

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 24, 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, Jodie Baker, Peggy Blair, Paul Langis, Jane Morris and Associate Superintendent Cheri Carter

Student Trustees: Shannon Edwards

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 05 70

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

REGULAR SESSION

Oath of Allegiance – Student Senators

Shannon Edwards and Jesse Russell, Student Trustees for 2016/2017, were in attendance and recited the Oath of Allegiance and signed the Declaration of Office for the school year 2016/2017.

ROUTINE MATTERS

MOTION 2016 05 71

(N. Rothwell – D. Pratley)

RESOLVED THAT this Board convene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

Approval of Agenda**MOTION 2016 05 72****(N. Rothwell and L. Geddes)****RESOLVED THAT** the agenda be approved as presented.**CARRIED****Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

Trustee Pratley declared a conflict regarding Committee of the Whole, Closed Session Item re Surplus/Redundancy – Secondary Staff 2016/2017.

Approval of Minutes**MOTION 2016 05 73****(R. Wagler – J. Moore)****RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, May 10, 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

Trustee Pratley left the meeting room.

Vice Chair Kent referred to the following reports from Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

Surplus/Redundancy – Secondary Staffing 2016/2017**MOTION 2016 05 74****(A. Kent – R. Hunking)****RESOLVED THAT** effective September 1, 2016, the Avon Maitland District School Board, as per Article 17 of the Collective Agreement between the Board and the Secondary Teachers, reduce the regular assignment of and place in the possibly-redundant pool six (6) teachers; and fully place in the possibly-redundant pool two (2) teachers; and partially place in the possibly redundant pool, declare partially redundant and place on the recall list one (1) teacher; and declare partially redundant, reduce the regular assignment of and place on the recall list one (1) teacher; and declare redundant, terminate the assignment of, and place on the recall list four (4) teachers.**CARRIED**

Trustee Pratley returned to the meeting room.

Surplus/Redundancy – Elementary Staffing 2016/2017**MOTION 2016 05 75****(A. Kent – R. Wagler)****RESOLVED THAT** the effective for August 31, 2016, the Avon Maitland District School Board terminate the employment of five (5) teachers for reasons of redundancy and place those teachers on a Recall List, as defined by the Collective Agreement between the Board and the Elementary Teachers.**CARRIED**

Expression of Interest in Surplus Property**MOTION 2016 05 76****(A. Kent – L. Geddes)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board authorize the Director of Education to negotiate the sale of the Listowel Central and Wallace school properties.

CARRIED**Trustee Reflection – Trustee Judy Cairncross**

In early April Trustee Rothwell, Chair Schenk and I attended OPSBA's Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health. I thought I would take this opportunity to both report and reflect on a few things we learned there. The Summit is hosted by the Ontario Coalition for Children and Youth Mental Health, a coalition committed to urgent and positive change for children and youth mental services in Ontario. It was a busy two days with keynote speakers, workshops and presenters.

One of the keynotes was an expert on motivational research and mental well-being. He had two important secrets to share with us. He said that the school system has always taught students to do things in this order: Do hard work, Be a big success and then you will be happy. He says the evidence informed research shows that this is a myth, that we have the order wrong. Research shows us that the order should be: Be happy, Do great work and Be a big success. In this example he equated happiness with mental well-being. The second secret to mental well-being he gave us was to create space in our lives. Research affirms the importance of downtime. It provides our minds with rest and consequently we can better process information, increase our memory, improve attention span and spark creativity, all of which make us better decision-makers. The average student makes 195 decisions a day. With all of the technological distractions today we are going to have to teach students how to create and enjoy downtime.

So how do we support Mental Health and well-being in our schools. The two buzz words that we kept hearing throughout the presentations were “resilience” and “grit”. Resiliency is the capacity of individuals to recover quickly from adversity or failure and grit is defined as courage or resolve. Research shows that resilience, grit and mental well-being are directly related. So how do we foster resiliency and grit? First we need to help young people manage stress. Second we need to prevent fear of failure and help them know that these failing situations are learning opportunities. Thirdly, we need to build perseverance. Schools are the perfect captive environment in which to do this teaching. To accomplish these tasks we don't have to start at square one. Mental Health Assist has created valuable resources for school boards to accomplish these tasks. These resources were presented to us at the Summit and I'm sure that they have been provided to AMDSB as well.

One of our primary strategic plan goals is to improve student achievement. According to what I learned at the summit, if we address mental health issues, better student outcomes will be a natural consequence. Happy students do greater things and become bigger successes. I learned an enormous amount at the Summit. I came home uplifted, spirits brightened and feeling inspired but wondering where to go from there. It made me aware of how little I know about how AMDSB is supporting student well-being. However, I do know this. Student mental health needs to be a primary goal in our new Strategic Plan.

Good News

Trustee Pratley reported that on Monday, May 16th SEAC sponsored a presentation by a dynamic speaker Dr. Jean Clinton, who is a professor and child psychiatrist. Dr. Clinton's topic focussed on the Power of Relationships between Parents/Teachers and Child.

Vice Chair Kent and Trustee Pratley each spoke to the wonderful production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night by My Academy. The performance included Avon Maitland students from grades 7 to 12 as well as some international students. Vice Chair Kent noted it was a great opportunity for the students to partner with a large organization such as the Stratford Festival. Congratulations to the students, staff and Stratford Festival for the exceptional performance.

Student Trustee Edwards announced last week the 27th annual Friendship Games were held at Goderich District Collegiate Institute. It is always amazing to see the participation and acknowledgement of the students. Student Trustee Edwards also had the opportunity to attend the FMNI gathering on May 18th at Stratford Northwestern Secondary School. The gathering was an opportunity for students with FMNI heritage to share their traditions.

Superintendent Morris announced in the June publication of the Ontario College of Teachers' Professionally Speaking magazine, Avon Maitland teacher Joey Jackson is featured talking about the uses of technology in her classroom to help students with reading assignments and public speaking.

Trustee Rothwell announced that Listowel District Secondary School hosted their annual Friendship Games on May 19th. Also as a launch of the eLab 2.0 fundraiser at Listowel District Secondary School the Kinsmen celebrated a 'Ladies Night' on May 13th. The lead donor to date is DND Automation with \$32,500.

Trustee Hunking reported North Woods Elementary School participated in the public art show in Brussels Library last week. Students displayed excellent works of art and the event was very well attended. Trustee Hunking also noted that Hullett Central Public School held an Operetta at the Blyth Theatre with grades 5 to 8 participating in a variety of roles.

Superintendent Langis shared results of the Skills Ontario provincial competition held May 2nd and 3rd in Toronto. Twenty-six students represented Avon Maitland, including 8 elementary schools. Thank you to the students and staff for their participation. Superintendent Langis also noted that the Young Women in Skilled Trades was held in Clinton last week with eighty one students from 6 secondary schools and sixteen teachers participating. Chair Schenk had pleasure of attending the Young Women in Skilled Trades and commented on the great opportunities that are available and happening for students. Jamie McMillan was the featured speaker who is a skilled ironworker from Hamilton.

Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Edwards announced the Student Symposium was successful and the student senators have based their final research project from the discussion at the Symposiums.

Student/Staff Presentations

There were no staff presentations.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Approval of Tender: Washroom Upgrades at Goderich District CI

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported work has been identified from facility reviews for washroom upgrade at Goderich District CI. The project will be through school conditions improvement funding.

MOTION 2016 05 77

(D. Pratley – J. Cairncross)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Lannin Electric Ltd. for washroom upgrades at Goderich District Collegiate Institute in the amount of \$91,459.54.

CARRIED

INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Director's Reports

Preliminary Accommodation Analysis Report for 2015/2016

Director Doherty introduced the annual report pursuant to Ministry guidelines, noting that staff are not recommending an accommodation review as part of this report. Superintendent Baird-Jackson and Information and Reporting Analyst Hugh Cox presented detailed data and highlighted areas that staff are continuing to monitor.

Administrative Transfers Effective September 1, 2016

Superintendent Baker presented the report for information. The following administrative transfers will take place effective September 2016:

- Kathy Boyd Principal, Listowel Central PS, to Principal, North Perth Westfield ES
- Erin Cassone Principal, North Easthope PS, to Principal, Little Falls PS
- Christina VanPoucke Leave of Absence to, Principal, Bluewater Coast ES
- Jane Morton Principal, Wallace PS, to Principal, Downie Central PS
- JoAnne Knechtel Principal, Bluewater Coast ES, to Principal, North Easthope PS
- Jana Bayer-Smith Vice Principal, Central Huron SS, to Principal, South Huron District HS
- John Herbert Vice Principal, St. Marys DCVI, to Principal (Acting), St. Marys DCVI
- Jeremy Brock Vice Principal, Ed Centre, to Vice Principal, Upper Thames ES
- Lynda Hemming Vice Principal, Stratford Northwestern SS, to System VP, Program Department
- Kim Crawford Vice Principal, Mitchell District HS, to Vice Principal, Stratford Northwestern SS
- Adrienne Jacques Literacy/Numeracy Resource Teacher (Early Learning) Ed Centre, to System Vice Principal, Program Dept.
- Missy Pfaff Learning for All Coordinator, Ed Centre, to System Vice Principal, Learning Services
- Amy Crummer Learning for All Coach, Ed Centre, to Vice Principal, St. Marys DCVI
- Helena Finch Vice Principal (Acting), FE Madill SS, to Vice Principal (Acting), Central Huron SS
- Jenalyn Ignor Learning for All Coach, Ed Centre, to Vice Principal, Mitchell District HS
- Jean Stacey Vice Principal, Listowel Central PS, to Vice Principal, North Perth Westfield ES
- Shannon Hughes Vice Principal, Seaforth PS, to Vice Principal, Elma PS
- Tracey Swart Vice Principal (Acting), Elma PS, to Vice Principal, FE Madill SS
- Katie Padfield External Candidate, to Vice Principal, Seaforth PS

Expense Statements for the Period of September 1, 2015 to April 30, 2016

Associate Superintendent Carter highlighted the monthly report on expenses.

Staff Adjustments

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

- Lee Gibbings, Custodian at Little Falls, South Perth Centennial PS effective May 2, 2016
- Doris Becker, Teacher at Exeter ES effective June 30, 2016
- Camille Oates, Teacher at Central Huron SS/St. Marys DCVI and Stratford Central SS effective June 30, 2016
- James Tyo, Educational Assistant at Goderich District CI effective June 30, 2016
- Nora Millard, Teacher at Anne Hathaway PS effective August 31, 2016

The following new hires have taken place:

- Melissa Bomasuit, Teacher at Bedford PS effective September 1, 2016
- Lindsay Geberdt, Teacher at Anne Hathaway PS effective September 1, 2016
- Janice Kane, Teacher at Bedford PS effective September 1, 2016
- Janna Leduc, Teacher at Stratford Central SS 7-8 Campus effective September 1, 2016
- Ashley McNeil, Teachers at Bedford PS effective September 1, 2016

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking referred to an email he had sent to trustees about events and discussions taking place at the OPSBA 2016 AGM. Trustee Pratley has been nominated as Regional Vice President for the Western Region. Trustee Cairncross has been nominated for Education Program Work Group and Chair Schenk will be nominated for Program and Policy.

Minutes from Board Committees

SEAC: April 6, 2016

Student Senate Committee: May 10, 2016

Correspondence

Letter dated May 10, 2016 from Thames Valley District School Board re OFSAA Transfer Policy. Director Doherty noted that further information will be brought forward to the June 14th meeting.

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

- Tuesday, June 14, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee, 6:15 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session, 6:45 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Open Session, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- Tuesday, June 28, 2016 – 3:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session, 4:00 p.m. Regular Board Session

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

- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
- GAFE Training: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, June 1, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, June 8, 2016 at 4:00 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.
- Municipal and Community Partners: June 22nd 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 and community partners – 4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
- AODA:

ADJOURNMENT**MOTION 2016 05 78****(J. Cairncross – N. Rothwell)****RESOLVED THAT** this meeting be adjourned at 9:45 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