

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, October 11, 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, Cheri Carter, Paul Langis, Jane Morris and Associate Superintendent Cheri Carter

Resource: Communications Manager Wes MacVicar

Recording Secretary: Barb Crawford

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schenk called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2016 10 121

(J. Moore – R. Hunking)

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 Chair for the Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION

MOTION 2016 10 122

(J. Cairncross – R. Hunking)

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

CARRIED

The Core

Superintendent Baird-Jackson introduced Lisa Bruce and Hugh Cox who have lead the transition from First Class email to GAFE and have established and created the Core, through input from numerous groups. The Core is a landing page for all Avon Maitland employees.

Next Generation Learning (NGL): Evidence of Impact

Superintendent Morris explained that funding for the research was enabled by a grant from CODE and Avon Maitland engaged Dr. Michelle Searle and Dr. Lori Kirkpatrick to begin research on the evidence of impact. The achievement, learning skills, and attendance of students before they received the iPads were compared to after they received the iPads.

Board Policies 9 and 10

Associate Superintendent Carter presented the changes to Board Policy #9 specifically Section 10 of the policy, and Board Policy #10 Section 5 re Audit Committee and Section 6 re Finance Committee. Associate Superintendent Carter explained that staff are reviewing Administrative Procedures 515 and 518 which will reflect the changes in policies 9 and 10.

Director Doherty noted the policies were brought forward based on edits from Associate Superintendent Carter and that further discussion would be required for both policies regarding other sections. Trustees agreed to defer both policies to a future Open Session.

Chair Schenk resumed the Chair at 8:02 p.m. and reconvened into Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION**ROUTINE MATTERS**

MOTION 2016 10 123	(R. Hunking – D. Pratley)
RESOLVED THAT this Board convene into Regular Session.	CARRIED

Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2016 10 124	(J. Cairncross – D. Pratley)
RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended.	CARRIED

The following item was added to New Business:

Trustee Pratley asked that Bill C-241 – An Act to Amend the Excise Tax Act (school authorities) be aged to the agenda.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION 2016 10 125	(R. Wagler – J. Moore)
RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, September 27, 2016, be approved as presented.	CARRIED

MOTION 2016 10 126	(R. Wagler – L. Geddes)
RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board special board meeting held Tuesday, October 4, 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

Motion from October 4, 2016 Committee of the Whole, Closed Session

MOTION 2016 10 127**(A. Kent – L. Geddes)**

RESOLVED THAT for reasons discussed in the October 4, 2016 Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, the Avon Maitland District School Board hereby resolves to engage external assistance to look into a matter involving information discussed in the October 4, 2016 Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

CARRIED**Trustee Reflection – Randy Wagler**

I love the Fall, and ever since I can remember it's probably been my favourite part of the year, although I do like all the seasons. It's helped that my birthday is in September, and of course there's the crisp fall air, the beautiful colours, the crunchy apples that are harvested, and last but certainly not least, I loved the start of school again in September. I loved school because it was a positive experience for me - wonderful teachers, great friends, and I was fortunate to have good academic success. As a Trustee my goals have been to ensure that every student in our District receives the best education possible no matter what their challenges are or unique circumstances they find themselves in, that we continue to see improvements in the delivery of education in our District each year, and ultimately that each student has the same positive experience that I did, so that when they leave our system they become productive, successful members of our society.

As an individual Trustee, I understand I have little influence over seeing these goals happen because I realize that it's only as a collective Board that we act. That's why I'm so pleased with our new, or should I say updated Strategic Plan for 2016-2020 which we passed in June. I'm pleased because I believe it sets the foundation for our Board to ensure our students are successful which is what our role as Trustees is focused on. I'm also pleased because it represented input from all our education stakeholders: Students, Parents and Community Members, Staff and Trustees. So what is specifically I like about this new 4 year Strategic Plan?

First, it begins with a commitment to students: "We Will Create Positive, Inclusive Learning Environments and Maximize Outcomes for Students". As a Trustee, I always try to remind myself that everything I do needs to ultimately reflect on serving students and making education better for them.

Second, it talks about 'how' we're going to achieve this plan, including involvement and engagement from not just from those stakeholders who are in our District, namely students, families, community and staff, but also beyond our District to the world, recognizing that our students are and will continue to be global citizens. We also recognize that education isn't static, so we've included the need to look to evidence-informed teaching and learning for inspiration. And of course, as a small rural Board with limited resources we understand that innovation that leverages emerging technology can really engage our students and improve their overall achievement. Our discussion earlier tonight in Open Session really demonstrated this point.

Finally, this Strategic plan really emphasizes the Principles that drive our actions: equity, character and stewardship. For me, this speaks about our values and our culture. I'm proud to be part of a Board that makes sure everyone is given the same opportunity to succeed no matter where they live in our District - that's equity; I'm proud to be part of a Board that embraces the 10 character attributes that we have adopted: compassion, courage, empathy, fairness, honesty, integrity, perseverance, optimism, respect, and responsibility; and I'm proud to be a Board that values good stewardship of all of our resources: financial, environmental, and so on, because we recognize that we need to be good caretakers of all that has been entrusted to us.

I feel fortunate to be part of a Board that has such a comprehensive, student-focused Strategic Plan that I as an individual Trustee and I trust we as a Board can embrace so completely. I look forward to seeing how this Strategic Plan will ensure that all of our students have the same kind of positive education experience that I had, so that maybe Fall and the return of school will become their favourite time of year like it has for me. Thank you.

Good News

Superintendent Blair presented a short video about a positive inclusive learning environments where a custodian Andre Malley created an activity board for a primary autistic student.

Trustee Rothwell attended Listowel District Secondary School's commencement and brought greetings from the Board.

Chair Schenk attended FE Madiill Secondary School's commencement on October 7th.

Trustee Moore noted the catchment of schools involved in phase 1 of schools cash on line has been positive. Trustee Moore congratulated staff on introducing this service.

Student Trustee Update

Student trustee Edwards reported the students are proceeding with their project for presentation to the Board at a later date.

Student/Staff Presentations

Superintendent Blair introduced Ross MacSorley from Stratford Central who brought Student Newcomer Miriam Al Labad from Syria and ESL Coordinator Coralee Matthews. Miriam spoke to the trustees about her experience in Avon Maitland and expressed her appreciation for the opportunities she has received since her arrival.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Board Policy #16

Director Doherty noted trustees received the edits to the policy at the September 27th Board meeting.

MOTION 2016 10 128

(R. Wagler – D. Pratley)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the revised Policy #16 Selection of the Director.

CARRIED

INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented the report for information. The following staff adjustments were reported:

Retirements and Resignations:

Karen Ehgoetz, Teacher at Milverton PS

Lissa Puttock, Secretary at South Perth Centennial PS

New Hires:

Tiffany Seip (Recalled), DECE at Stephen Central PS

Jenalee Shean, Strive EA at Maitland River ES

Shauna Clark, Teacher at Exeter ES

Stacey Middleton-Lyons, Teacher at North Woods ES

Darrin Boyd, Hardward Technician at Learning Resources Centre

Jessica Parkinson, Teacher at Stephen CPS

OPSBA Update

Trustee Pratley announced Local Government Week will be held from October 16th to 22nd. Trustee Pratley invited all trustees to let schools know they would be willing to present to students and that resources for presentations are available on the OPSBA website.

Western Region Meeting will be held on November 5th and hosted by Lambton Kent DSB at their Education Centre on 200 Wellington Street, Sarnia. Presentation will begin at 9:00 a.m. and the meeting will begin at 10:30.

Minutes from Board Committees

- a) Joint Health & Safety Committee – May 26, 2016
- b) Student Senate Committee – September 27, 2016

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Pratley asked for discussion Bill C-241 which is currently before the Federal Parliament. The amendments to the Excise Tax Act (School Authorities) seeks to increase the goods and services tax (GST) rebate for school authorities from 68% to 100%. Municipalities in Canada have a 100% GST rebate. The Ontario Public School Boards' Association joined as a signatory in the Canadian School Boards' Association letter supporting Bill C-241. Trustee Pratley suggested the Board send a letter to our two MPs asking that they support C-241. Trustees agreed to defer until more information is available and trustees have had an opportunity to review the Bill. Associate Superintendent Carter will do some investigating into the Bill.

MOTION 2016 10 129**(D. Pratley – N. Rothwell)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board send letters to the two MPs, representing our geographical area, asking to support Bill C-241.

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

Tuesday, October 11, 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, October 25, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. Director's Review Committee, 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session, 7:30 p.m. Student Senate Committee, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session

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

AODA: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

PIC: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 – 5:30 p.m. Committee meeting, followed by School Council Orientation at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT**MOTION 2016 10 130****(N. Rothwell – R. Wagler)**

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:46 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
October 25, 2016

Colleen Schenk
Chair of the Board

Ted Doherty
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board