

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, June 14, 2016

Maitland Room, Seaforth Education Centre

62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, ON

PRESENT:

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

Absent: Alyson Kent

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 6:10 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

In the absence of Vice Chair Kent, Trustee Hunking was selected as acting Vice Chair for the June 14th Board meeting.

MOTION 2016 06 79	(L. Geddes – J. Moore)
RESOLVED THAT Trustee Hunking be acting Vice Chair for the June 14, 2016 Board meeting.	
	CARRIED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2016 06 80	(R. Wagler – J. Moore)
RESOLVED THAT this Board convene into Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.	
	CARRIED

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

Chair Schenk resumed the Chair at 7:00 p.m. and convened into Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION**MOTION 2016 06 81****(R. Wagler – L. Geddes)****RESOLVED THAT** this Board convene into Committee of the Whole, Open Session.**CARRIED****Approval of Committee of the Whole, Open Session Agenda****MOTION 2016 06 82****(J. Cairncross – N. Rothwell)****RESOLVED THAT** the agenda for Committee of the Whole, Open Session be approved as presented.**CARRIED****Open Session Reports****Strategic Plan**

Director Doherty framed the discussion similar to the Open Session on May 10th and trustees and senior administration were grouped to continue the consultation on the 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan. The activity focused on a front page for the Strategic Plan and the groups received draft statements based on the discussion from the May 10th Open Session. A final report will be presented to Board on June 28th.

Chairs Report re Communications and Advocacy Plan for 2016/2017

Chair Schenk introduced the report in accordance with Board Policy #2 re *Board of Trustees Job Description*. Trustees discussed what they felt needed to be continued and addressed a few changes to the Plan. Trustees will receive a draft of the revised plan and a final report will be brought forward to the September 13th Open Session for further discussion.

Follow up Letter from OFSAA

Chair Schenk noted due to time constraints the Letter from OFSAA will be addressed at a future meeting.

REGULAR SESSION**ROUTINE MATTERS****MOTION 2016 06 83****(N. Rothwell – L. Geddes)****RESOLVED THAT** this Board convene into Regular Session.**CARRIED****Approval of Agenda****MOTION 2016 06 84****(J. Moore – 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 2016 06 85****(J. Cairncross – N. Rothwell)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, May 24, 2016, be approved as presented.

CARRIED**Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

Committee of the Whole, Closed SessionTransportation Rate Schedule with District 8/36 School Bus Operators for 2016/2017**MOTION 2016 06 86****(R. Hunking – J. Moore)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the adjustment to the School Bus Operator Rate Schedules for Specialized Transportation and Non-Specialized Transportation as noted.

CARRIEDRFQ on Access Points**MOTION 16 06 87****(R. Hunking – D. Pratley)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve to award Cisco Meraki Cloud Managed Access Points to the firm Cloud Managed Networks.

CARRIEDNorth Perth Surplus Property**MOTION 16 06 88****(R. Hunking – N. Rothwell)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board accept and confirm the purchase and sale of Listowel Central Public School and Wallace Public School.

CARRIED**Trustee Reflection – Trustee Lynette Geddes**

A month ago, Trustee Hunking titled his reflection “the good, the bad and the ugly”. The timing was appropriate since May and June are probably the best illustrators of that gamut. We have awards celebrations, concerts, art shows and graduations juxtaposed with budgeting and the enrolment/accommodation report. And I am doing this reflection ‘on the fly’ given that busy schedule. This spring trustees also have the pleasure of discussing changes to our Strategic Plan and, in my opinion, the most important part of reviewing this plan is to hone our vision into workable, achievable goals. This is a two-part communication piece where the board expresses where we want to go and how we are going to get there based on input from all our stakeholders. Budgeting is then carried out within the framework of our Strategic Plan.

The board’s budgeting mirrors the fine balance parents walk between fiscal responsibility and ideals. How do we give the best to our kids without breaking the bank? Obviously this is not straight-forward. It is an exercise that demands the use of all of our 4C’s and a P. Problem-solving the limitations that finances impose through collaboratively using critical thinking to find creative learning opportunities and then communicating the how and why effectively. The financial constraints force a focusing on priorities and hopefully the difficult choices lead to an even better educational system down the road.

Accommodation Reviews are a good example. At first glance an AR is all about economics – how can we financially allocate space most efficiently? But an AR done well puts the primary focus on the ideal - what's best for our students? While very small schools are workable, students learn better and fare better emotionally when they have a similar-age group around them. They can learn from the different approach of another student; realize that they are not alone in sometimes – or even frequently – encountering difficulties and so more confidently reach out for help; have an increased opportunity to find a community of compatible friends while also growing through exposure to a more diverse population; and ultimately gain deeper learning through a broader range of interactions and experiences.

And the same is true for their teachers. Too few readily accessible peers can narrow the scope of thinking and limit a teacher's opportunities to grow in their daily teaching practice. And this, in turn, impacts the learning and well-being of their students.

Then there are the more esoteric aspects of both closing a school and budgeting such as balancing the in-school benefits to the students with longer bus travelling time and costs, less access to extracurricular activities, the loss of the possibility of the physical and emotional benefits of walking to school, and so on.

So spring and, in particular this four-year strategic planning time, is when Trustees are doing our most important work – the interweaving of quality education and economics. And then we are well paid by sharing in the celebrations of the year's accomplishments while continuing to embrace the concept of 'always learning'.

Good News

Chair Schenk presented the Jack A. MacDonald Award of Merit to Student Trustee Zach Misener. Chair Schenk explained the selection is based on a student who has a sound academic record throughout their career, accompanied by outstanding community service and leadership. Trustee Pratley noted there is only one of this award given in the province and not necessarily every year. Congratulations to Zach.

Trustee Cairncross extended congratulations to Student Trustee Shannon Edwards for being a successful entrepreneur in starting a new business in Goderich. Shannon was part of a program last year that received provincial funds to start.

Superintendent Blair announced four educators have travelled from Middleburg, South Africa arriving on June 2nd and have been hosted in staff homes. The visitors have participated in school based activities as well as the World Festival of Children's Theatre. The visitors have also toured both Huron and Perth counties. The purpose of their visit was to learn about inclusive education and they were overwhelmed at the amount of professional learning available to Avon Maitland teachers.

Superintendent Baker announced in a recent publication of the Ontario Teachers' Pension Plan stewardship report for 2016, Avon Maitland was recognized as 1st among 16 medium sized boards, 2nd among 11 Ceridian boards, and 7th among 72 school boards in their overall data quality. Superintendent Baker recognized HRS Officer (pension/payroll) Pat Datema, and Payroll Manager Mark Normanh for their efficiencies in tracking teacher leaves, pensions, etc.

Vice Chair Hunking announced Jillian Bjelan, a student at Central Huron Secondary School, recently received the Ontario Medal for Young Volunteers Award for contributing more than 1000 volunteer hours since entering high school. Jillian has donated her time to numerous events in her community and her school.

Vice Chair Hunking congratulated Jessica Payne, also a student at Central Huron Secondary School, on receiving the Schulich Leadership scholarship in the amount of \$60,000. The scholarship is a prestigious award for a high school graduated enrolling in a science, technology, engineering or math (STEM) undergraduate program at participating universities in Canada. Jessica will be attending Queens University.

Trustee Rothwell attended the celebrations on May 28th in North Perth community on the closing Listowel Central and Wallace Public Schools. The event was extremely well attended and received positive encouragement for the new school.

Student Trustee Update

Student Senate Committee

The students presented their research and results from their May 2016 Student Symposium. This year's symposium focus was on exploring ways where student's voices can be heard and students can become more empowered within their schools to lead others. They also covered digital citizenship and talked about their feedback from the symposium.

Staff Presentations

Strategic Plan/BIPSA Update

Director Doherty called upon Senior Administration to provide updates on the Board's priorities of Maximizing Student Outcomes and Create Positive, Inclusive Learning Environments as part of the Strategic Plan, and noted a more fulsome update will be presented in the fall as staff transition to the new Strategic Plan.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Report of the Finance Committee re Draft 2016/2017 Budget

Finance Chair Hunking presented the report on the Draft 2016/2017 Balanced Budget. The budget reflects total projected revenues and capital allocations of \$207,418,315 less the next transfer of reserves of \$360,510 totally \$207,057,805 which represents a decrease from the prior budget year of \$238,195. The projected operating expenses for 2016/2017 is \$198,402,721 while the capital budget is projected at \$8,655,084.

MOTION 2016 06 89

(R. Hunking – J. Cairncross)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the Operating Revenue and Transfers of Reserves totaling \$198,402,721 and Expense Estimates in the amount of \$198,402,721 for the period of September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017.

CARRIED

MOTION 2016 06 90

(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the Capital allocations and spending in the amount of \$8,655,084 for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017.

CARRIED

Chair Schenk thanked Associate Superintendent Carter and the Financial Services staff for their due diligence in producing a balanced budget.

Associate Superintendent Carter thanked senior administration and their departments for their work towards balancing the budget.

Approval of Tender: Renovations at Seaforth Public School

Superintendent Baird-Jackson explained the renovations are for a new entrance system to Seaforth Public School/Education Centre. The project will be funded through facility renewal.

MOTION 2016 06 91**(D. Pratley – J. Moore)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Wayne & Harold Smith Construction Ltd. for renovations at Seaforth Public School in the tender amount of \$144,640.00.

CARRIEDApproval of Tender: Windows and Masonry at St. Marys DCVI

Superintendent Baird-Jackson announced as part of the ongoing infrastructure improvements, this project will encompass window replacement and masonry repairs and will be funded through school renewal.

MOTION 2016 06 92**(L. Geddes – R. Wagler)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from K & L Construction Ltd for window and masonry repairs at St. Marys DCVI in the tender amount of \$329,395.00.

CARRIEDApproval of Tender: Renovations at Mitchell District High School

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported the renovations at Mitchell District High School will be to the cafeteria and will include replacing windows and exterior doors, floor, lighting and painting. The project will be funded through the facility condition improvement funding.

MOTION 2016 06 93**(R. Wagler – J. Moore)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Feltz Design Build for renovations at Mitchell District High School in the tender amount of \$387,277.61.

CARRIED**INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS****Director's Reports**Ad Hoc Committee on Emergent Issues

As Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee, Trustee Pratley presented the report and summarized the Committee's mandate and recommendation. The Committee will meet to discuss the draft administrative procedure prior to presenting to the Board in October.

MOTION 2016 06 94**(D. Pratley – L. Geddes)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board direct staff to prepare a revised version of AP #112 re Communications and Media Relations designed to address emergent issues. This revised AP will address matters raised in discussion by the Ad Hoc Committee on Emergent Issues, and be presented in draft form in an Open Session of the board in October 2016, for discussion.

CARRIED

Report of the Audit Committee re External Audit Planning Report for 2015/2016 Fiscal Year-End

Associate Superintendent Carter presented the annual audit report and noted the Audit Committee met with the Board's external auditors KPMG LLP on June 7th to review and discuss the proposed report for the year ending August 31, 2016.

MOTION 2016 06 95**(J. Cairncross – R. Wagler)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the Audit Planning Report for the Year Ending August 31, 2016 for the annual Financial Statement Audit as presented and accepted by the Audit Committee.

CARRIEDStaff Adjustments

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

- Blair McKay, Teacher at Listowel District SS effective June 30, 2016
- Nancy Skinner, Teacher at Listowel Eastdale PS effective June 30, 2016
- Mary Ross, Secretary at St. Marys DCVI effective July 31, 2016
- Sheila Billings, Custodian at Anne Hathaway PS effective August 31, 2016
- Catherine Richmond, Teacher at Stratford Central SS effective August 31, 2016
- Laura Browne, Teacher at Central Huron SS effective January 31, 2017

The following new hires have taken place:

- Douglas Chamney, Custodian at GDCI/FE Madill SS effective May 24, 2016
- Katie Padfield, Vice Principal at Seaforth PS effective September 1, 2016

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking reported highlights from the OPSBA Annual General meeting held in Ottawa from June 9th to the 11th. Chair Schenk was appointed as alternate member to the Policy Development, Trustee Cairncross was appointed to the Education Program Work Team, and Trustee Pratley was acclaimed as Vice President, Western Region.

Minutes from Board Committees

Audit Committee: March 29, 2016

Joint Health & Safety Committee: March 31, 2016

Finance Committee: May 24, 2016

Student Advisory Committee: May 24, 2016

Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

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

- 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)

- SAL: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 9:00 a.m.
- Trustee Tour at North Perth Westfield Elementary School: Tuesday, June 21, 2016 – 5:30 p.m.
- Municipal and Community Partners: Wednesday, June 22, 2016 – 3:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2016 06 96

(N. Rothwell – J. Moore)

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