not been voted on, but we are optimistic it will be ratified. Sanctions have been lifted.

3.0 New Business

3.1 Safe Schools & Suspension Data – Superintendent Paul Langis

<http://iamalwayslearning.ca/>

Superintendent Langis noted his work is directly related to Superintendent Blair's portfolio and relates to SEAC. A lot of work is strategic and plans for all students, with a focus on those who are at risk. Student Success meets the needs of all students. Must be clear with Principals and teachers, that we must support all student learning needs.

Link to Operations: <http://yourschools.ca/departments/school-operations/>

Superintendent Langis explained how Pathways works. Students start the plan as they transition into grade 7 and then again in grade 9 to help them

plan for their future. Indicators of success let us know that we are meeting students' needs. Graduation rate doesn't capture the students who achieved some credits, but do have life skills to be successful, or students who achieve certificates, but we do need to recognize these successes. Inclusive education connection: Our job is to analyze what the data is telling us & consider all options for meeting student needs.

Safe Schools: There seems to be a discrepancy Province-wide for students who have and have not been identified. Suspensions can be cyclical. Does the strategy actually meet the needs of what we are trying to do? Numbers will fluctuate over the year. Superintendent Langis can come back in June to review the data.

Question: Are there internal and external supports in place for students who have multiple suspensions? Answer: Yes, we would put supports in place for the student. On the Perth side, there are public health nurses in the schools, and that service would be offered for a student. Discussion followed regarding modified school day for students. This is challenge and can be a drastic change that we look to other supports for the student before going this route.

Katie thanked Superintendent Langis for his presentation.

3.2 **Special Education Plan Revisions – Helena Finch**

Helena worked with two staff members in the transportation department to revise this section. There were not many changes to be made. Helena asked the group to read over the proposed changes.

Question: Section 8.3: 70 min radius. Is this different than other boards. PB noted this acts as a rider. Transportation will determine this, not the provincial schools.

Should add in training for Ryan's law. (Helena will follow up with the transportation manager.)

Student Support Teachers will meet with drivers, to do general training. If warranted, the student will have a specific plan, and the driver will be aware of this. Student Support Team will sometimes ride the bus with their students, to better understand student needs on the bus.

Helena will take the suggestions back to transportation for clarification.

3.3 **Ontario's Sheltered Workshops to Close Forever – Toronto Star article.** <http://m.thestar.com/#/article/news/canada/2015/11/29/ontarios-sheltered-workshops-to-close-forever.html>

Superintendent Blair noted there is a direction from the provincial government to try and close these workshops. Often workers are not paid a fair wage. Katie Fox noted the minister announced that no new people will be admitted to these workshops, with a plan to phase them out over the next five years. We don't know how this will be critiqued, as some Community Living organizations run workshops. There are some

unanswered questions, but it will pave the way to help get workers a fair wage. Superintendent Blair noted that we will try to have employers understand that employees with disabilities, older and younger can add value to their business. Community Living has put out some great videos about the wonderful ideas they can offer employers that they might not find otherwise. (Check out videos and insert links.)

Great to have Partners in Employment and also have the work done in the schools to help students transition into meaningful work.

4.0 Trustee Board Report

On December 8, there will be an election for new chair and vice chair. Shortly after that, two Trustees will be chosen to represent SEAC.

5.0 Association Reports

Foundations Huron: Poster contest: Together We're Better, celebrating students ages 4-14. Connie to send to P/VP conference. Deadline for the contest is February 1, with the winner being announced on February 22, 2016.

Dream Big event will be held on Thursday March 10. Joey Moss, worked for the last 10 years as equipment manager for the Edmonton Oilers, will be the main speaker. In the hockey off season, he works for the Edmonton Eskimos. Coming with a friend, who also has a developmental disability, who will help tell Joey's story.

<http://oilers.nhl.com/club/page.htm?id=33055>

<http://www.edmontonsun.com/2013/08/08/gretzkys-most-underrated-achievement-changing-joey-moss-forever>

Huron Perth Centre: Timely access has been running for four weeks. When calls come in, clients are assigned to a worker within 24 hours or sooner. Announced a grant for new funding for safe spaces for mental health. Nice to see there are new dollars coming in.

Autism Ontario: 44 applications have been received, 10 new families applying for funding supports. Must have a diagnosis of Autism. Very exciting, will all work being done by volunteers.

6.0 Additional items:

- Eleanor would like to invite students, to come to tell us about a conference they attended.
- Terri: have 2 schools who partnered together to get a grant for safe schools.
- Cheri Carter to present the budget in January.
- Parent conference – will have names for next month. Topics: Learning Disabilities, Dr. Jean Clinton, welcoming school communities.
- Mentally healthy schools, critical things & how powerful an inclusive class can be.

7.0 Student Senator Reports

No report

8.0 Future Agenda Items

- School to Work Transition program. (Partners in Employment) February
- Employment for students who leave school for employment. (video: TVO, Autism)
- Orientation for SEAC members (ongoing)
- St. Marys video
- Calendar/plan of what's happening in schools
- Definition of Inclusion
- Budget – Cheri Carter (January, May, June)
- Parent Workshop

9.0 Date of Next Meeting

- January 6, 2016

Future Meetings:

- February 3, 2016
- March 2, 2016
- April 6, 2016
- May 11, 2015 **(Note: this is the second Wednesday of the month.)**
- June 1, 2016
- June 15, 2015 **(Second meeting of the month is for budget.)**

These dates will be posted on the Board website.

10.0 Adjournment

Moved by D. Barkley to adjourn.

The Special Education Advisory Committee meeting is adjourned at 5:20 pm.

**Committee Members
2015 – 2016**

Voting Members	Non-Voting Members	Alternate Members
Katie Fox – Chair <i>Foundations Huron</i>	Greg Haber <i>Elementary Principal Rep</i>	
Marty Krebs – Vice Chair <i>Member at Large</i>	Emma Bannerman <i>Secondary Principal Rep</i>	Mary Lynn MacDonald <i>Member at Large</i>
Lynette Geddes <i>Trustee</i>	Peggy Blair <i>Superintendent of Education</i>	Nancy Rothwell <i>Trustee</i>
Doug Pratley <i>Trustee</i>	Eleanor Salmon <i>System Principal</i>	Randy Wagler <i>Trustee</i>
Terri Sparling <i>Huron Perth Centre</i>	Jane Morris <i>Superintendent of Education</i>	
Jennifer Costello <i>Community Living – St. Marys & Area</i>		
Trevor McGregor <i>Community Living – Stratford & Area</i>		
Doris Barkley <i>Perth District Health Unit Autism Ontario</i>		
Carol Bennewies <i>Member at Large</i>		
Lisa Harper <i>Spina Bifida & Hydrocephalus Association of Ontario</i>		