

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
8:00 P.M.
Tuesday, January 24, 2017
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, Colleen Schenk, Randy Wagler

Absent: Nancy Rothwell

Senior Staff: Ted Doherty, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, Superintendents Peggy Blair, Jane Morris and Paul Langis, and Associate Superintendent Carter

Recording Secretary: Barb Crawford

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wagler called the meeting to order at 7:00 for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2017 01 175 (L. Geddes – 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.

MOTION 2017 01 176 (C. Schenk – R. Hunking)
RESOLVED THAT this Board convene into Regular Session
CARRIED

REGULAR SESSION

Chair Wagler recited the Opening Statement:

“We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Anishnaabe Peoples. We wish to recognize the long history of First Nations and Metis Peoples in Ontario and show our respect to them today. We recognize their stewardship of the land; may we all live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship.”

ROUTINE MATTERS
Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2017 01 177 (R. Hunking – 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 2017 01 178****(D. Pratley – C. Schenk)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, December 6, 2016 be approved as presented.

CARRIED**MOTION 2017 01 179****(L. Geddes – R. Hunking)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board poll vote held Thursday, December 8, 2016 be approved as presented.

CARRIED**MOTION 2017 01 180****(C. Schenk – J. Moore)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board special meeting held Thursday, December 22, 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, Report to Board Public Session

Vice Chair Kent reported there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

Trustee Reflection – Vice Chair Kent

As Trustees, we have committed to taking this time in our board meeting to reflect on our Strategic Plan. I have always found this to be a challenging exercise. This evening I hope to offer some brief comments on how I find that our plan not only serves as a structure for our practices within our board, but how it can also inform the way we interact with the world outside our school system. I have said before that I believe the purpose of public education is to provide our students with opportunities and guidance while they are in our system, so that when they move on, they have the knowledge and skills to be confident, well-rounded global citizens. I am proud of our strategic plan as I think it speaks directly to this.

There is so much important, formative work that happens in our schools. We need school to be a place where students can gain the confidence they need to grow into determined adults. Ensuring that learning is happening in positive and inclusive environments is key to our students' success. While, from time to time, we may question our views on exactly what this looks like, it is our *commitment* to this *priority* that should be our focus.

We will base our board policies and strategic directions on research and evidence. We will plan accordingly, will act with conviction, we will observe our practices, we will reflect on the execution of our plans, and we will redirect our efforts as necessary. This cycle must be the way we move forward as an organization.

As we came to the end of our last 4-year strategic plan we sought input from staff, students, parents and other stakeholders. We found that our plan was a strong one, but had a few gaps. We added some focus about engagement with our world and the creative potential of emerging technologies. I think these are significant additions to the plan and I just want, briefly, to touch on these two things.

First, encouraging our students to be engaged with our greater society is a step on the way to maximizing outcomes. We must support one another, and learn to depend on one another. Learning

that we are part of a community that extends beyond the walls of our home or school is extremely important.

And I just want to mention something I see as related here, in terms of engagement with our communities and our world. Over the weekend we saw women, men and students both here at home, and ALL OVER THE WORLD, join together in solidarity, marching in groups of thousands, and dozens, finding community in one way or another. I am certainly interested in what happens next.

Secondly, advances in technology have made our classrooms look entirely different from the way they did when I was a student. My children, now students in our system, have access to technology I couldn't have imagined at their age. As a school board we can be at the forefront of innovation. If we can empower our teachers by giving them the expertise to use technology creatively in their classrooms, then we can offer our students the opportunities to use those technologies to aid in their learning. This can be everything from apps that help with reading, writing, or math, to construction, or communication, or robotics.

If our aim as humans is to effect change to make our world a better place, then we, as a school board, must make sure we have the right policies and supports in place so that our students move on from our system with the skills and confidence they need to live as responsible global citizens. We talk about the principles of character, equity and stewardship. Our students need to know what those things mean for themselves, not only as individuals, but as parts of a greater whole. We need to exemplify those principles in our daily life. We must ensure that those principles inform the directions we take in education.

I know this sounds like a bunch of rhetoric, but I believe it to be true. It's important to me. While there are always new challenges to face, and I know that we can do better, I believe that Avon Maitland is on the right track, and I'm proud to have some small role in that.

Good News

Trustee Pratley announced Stratford Northwestern SS's Culinary Teacher Paul Finkelstein will receive the Governor General's Meritorious Service Medal. Paul Finkelstein strives to improve a healthy relationship between kids and food. He's helped change student's perspective on nutrition and is very deserving of this recognition.

Trustee Cairncross recognized the successful district PD day on December 2nd. The School Year Calendar Committee took responsibility for the day and employee groups were involved in the planning. The group was commended for their significant participation in the successful day.

Student Trustee Update

There was no student trustee update.

Student/Staff Presentations

There were no student or staff presentations.

Public Delegations

Chair Wagler welcomed the delegation and reiterated the Rules of Order noting there is a 10 minute time limit, and there will be no debate however trustees may ask questions of clarification following the presentation. Chair Wagler explained that following the presentation the Board will take the presentation under consideration and may refer to a Committee or to a future Board meeting. A response will be made available within 30 days of the delegation's presentation.

Kathy Lucas, member of the Listowel Parent Group opened the delegation's presentation and introduced Bruce Fitzgerald, spokesperson for Listowel Parent Group.

Following the presentation Chair Wagler asked what specifically the delegation was asking for.

Bruce Fitzgerald responded that they are asking that a thorough and unbiased evaluation take place to determine if the method of full inclusion is meeting the needs of Avon Maitland students.

Trustees agreed to refer the presentation to a Committee of the Whole, Open Session for further discussion. Chair Wagler announced that Dr. Sheila Bennett will be presenting to the February 14th Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

MOTION 2017 01 181**(J. Moore – L. Geddes)**

RESOLVED THAT the Listowel Parent Group delegation's presentation be discussed at the Committee of the Whole, Open Session on Tuesday, February 14, 2017.

CARRIED**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**Finance Committee Report re Draft Revised Estimates 2016/2017

Finance Chair Hunking presented the Committee's report in detail. Revised Estimates are filed annual on December 15th. Avon Maitland's practice has been to present Revised Estimates for board approval although this is not a Ministry required practice. There was an increase in enrolment from the original Estimates of 298.34 average daily enrolment – 199.45 in elementary and 98.89 in secondary. Total revenue for 2016/2017 has increased by approximately \$14.5 million from the June Estimates. Total expenses has also increased by almost \$3.3 million from the June Estimates. The total capital budget has increased by over \$12 million from the June Estimates.

MOTION 2017 01 182**(R. Hunking – C. Schenk)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the Operating Revenue and Transfers of Reserves totaling \$201,692,635 and Expense Estimates in the amount of \$201,692,635 for the period of September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017.

CARRIED**MOTION 2017 01 183****(R. Hunking – J. Moore)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the Capital allocations and spending in the amount of \$20,843,108 for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017.

CARRIED**INFORMATION REPORTS**French as a Second Language (FSL) in Avon Maitland District School Board

Superintendent Morris highlighted the report as a follow up to board motion from February 23, 2016 *"That the Avon Maitland District School Board examine strategies to provide enhanced French Second Language opportunities for all students in Avon Maitland."* FSL programming is funded through an agreement with the federal government and flows to the Ministry of Education and then to school boards. FSL in Ontario is guided by a vision and by 3 goals. The vision for FSL in Ontario is that 'students in English-language school boards have the confidence and ability to use French effectively in their daily lives'. (See the following link [FSL Graphic Illustration](#)) (control/click on link).

All school Boards are required to write a 3-year plan. The Goals for FSL in Ontario [FSL Framework Ontario Document](#) (control/click on link). The goals are 1) Increase student confidence, proficiency, and achievement in FSL; 2) Increase the percentage of students studying FSL until graduation; and 3) Increase student, educator, parent, and community engagement in FSL.

Superintendent Morris highlighted Avon Maitland's work in support of FSL. Superintendent Morris also confirmed upcoming activities including in February 50 grade 8 and 9 students from across the district will participate in a second language enriched excursion to St. Donat, Quebec. In July 2017 AMDSB will offer a grade 11 and 12 FSL course where students will be travelling to Quebec City, Montreal and Halifax. In the spring 12 students will participate in an exchange with students from Gaspé Quebec as part of the YMCA Youth Exchange Program.

This school year there are 30 FSL educators trained as DELF correctrices and one as DELF formatrice. In May 2017 all grade 12 students in FSL courses will be afforded the opportunity to challenge the DELF.

When asked about trying to embed French into grade 3 and under, Superintendent Morris responded that there is no curricula for FSL below grade 4, and boards that have chosen to deliver before grade 4 have either created or purchased curricula. Avon Maitland does not have the resources to do this. Boards are not funded below grade 4 and currently receive \$300/pupil from grades 4 to 8. Additional resources for this programming would be a decision of the Board's to fund. One major concern for the board is obtaining qualified French teachers.

Trustee Cairncross asked if students in a grade 3 / 4 split have the 40 minutes of French each day. Superintendent Morris responded that one of the biggest challenges is that there is no curriculum for grade 3 so the expectation is that they are not receiving French instruction; however some of the French teachers may try to get students involved in oral activities but wouldn't be accessed on curriculum.

Expense Statements for September 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016

Associate Superintendent Carter presented the first monthly report on expenses. All figures are on a modified PSAB basis as it is the required model for all school boards. Capital spending is included in the Supplies and Services figures. As at the end of December Associate Superintendent Carter noted that salary, benefits, supplies and service contracts are tracking according to budget and there are not concerns at this time.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented the following staff adjustments for information:

Resignations/Retirements:

Karen Parkinson, Teacher at Bedford Public School effective December 6, 2016
 Kathy Noyes, Secretary at St Marys DC&VI effective December 31, 2016
 Linda Morley, Educational Assistant at South Huron District HS effective January 30, 2017
 Donald Scheerer, Teacher at Stratford Northwestern SS effective January 31, 2017
 Anne Talbot, teacher at FE Madill SS effective January 31, 2017
 Tom Walsh, teacher at South Huron DHS effective January 31, 2017
 Tony Dayman, Head Custodian at Exeter Elementary School effective March 30, 2017
 Evelyn Elder, teacher at South Huron DHS effective June 30, 2017

New Hires:

William Bowers, Custodian at North Perth Westfield ES effective November 28, 2016
 Natalie Killick, Teacher at Bedford Public School effective December 12, 2016
 Jennifer Arts, Accounts Payable at Seaforth Education Centre effective January 2, 2017

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking reported Avon Maitland was well represented at the recent OPSBA Public Education Symposium in Toronto. Sessions were very informative. OPSBA has reopened their survey on student well-being. Superintendent Blair and staff have completed the Ministry survey.

Trustee Cairncross serves on the Education Program Work Team and reported boards will be looking at effective practices in indigenous education in the spring.

Trustee Hunking reminded trustees the annual OPSBA Labour Relations Symposium will be held in Toronto from April 6th to the 7th. The Regional OPSBA meeting will be hosted by Thames Valley District School Board on April 8th.

Minutes from Board Committees

Joint Health and Safety Committee Minutes: September 29, 2016

SEAC: November 2, 2016

Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Pratley reported for information that Education Minister Hunter has asked that boards address anything that could be considered offensive with respect to the use of names relating to various teams and/or logos. Director Doherty indicated that this request was also made last year, and our Board is compliant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- Tuesday, February 14, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Open Session, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- Tuesday, February 28, 2017 – 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)

- SAL: Tuesday, January 24, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, February 1, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2017 01 184

(J. Cairncross – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
Date approved

Randy Wagler
Chair of the Board

Ted Doherty
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board