

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, March 22, 2016

Maitland Room, Seaforth Education Centre

62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, ON

PRESENT:

Trustees: Lynette Geddes, Robert Hunking, Alyson Kent, Nancy Rothwell, Colleen Schenk, Randy Wagler

Teleconference: Judy Cairncross and Julie Moore

Absent: Doug Pratley

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 03 29

(R. Wagler – L. Geddes)

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 5:45 p.m. and convened into Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

Approval of Committee of the Whole, Open Session Agenda

MOTION 2016 03 30

(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)

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

CARRIED

Open Session Reports

Board Policy Review

Director Doherty suggested trustees begin the policy review with Board Policy #5 re *Code of Conduct*. Trustees agreed to refer to OPSBA's template for code of conduct as a resource for revisions to Policy #5. Trustees asked that Trustee Hunking take a suggestion forward to OPSBA regarding providing in-depth parliamentary training for trustees. It was also noted for future Inaugural meetings that trustees will sign a declaration re Code of Conduct and that the wording for this will be included in the policy. Trustee Geddes will consolidate OPSBA's template with Board Policy #5 and will send the draft to trustees for further edits.

Policy #6 re *Role of Trustee* was discussed and it was noted that the policy had been developed by previous Board Members. Trustees were asked to submit their comments and suggested edits for review.

Policies #9 re *Board Governance Bylaws* and #10 re *Committees of the Board* will be reviewed by staff and suggested changes will be brought forward to a future Open Session. Trustees were again asked to submit any comments or edits to these two policies.

Policy #16 re *Selection of Director* will also be discussed at a future Open Session.

Administrative Procedures 530 re Playground Equipment

Trustee Hunking noted questions have arisen from schools around fundraising for playground equipment, and that school councils and communities need to understand why the school board does not fund playground equipment.

Director Doherty noted Admin Procedure 530 gives background to the funding of playground equipment. Director Doherty further noted that staff will do a fulsome review of the administrative procedure and include guidelines around outdoor activity spaces.

OPSBA Student Award

Trustee Hunking suggested student trustee Zach Misener be nominated for OPSBA's Jack A. MacDonald Award of Merit. The award is given to an elementary or secondary student for a sound academic record and outstanding community service and leadership.

MOTION 2016 03 31

(R. Hunking – A. Kent)

RESOLVED THAT the Board nominate Student Trustee Zach Misener for the OPSBA's Jack A. MacDonald Award of Merit.

CARRIED

Chair Schenk and Director Doherty will write a letter on behalf of the Board in support of the nomination.

OPSBA's Request for Feedback re School Boards Collective Bargaining Act (SBCBA)

Trustee Hunking asked trustees for additional feedback regarding the consultation materials review. Trustees were asked to submit their comments to the Director's Office by March 31st and Trustee Hunking will forward to OPSBA by the April 1st deadline. Director Doherty noted that he is the PCODE representative on this consultation and will be taking their recommendations on behalf of the Directors.

Items for Future Open Sessions

Chair Schenk asked for items for further Open Sessions. Trustees suggested 1) update on Administrative Officers position; 2) update on academies; 3) international teacher exchange; and 4) tour of the new North Perth school. Trustees were encouraged to forward additional items for discussion to the Chair and Vice Chair.

REGULAR SESSION**ROUTINE MATTERS****MOTION 2016 03 32****(R. Hunking – R. Wagler)****RESOLVED THAT** this Board convene into Regular Session.**CARRIED****Approval of Agenda****MOTION 2016 03 33****(L. Geddes – 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****MOTION 2016 03 34****(R. Wagler – N. Rothwell)****RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, February 23, 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

Vice Chair Kent reported there was no business brought forward from Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

Trustee Reflection – Trustee Nancy Rothwell

Tonight I would like to do a brief comparison between education and a Toolbox – with various tools like the one I have here.

At the early years' stages – children may use some basics like a hammer - with lots of banging and fixing things and building – and learning to play with others, cooperation, letters and numbers, skipping and jumping and singing.

As they progress along the educational pathway, they broaden their toolbox with other languages and subjects. This may be using a basic but very useful Philips or Robertson screwdriver, which come in different colours and sizes. We hope that part of their education includes basic and lifelong tools of character traits – these things they put in their tool-belt and should become ingrained – fairness, honesty, empathy, respect, courage, integrity, optimism, compassion, perseverance and responsibility. Some of us need a different size of tool depending on which character needs further building on. These I feel are so important to emphasize and be modeled in our schools by staff and students, in order to build healthy relationships. These qualities of good citizenship are key in being proactive against bullying which is still apparent in our schools. We as a Board need to stand firm on “NO TOLERANCE FOR BULLYING.” Before a person speaks or acts, we want them to think....”Am I being a good citizen by doing this?”

Along with equipping our students and staff with the right tools, we need to ensure we have the well-trained guidance from experienced tool users, but also to be open to other ways to use tools. An example of this is this triangular measure, which also can be used as a level. We have standardized

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testing mandated from the government such as EQAO and the Ontario Secondary School Literacy test, which helps to give our Board and individual schools direction for continuing improvement. As well, in order for our students to succeed with the tools they have, and to develop a curiosity for tools they may not have tried, we need to provide our staff with as much support as we can, since they are a key component in building our students' education. We need to support the day-to-day learning in our classrooms, not just to make it through another day, but to honestly make a difference in a child's life.

Sometimes the tools are in the form of technical equipment such as ipads; sometimes they are books or magazines; sometimes they are field trips or social or extracurricular events; and, sometimes they may be as simple as running and playing outside for recess.

In education we need to broaden the horizons of our students as they reach the intermediate and senior years – pursuing post-secondary education, apprenticeships, employment – introducing them to opportunities that they may never have dreamed of. For this we have to continue to engage our staff in all curriculums to grow in their knowledge of the needs of the community and work force. Our guidance counselors and staff are an integral part of this – mentoring and guiding; helping to choose the right pathway of courses; communicating and engaging each and every student towards their goals.

Here are specialized tools that are designed for very detailed projects – fixing eyeglasses and cellphones. For me these represent things like computer software and hardware, keeping up with the trends so our students are prepared for the challenges ahead. Also, it is the continuum to incorporate the STEAM approach of Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Math, through which our educators support each other in innovative strategies and ideas to integrate this in the classroom.

I also include in this area of specialized tools, our role in inclusion and ensuring that our staff that are so valuable in their roles, feel comfortable and prepared with either specific training or additional services. We want inclusion to be the norm and to not have to use the word, however, there are always lessons to learn along the path.

In conclusion, I hope that my sharing of my analogy of a toolkit and education has enlightened you to remember the next time you pick up a tool to use in your household, that we in the Education field are giving building blocks to our students that can be the basis for the rest of their lives. Ideally we are opening up opportunities to explore uses of other tools that may present themselves along the pathway of education.

Good News

Superintendent Morris introduced Secondary Program Coordinator Laura Allan who then introduced Métis Artist Brenda Collins to present The Four Races of Mankind Medicine Wheel. Ms. Collins introduced her mother Merna who is Ojibwe. Ms. Collins explained the Medicine Wheel which is a work of art that symbolizes the four sacred First Nation medicines and the four races of mankind. The Medicine Wheel is on display in the Maitland Room at the Education Centre. Elementary and secondary schools throughout Avon Maitland have also created their own Medicine Wheels with the assistance of Ms. Collins. Ms. Collins noted Avon Maitland is the only school board in the area that has a student-crafted mosaic in all of its secondary schools.

Trustee Wagler announced that he, along with Director Doherty, on March 21st presented Avon Maitland highlights to the South Huron and the Bluewater Municipal councils.

Superintendent Blair announced, on behalf of SEAC, that Dr. Jeanne Clinton will be speaking at the April 19th Parent Symposium. The Symposium will be held at Anne Hathaway Public School in Stratford from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Dr. Clinton will be presenting 'The Power of Relationships between Parents/Teachers and Child'.

Vice Chair Kent and Trustee Geddes attended an event at the Revival House in Stratford to support fundraising for the Bedford outdoor education program. Approximately \$4000.00 was raised and the evening included music and other entertainment. Former trustee Michael Bannerman coordinated the music.

Trustee Rothwell reported that on March 7th Director Doherty and Trustee Rothwell attended the North Perth Municipal council meeting to update the Council on activities in Avon Maitland.

Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Misener reported the committee is looking at how elections for student senators occur and the timing of elections in the secondary schools.

Staff Presentations

Superintendent Langis introduced Youth Support Worker Karen Congram. Ms. Congram has been leading the student success pilot project this year called Children and Youth in Care. The project began in February 2015 and was a pilot project offered by the Ministry of Education.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Recommendation for School Name Change

Superintendent Baird-Jackson presented the report and highlighted the background noting the Transition Committee members reviewed suggested names and have recommended North Perth Westfield Elementary School for the new North Perth school.

MOTION 2016 03 35

(N. Rothwell – R. Hunking)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board decommission the names of Listowel Central Public School, and Wallace Public School and name the newly configured elementary school in the Municipality of North Perth as North Perth Westfield Elementary School, effective September 1, 2016.

CARRIED

INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Director's Reports

Comparison of 2014/2015 Actuals vs Tendered Prices

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported this is the 12th year that staff have been producing this report. Staff continue their ongoing efforts to reduce variances, focus on standardization, and better develop cost estimates in a number of areas. This year facilities have had a number of large projects, although less dollar value than last year. The Appendix shows the comparison of tendered prices including contingency with final construction costs for projects completed in 2014/2015 and 2015/2016.

Expense Statements for September 1, 2015 to February 29, 2016

Associate Superintendent Carter presented the monthly report for information. As a reminder there are still outstanding payments related to Collective Agreements that will continue to be processed over the following months, and since the last board meeting the Ministry has given confirmation of revenue related to Collective Agreement expenses.

Staff Adjustments

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

- Faye Wreford, Library Tech at the Media Centre effective May 31, 2016
- Heather Browning, Teacher at Shakespeare PS effective June 30, 2016
- Patricia Coghlin, Teacher at Listowel Central PS effective June 30, 2016
- Nancy Davis, Teacher at St. Marys DCVI effective June 30, 2016
- Mary Ann Hogan, Teacher at Goderich PS effective June 30, 2016

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- Ann-Margaret Langlade, Teacher at Listowel Central PS effective June 30, 2016
- Kathy Newman, TRA at Listowel Eastdale and Wallace PS effective June 30, 2016
- Deborah Jane Riordan, Teacher at Little Falls PS effective June 30, 2016
- Mary Sanderson, Teacher at Howick PS effective June 30, 2016
- Judy Skochinski, Teacher at Huron Centennial PS effective June 30, 2016
- Mary Wilkinson, Teacher at Mitchell District HS 7-8 effective June 30, 2016

- In Memoriam – Irene Harloff at Stratford Northwestern SS on March 5, 2016

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking reminded trustees of upcoming OPSBA activities. The OPSBA Labour Relations Symposium will be held from March 31st to April 1st in Toronto. The Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health will be held from April 7th to 8th in Toronto. The Annual General Meeting will be held from June 9th to 12th in Ottawa.

Minutes from Board Committees

Finance Committee: June 22, 2015

Correspondence

No correspondence was presented or received.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- Tuesday, April 12, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session, 5:45 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Open Session, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- Tuesday, April 26, 2016 – 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session

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

- Recognition and Awards Committee: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
- Audit Committee: Tuesday, March 29, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.
- Joint Health & Safety Committee: Thursday, March 31, 2016 – 1:30 p.m.
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Tuesday, April 12, 2016 – 3:00 p.m.
- PIC: Meeting and Digital Citizenship Event: Wednesday, April 20, 2016.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2016 03 36	(N. Rothwell – R. Wagler)
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