

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

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
8:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 23, 2016
Maitland Room, Seaforth Education Centre
62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, ON

PRESENT:

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

Absent: Julie Moore

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 Schenk 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 2016 02 14

(L. Geddes – R. Wagler)

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

CARRIED

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

Chair Schenk resumed the Chair at 5:48 p.m. and convened into Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

Approval of Committee of the Whole, Open Session Agenda

MOTION 2016 02 15

(J. Cairncross – R. Wagler)

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

CARRIED

Open Session Reports/Presentations

Strategic Plan Reflection

Chair Schenk opened discussion and asked Trustees how they wanted to continue with presenting the Strategic Plan Reflection. Trustee Geddes spoke noting the concept went from character attributes and then to the Strategic Plan. With a new board it was narrowly defined and was intended to be philosophical and not operational. Trustee Geddes noted she was in agreement to change the focus but felt the idea is important to maintain.

Trustee Wagler clarified further that the Reflection statement came about in 2012 when the new Strategic Plan was adopted. As discussed in Open Session at that time it was agreed that trustees would reflect on lessons learned and how to tie that into the Strategic Plan. Trustee Wagler agreed he appreciated hearing comments on the Plan as it provides a level of direction. Trustees agreed that the presentation of the comments could vary around trustees PD or what the individual has seen as a trustee and reflect on the trustees' role and how it relates to the Strategic Plan.

Vice Chair Kent also agreed that the Reflection should be kept on the agenda and suggested Trustees can talk about their learning experiences, PD, articles, etc. and that it would not necessarily have to tie into the Strategic Plan.

Trustee Cairncross suggested, and trustees agreed, to change the item to Trustee Reflection.

Trustees agreed to ensure the explanation of the statement is included in future Trustee Orientation sessions.

Board Policy Schedule

Director Doherty provided a schedule of review dates of the Board Policies. Director Doherty noted in accordance with Section 9.1 of Board Policy #12 policies shall be reviewed once in every term of the board. As of June 2015 all policies had been reviewed with the exception of Policy #5 re Board Members' Code of Conduct. Trustees had agreed to hold on a review of Policy #5 pending further information from OPSBA on the Code of Conduct and Enforcement of Code of Conduct.

Trustees suggested beginning the review process starting with Policies #5 re Board Members Code of Conduct, #6 Role of the Trustee, #9 Board Governance By-Laws, #10 Committees of the Board, #16 Selection of the Director. Trustees asked for a report to the March 22nd Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

French Immersion (FI) Follow-Up

In response to FI questions Chair Schenk called upon Senior Administration to go through each question and answer accordingly.

Q1. *If we cannot find enough qualified teachers, do we know the level of French of non-qualified teachers? (ie do we have non-FSL1-qualified teachers whose French is good enough for primary?)*

Superintendent Baker responded that when HR staff recruit FI teachers, they are looking for teachers with immersive FI experience. Qualifications are the same for FI or Core French, however Avon Maitland has put into practice that administrators who are French speaking conduct the interviews in order to ensure the best possible teachers for the system.

Q2. *Given that the French teachers have potential to easily move to another board, do you know of any who would be willing to teach in Goderich?*

Superintendent Baker reported at this time there may be one that would like to teach in Goderich. FI teachers are also needed in Stratford so there may be some but probably not enough to teach in both places. It was further noted that there are no graduates this coming year because of the two-year faculty program. Recruitment of qualified French teachers continues to be a challenge.

- Q3. *What would the incremental budget be assuming no transportation. Additional income vs additional costs for year 1. Grade 1 incremental increase \$391.97 per pupil. So 21 students: \$8231.37 revenue. Expenses?*

Associate Superintendent Carter responded for clarification and referenced the Board report from September 2015 Section 7.4 noting the table breaks out the incremental allocations. This does not include expenses ie transportation, resources and staff. Section 7.5 in the September 2015 report outlines the spending related to FI.

- Q4. *Is it possible that students coming from outside the chosen school catchment area would trigger the need for an additional grade one class? If so, is there room at GPS? Clinton? That would incur the cost of additional teacher and what other costs?*

Director Doherty commented that administration does not generally approve border crossing if it generates additional staff.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson further commented that the current experience is that both schools are full. If the Board were to consider a location in Clinton, because that would be central for transportation, then it triggers other considerations ie relocation for grades 7 & 8 into high school, including feeder schools. Goderich Public School (GPS) is currently full.

Trustee Cairncross asked if the board is looking at anything other than one class at GPS where kids are already attending? Administration responded yes.

- Q5. *If more than 21 register – lottery?*

Director Doherty responded Avon Maitland has not used a lottery, however the Board could decide differently.

- Q6. *How does the additional funding work? I'm assuming that any child in the program on the count dates but how is the minimum required hours assessed? Per week? Annual? Does intention come into it? For example, if we stated that FI would end after grade 8 would that effect the funding?*

Associate Superintendent Carter referred to the September 2015 board report noting item 7.2. The information was taken from the Ministry of Education's Technical Paper on Funding and explains the way the funding works.

Trustee Hunking noted in looking at FI in elementary and if the board offered FI up to grade 8 and not in secondary that makes no difference in considering FI – or do you have to have secondary FI to graduate? Superintendent Morris responded that extended French or an FI certificate is only received in high school. DELF certification could apply at different age levels.

- Q7. *Time-frame within grade 1 that a child could enter late? At what point would they have to be up to the minimum hours?*

Superintendent Morris explained that the current practice is that students enter at the beginning of grade 1 and we don't allow students in outside of that entry point unless they have previous French experience. Grade 1 is the fixed entry point. Trustees Geddes ask if there were 28 students and the Board had a lottery, and then one of those students dropped out is there any flexibility? Superintendent Morris replied that it could be managed if within a week or so may not be an issue but longer could be.

- Q8. *What is the 'not feasible' number? ie how many is too few? Grade 1 and grade 4. (Sustainability)*

Superintendent Morris referred to page 9 of the September 2015 report. The report outlines what has happened in Stratford over time, what the initial co-hort looked like at registration and when they exited in grade 12. Trustee Geddes asked if 21 students is viable and Superintendent Morris noted concern about the viability but that would be a Board decision.

Q9. *There is already a concern about a high concentration of identified students in a class at GPS. Is the proportion of identified students' proportional in the FI interested group? If not, how will that impact other classrooms?*

Superintendent Blair responded when we pulled data from Stratford schools the percent of students identified is lower in FI stream than English. A report by Canadian Parents for French from the Toronto District School Board noted 4% of students in FI are identified special education needs. Trustee Cairncross commented that the author said it's because that school board doesn't offer support in FI. Superintendent Blair explained support for FI students is not whether resource teacher is proficient in FI. Number one is their capacity around special education accommodation and modifications, because a resource teacher isn't fluent in French that's not the challenge, it's the learning need.

At this time Trustee Cairncross called a point of order with respect to a gesture that were made while she was speaking.

Chair Schenk asked all trustees to continue to respect the open discussion.

Q10. *Is there funding for FI in JK/SK?*

Yes there is funding starting in JK for FI program. Core French starts in grade 4 but FI starts in JK. Section 7.2 in the September 2015 report outlines the funding.

Q11 and 12.

Is the registration complete? I think it is, but I just wanted to confirm that. Assuming the answer above is yes, can you please provide the registrations for grade 1 for the two Stratford sites for next September?

Registration is complete as of February 1st there are 60 students registered for grade 1 between two sites. Bedford has 40 registered and Anne Hathaway has 20 registered.

Q13. *In the staff report last June and in recent discussion, there has been talk about expanding the opportunities for increased use of French, including the promotion of the DELF and immersive experiences for our students. Could you please provide some examples of the kind of immersive opportunities we could provide for students? Are we already doing this, to some extent? Is there funding available for students who need it, should there be an additional cost to the student to participate in the experience? I would be interested to hear examples for both elementary and secondary students.*

Superintendent Morris provided an update on DELF numbers from 2015. In total there were 78 students from 7 of the 9 secondary schools with 52 registered in Core and 26 from FI. Superintendent Morris highlighted a recent where 25 grade 8 and 9 French students from across the district spent five days in St. Donat, Quebec. The trip involved workshops, outdoor activities and cooperative games all in French.

Vice Chair Kent asked if there are other things similar to this trip that have been planned.

Director Doherty noted the board is extremely proud of the work on DELF and staff are looking at ways to extend preparation into lower grades ie grades 8 and 9. The Board currently runs international trips including Italy and Taiwan. If acquisition of French is a high priority for the Board more French related trips could be planned.

Following in-depth discussion on a pilot project at Goderich Public School Trustee Cairncross presented the following motion and noted if the motion fails she may consider asking for a review of FI in Avon Maitland.

MOTION 2016 02 16

(J. Cairncross – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board run a two-year pilot project, with no commitment beyond two years, to have FI offered at Goderich Public School for one grade 1 class capped at 22.

MOTION DEFEATED

Trustee Hunking presented the following motion.

MOTION 2016 02 17	(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)
RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board allow parents from Huron County to register late for FI at Bedford PS with a registration deadline of March 8, 2016. No transportation will be provided at this time except for already existing transportation at Sebringville Community Centre.	

Following discussion on whether it should be just Bedford Public School or should it be Stratford FI, a ‘friendly amendment’ to Trustee Hunking’s motion was made by Trustee Pratley.

MOTION 2016 02 18	(D. Pratley – R. Wagler)
RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board allow parents from Huron County to register late for FI at Stratford FI with a registration deadline of March 8, 2016. No transportation will be provided at this time except for already existing transportation at Sebringville Community Centre.	
CARRIED	

Trustee Hunking presented the following motion.

MOTION 2016 02 19	(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)
RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board continue discussion on expanding FI in Huron County without undue financial or system disruption for 2017, and if necessary an outside consultant can be considered.	

At this time Chair Schenk called the Board to convene into Regular Session and advised that the Board would return to Open Session following the completion of the Regular Session business.

At 8:04 p.m. Trustees agreed to move into Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION

ROUTINE MATTERS

MOTION 2016 02 20	(R. Wagler – A. Kent)
RESOLVED THAT this Board convene into Regular Session.	
CARRIED	

Approval of Agenda

Vice Chair Kent noted discussion had occurred during the Open Session this evening regarding the Strategic Plan Reflection, and while there would not be a Reflection given at tonight’s meeting the item should remain on the Agenda as Item 4.6.

Chair Schenk also noted the Board will move back into Committee of the Whole, Open Session prior to adjournment this evening.

MOTION 2016 02 21	(L. Geddes – R. Wagler)
RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended.	
CARRIED	

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION 2016 02 22

(R. Wagler – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, February 9, 2016, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

Committee of the Whole, Closed Session

Excellence in Public Education 2015/2016 Nominations

MOTION 2016 02 23

(A. Kent – R. Hunking)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board support the nominees for the 2015/2016 Excellence in Public Education Awards.

CARRIED

Strategic Plan Reflection

Good News

Superintendent Blair reported newcomers from Sudan have arrived at Goderich District Collegiate Institute and Goderich Public School. There are nine students from JK to grade 12.

Trustee Pratley reported that Chair Schenk, Trustee Wagler and himself attended the annual Principals' Conference which is a great opportunity to interact with school administrators, and further noted it is reassuring to see the quality of people that are the administrators of Avon Maitland schools.

Student Trustee Update

Student Trustees Edwards and Misener reported on their attendance at the OSTA conference held in Ottawa.

Student/Staff Presentations

Superintendent Langis introduced Student Re-engagement Program Lead Jo-Dee Desjardine and Student Re-engagement Program Teacher Andrea Gerber. Superintendent Langis explained the Team is responsible for students from 18 to 21 who are leaving before completion of their graduation requirements or are at risk of leaving. Their presentation focussed on the aspects of re-engagement, their preventative involvement and how they work with students to achieve success.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTIONReport of the School Year Calendar Committee re School Year 2016/2017

Superintendent Morris highlighted the report noting Regulation 304 stipulates the organization of the school year calendar. A slight change from previous years is the addition of one more PD day for a total of seven. School Year Calendar Committees from Avon Maitland and the Huron Perth Catholic District School Board met and developed the calendar. Following a consultation process with the Committees the proposed calendars aligned. The approved calendars will be posted on the Board website.

MOTION 2016 02 24**(J. Cairncross – R. Hunking)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the 2016/2017 Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars.

CARRIEDLong Term Financing for New Pupil Places Spending

Associate Superintendent Carter reported that in April 2009 the Ministry confirmed the mechanism that would generate capital revenue through Grants for New Pupil Places at Listowel District Secondary School (LDSS) and the Board was approved for over \$4 million. Facilities staff began a process of multi-phase construction and capital investment at LDSS. The process is now that the spending is complete the Ministry has to reimburse the Board for what has been spent. The Board is required to pass an authorizing and borrowing by-law in order to proceed with the necessary financing.

MOTION 2016 02 25**(R. Hunking – R. Wagler)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve By-Law #2016 02 17 to secure long term financing in the amount of \$4,117,335 for the Listowel District Secondary School New Pupil Places project spending.

CARRIED**INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS****Director's Reports**Report of the Ad Hoc Committee

Trustee Pratley reported that at the December 8th meeting by Board motion 2014 12 165 a Committee was comprised and tasked with composing a protocol that the Board can use in order to respond to emergent issues. The Ad Hoc Committee is Trustees Moore, Pratley and Wagler, and Director Doherty. Trustee Pratley was selected as Chair for the Ad Hoc Committee. Trustee Pratley advised that a report to the Board with draft recommendations is expected to be presented to the Open Session meeting on May 10th. Following that information report the Ad Hoc Committee will present their final report.

Expense Statements for September 1, 2015 to January 31, 2016

Associate Superintendent Carter presented the monthly report for information.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Baker presented the report for information. The following retirements/resignations have been received:

- Bruce Armstrong, Teacher at F.E. Madill SS effective June 30, 2016
- Diane Heibein, Teacher at Maitland River ES effective June 30, 2016
- Beth Jantzi, Teacher at South Huron DHS effective June 30, 2016
- Diane Lichti, Teacher at Stratford Northwestern SS effective June 30, 2016
- Sara Kinsman, Teacher at Maitland River ES effective June 30, 2016

The following new hires have taken place:

- Jennifer Shields, Teacher at Stratford Northwestern SS effective February 16, 2016

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking presented the report for information. Additional information was forthcoming from OPSBA regarding their submission to the Ministry re GSN funding for 2016/2017. The Ministry has released a guide for parents and communities to understand changes on why accommodation reviews occur. The report also notes the consultation re the Collective Bargaining Act that OPSBA has started. As a reminder for upcoming events the OPSBA Labour Relations conference is from March 31st to April 1st and the Summit on Children & Youth Mental Health is from April 7th to 8th.

Minutes from Board Committees

Student Senate Committee: February 9, 2016

Correspondence

No correspondence was presented or received.

NEW BUSINESS

Committee of the Whole, Open Session

At 9:00 p.m. the Board reconvened into Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

MOTION 2016 02 25	(A. Kent – R. Wagler)
RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board reconvene into Committee of the Whole, Open Session.	
CARRIED	

In the earlier session of the Committee of the Whole, Open Session Trustee Hunking had presented the following motion. Trustee Hunking and Trustee Geddes agreed to withdraw the motion.

MOTION 2016 02 19	(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)
RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board continue discussion on expanding FI in Huron County without undue financial or system disruption for 2017, and if necessary an outside consultant can be considered.	
WITHDRAWN	

Trustees discussed the possibility of enhancing or expanding French language instruction, potentially including FI. Trustees agreed to a friendly amendment and the following motion was forthcoming. Following discussion of the suggested motion, Student Trustee Misener suggested a motion to call the question.

MOTION 2016 02 26	(Student Trustee Misener – J. Cairncross)
RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board call the question and vote on the motion as presented.	
CARRIED	

MOTION 2016 02 26	(D. Pratley – R. Wagler)
RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board examine strategies to provide enhanced French second language opportunities for all students in Avon Maitland.	
CARRIED	

Student Trustee Misener requested the Minutes reflect that he was in support of this motion.

Chair Schenk called for a motion to reconvene into Regular Session at 9:30 p.m.

MOTION 2016 02 27

(R. Wagler – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board reconvene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- Tuesday, March 22, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session, 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Open Session if necessary, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- Tuesday, April 12, 2016 – 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, April 26, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session, followed by Committee of the Whole, Open Session if necessary, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session

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

- AODA: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, March 2, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
- SAL: Tuesday, March 22, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.
- Recognition and Awards Committee: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
- Audit Committee: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2016 02 28

(N. Rothwell – R. Wagler)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:33 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