

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, April 26, 2016

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, Paul Langis 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 7:00 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2016 04 46

(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 8:00 p.m. and convened into Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION

ROUTINE MATTERS

MOTION 2016 03 47

(J. Moore – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT this Board convene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2016 03 48

(J. Moore – J. Cairncross)

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 49

(L. Geddes – R. Wagler)

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, April 12, 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 Julie Moore

When I put my children on the bus in the morning, the wish I call out to them after kissing their heads is, “Have a good day!” Pure and simple.

Now, I know that not every day can be a birthday party, and not all things in life should be made into a fun activity. My wish is not overly naive or idealistic, it is simply that they enjoy their day at school. It is my hope that even if there are moments of the day when things don’t go well, or times when they are frustrated, or they find something to be particularly challenging, the overall feeling when they return home is not negative.

I want them to have had enough positive experiences, enough moments of engagement, enough creativity and fun built into their day that “good” is the predominant mood descriptor.

I don’t want children who get off of the bus exhausted, frustrated, overworked or burned out. I don’t want to feel as if I should make them a weak whiskey on the rocks, hand them their pipe and slippers and leave them alone for an hour to decompress.

Here’s my dirty little parenting secret. For my elementary-school-age children, I care more about whether or not they love going to school than I do about their academic progress. Does that make me a bad mother? I hope I am clever enough to know that if they are enjoying themselves at school, they will learn. Academics follow naturally if the proper environment for learning is there.

From a parental perspective, a good learning environment is one with positive energy. The teachers want to be there, and the children want to be there. No one is counting the minutes to the end of the day before it has even started.

In my time as a Trustee, I have learnt that from an educator’s perspective, an environment that is engaging, hands-on, with opportunities for meaningful learning, practice, discussions and creativity, makes kids happy. When kids are happy, they learn more.

When the learning environment becomes very serious and relies heavily on assessment and grades, learning targets and goals, it is not as enjoyable. It is “work,” and children don’t enjoy work. It’s not in their nature to enjoy work; children are created to learn through play.

Just because students may have to sit in an office for eight hours a day when they are adults, doesn’t mean that they should have to start practicing it now as children. It is like saying to a 10-year-old, “One day you’re going to pay taxes, so I’m going to keep 50 percent of your birthday money from Grandma because I want you to get used to it.”

There’s a proper time for everything.

I have been greatly encouraged in my tenure as a Trustee to appreciate that despite standardized testing, provincial directives on instructional and assessment methods our Avon Maitland schools continue to place emphasis on play based and inquiry based learning - truly next generation skills. We saw this highlighted in the New Pedagogy for Deep Learning presentation at our last meeting. This emphasis acknowledges that our students need time to develop skills that are a crucial part of the foundation of a solid education, and keeps the focus on teaching them how to learn instead of on what to learn.

It's backwards logic that forces more and more curricula on students at a younger age and a faster pace - and does not make them better students. It does not teach them skills. It gives them a shallow pool of non-relevant information that they may not remember past the test and don't know how to apply in real life.

My favorite part of our Board meetings are our staff presentations. Presentations that repeatedly affirm for me that our schools are about exploration and exposure to vast amounts of very well-written books, that encourage writing as an opportunity to capture observations and imagination in a tangible form, learning about history through storytelling, art and music - dancing and singing and playing while developing social skills, communication skills and interpersonal awareness. That Science here is about questions and wonders, experiments and all things messy. Math that's taught as a part of nature and daily life. That there are no limits to the topics that can be explored in our schools. That it is about how to become a learner ... not simply about curriculum, and definitely not only about testing.

I want a school where both of my children, two vastly different learners with different strengths, want to go to learn. I want a school where creativity is cherished, and there is ample time for thinking, connecting, collaborating, discussing and enjoying what they've learned. I want a school where the question isn't "What did you get on the test?" but "What did you do with what you learned?"

Above all, when I see their sweet little faces get off of the bus, and I ask them how their day was, I want to hear, "My day was great!"

Good News

Trustee Wagler attended the annual South Huron District High School Cabaret Performance on Sunday, April 24th. There was great community support for the Cabaret with over 600 people attending the performances. Trustee Wagler expressed appreciation to the staff and students who participated.

Communications Manager MacVicar announced from April 18th to 29th over 5400 primary and junior students will have the opportunity to see the stage adaptation of five of Robert Munsch's stories presented at the Blyth Memorial Hall.

Trustee Rothwell gave a 'shout out' to all Avon Maitland secondary schools that were involved in the SEARS Regional Festival held in Cambridge during the week of April 11th. Trustee Rothwell announced Listowel District Secondary Schools' 'Error of Redemption', written by Shea Kraemer received an award of excellence for playwright, costume and makeup, and performance. Outstanding performances were awarded to Central Huron Secondary School for 'Never Swim Alone', Listowel District Secondary School for 'Error of Redemption', and Goderich District Collegiate Institute for 'Power Suit'. Congratulations to all participants.

Superintendent Langis announced, specific to pathways in secondary schools, that five secondary school will be coming together on Friday, April 29th for combined ICE training for the SHSM program. Over 100 secondary students from Central Huron Secondary School, FE Madill Secondary School, Goderich District Collegiate Institute, Stratford Northwestern Secondary School and South Huron District High School will be participating in the training held in Clinton. WindTrans Systems Ltd, community partner, will be attending the event. MP Ben Lobb and MPP Lisa Thompson are also expected to attend the event.

Superintendent Langis also announced that staff today received news that the application for the first time summer school dual credit has been accepted. Eighteen students from Avon Maitland DSB will enroll in a dual credit digital photography course to be held at the Reach Centre in Clinton.

Trustee Hunking announced that on Thursday, April 28th the Blyth Festival is hosting their annual high school art show for students in Avon Maitland DSB and Huron Perth CDSB. The art show runs from April 28th to May 19th. Opening night is April 28th.

Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Misener reported from the Senator's meeting this evening, the students discussed their research project on the topic of student voice including empowerment, development and engagement that will be presented to the board at their June 14th board meeting.

The OSTA-AECO annual general meeting is scheduled for May 26th to 29th in Toronto. The OSTA 15th anniversary Alumni banquet is scheduled for May 27th. An invitation was extended to the Director and Trustees to attend the banquet.

Staff Presentations

Experience the World TPE March Study Tour (Taiwan)

Director Doherty introduced guests System Principal Eleanor Salmon, Human Resource Services Representative Katelyn Freiter, and Students Natalie Miller (South Huron DHS) and Abbie Newcastle (Goderich DCI) to share their experience on their recent Experience the World March Study Tour to Taipei, Taiwan. Director Doherty noted it is rewarding to see students have the exposure to cultures around the world and exciting to open opportunities to many students. The guests talked about their experience, their key learnings studying Mandarin and experiencing traditional Taiwanese activities and food.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Approval of Tender: Mechanical Upgrades to St. Marys DCVI

Superintendent Baird-Jackson highlighted the project as ongoing infrastructure improvements to be funded through facilities renewal for a replacement of the large gym air handling unit.

MOTION 2016 03 50

(J. Moore – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Stratford Metal Products Limited for mechanical upgrades at St. Marys DCVI in the amount of \$135,058.73.

CARRIED

Approval of Tender: Windows and Masonry at Milverton Public School

Superintendent Baird-Jackson provided background to the project which is indicative of the infrastructure improvements over the next few years. The project will be funded through School Condition Improvement funding.

MOTION 2016 03 51

(R. Hunking – R. Wagler)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Wayne & Harold Smith Construction for window replacement and masonry repairs at Milverton Public School in the tender amount of \$153,906.00.

CARRIED

Approval of Tender: Windows at Mornington Central Public School

Superintendent Baird-Jackson noted the project encompasses the entire west and east elevation window replacements. This project will also be funded through School Condition Improvement funding.

MOTION 2016 03 52

(J. Moore – J. Cairncross)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Elgin Contracting and Restoration Ltd for window replacement at Mornington Public School in the tender amount of \$245,210.00.

CARRIED

Approval of Tender: Renovations to Central Huron Secondary School

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported the project is to renovate six classrooms into four new science lab classrooms. The project will be funded through Proceeds of Disposition as well as School Condition Improvement funding.

MOTION 2016 03 53**(D. Pratley – R. Hunking)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Elgin Contracting & Restoration Ltd for renovations at Central Huron Secondary School in the amount of \$1,427,190.00.

CARRIEDApproval of Tender: Mechanical Upgrades to Goderich District Collegiate Institute

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported the project involves mechanical work as required in the science labs. This project will be funded through the School Condition Improvement funding.

MOTION 2016 03 54**(J. Cairncross – J. Moore)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Brad Baker Plumbing, Heating & Electrical Inc for mechanical upgrades at Goderich District Collegiate Institute in the amount of \$235,902.35.

CARRIEDApproval of Tender: Mechanical Upgrades to Listowel District Secondary School

Superintendent Baird-Jackson highlighted the mechanical work as required in four classrooms. This project will also be funded through the School Condition Improvement Funding.

MOTION 2016 03 55**(N. Rothwell – J. Moore)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Stratford Metal Products for mechanical upgrades at Listowel District Secondary School in the amount of \$126,531.75.

CARRIED**INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS****Director's Reports**Financial Statements for September 1, 2015 to March 31, 2016

Associate Superintendent Carter presented the monthly progress report in expenses to March 31st. Accounts are tracking as expected moving closer to the end of the fiscal year. Staff will continue to review details and ensure things are coded correctly and coming in on budget.

Staff Adjustments

The following retirements/resignations have been received:

- Lauree Elder, Secretary at Shakespeare PS effective June 30, 2016
- Suzanne Irwin, Vice-Principal at F.E. Madill ES effective June 30, 2016
- Fred Kindler, Teacher at Mitchell District SS effective June 30, 2016
- Martin Kuske, Teacher at Listowel District SS effective June 30, 2016
- Joanne McPherson, Education Assistant at Maitland River ES effective June 30, 2016
- Lou-Ann Frook, Educational Assistant at Little Falls PS effective August 31, 2016

The follow new hires have taken place:

- Stephanie Mathers, Accounts Payable Associate the Ed Centre effective April 6, 2016

OPSBA Update

Trustee Pratley reported the Regional meeting held in Windsor was well represented by Avon Maitland DSB. Trustees were given two tours of two unique schools in Windsor.

Minutes from Board Committees

Student Senate: April 12, 2016

Correspondence

No correspondence was presented or received.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion re June 28, 2016 Board Meeting

Trustees agreed to change the meeting time for the June 28th meeting to 3:30 p.m. in order to allow trustees to attend various grade 8 ceremonies around Avon Maitland.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- Tuesday, May 10, 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, May 24, 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)

- Excellence in Public Education Banquet: Thursday, May 5, 2016 – 6:30 p.m. at Central Huron Community Complex, Clinton
- SEAC: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
- Finance Committee: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 – 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- GAFE Training: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.
- Audit Committee: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 – 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- Finance Committee: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
- Board Recognition Reception: Wednesday, June 8, 2016 – 5:30 p.m. at Central Huron Community Complex, Clinton
- Finance Committee: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 – 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2016 03 56

(N. Rothwell – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
May 10, 2016

Colleen Schenk
Chair of the Board

Ted Doherty
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board