

# AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning*

## MINUTES

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**8:00 P.M.**  
**Tuesday, February 14, 2017**  
**Maitland Room, Seaforth Education Centre**  
**62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, ON**

### **PRESENT:**

**Trustees:** Lynette Geddes, Robert Hunking, Alyson Kent, Julie Moore, Doug Pratley, Nancy Rothwell, Colleen Schenk, Randy Wagler

**Absent:** Judy Cairncross

**Senior Staff:** Ted Doherty, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, Superintendents Janet Baird-Jackson, Jodie Baker, Peggy Blair, Jane Morris and Paul Langis

**Student Trustees:** Jesse Russell and Shannon Edwards

**Recording Secretary:** Barb Crawford

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wagler called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION 2017 02 185** (C. Schenk – 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.

**MOTION 2017 02 186** (R. Hunking – L. Geddes)

**RESOLVED THAT** this Board convene into Open Session

**CARRIED**

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION**

**MOTION 2017 02 187** (L. Geddes – R. Hunking)

**RESOLVED THAT** the C/W Open Session agenda be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

*What are the Benefits of Inclusion* – Dr. Sheila Bennett, Professor, Associate Dean at Brock University, and Dr. Tiffany Gallagher, Associate Professor Director at Brock University

Director Doherty provided brief comments to this evenings' presentation and introduced Dr. Bennett and Dr. Gallagher.

Dr. Bennett and Dr. Gallagher referenced literature that represented various benefits of inclusion, talked about the Charity Model and the Social Model, presented background information from The Salamanca Report, and provided an overview of inclusion movement in Canada.

Chair Wagler thanked Dr. Bennett and Dr. Gallagher and noted trustees appreciated their time and the research that has been completed for Avon Maitland.

Chair Wagler opened discussion on the disposition from the January 24<sup>th</sup> Delegation from Listowel District Secondary School.

Trustee Geddes proposed a motion that the board refer the delegation's presentation to the Board's Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) which is an advisory committee to the Board. Trustee Geddes noted SEAC consists of community members from various fields all within special education. Trustees discussed Trustee Geddes' proposal in detail and the following motion was brought forward.

**MOTION 2017 02 188****(D. Pratley – L. Geddes)**

**RESOLVED THAT** that the Avon Maitland District School Board ask SEAC to provide the board with processes and strategies for carrying out a review that consists of the following:

1. Describe the vision in AMDSB for inclusive education, and in particular for those students with developmental disabilities;
2. Outline the current practices throughout the District with feedback on their effectiveness through input from all stakeholders including but not limited to: students, parents, teachers, EAs, and Administration;
3. Identify best practices and opportunities for growth, and as appropriate, provide recommendations to ensure that the vision for inclusive education is realized throughout our District.

And that a progress report on strategies/processes be brought forward following the April SEAC meeting.

**CARRIED**Topics of Future Committee of the Whole, Open Session Meetings

Chair Wagler referred to the Agenda and listed the topics for upcoming Open Session meetings and asked trustees to review the list which will be further discussed at the February 28<sup>th</sup> Open Session meeting. Trustees were encouraged to bring forward other topics they would like to have on a future agenda for Open Session meetings.

**MOTION 2017 02 189****(C. Schenk – L. Geddes)**

**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**

<b>MOTION 2017 02 190</b>	<b>(C. Schenk – J. Moore)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the Agenda of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting be approved as presented.	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

**Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**  
There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

**Approval of Minutes**

From the FSL information report presented at the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting, Trustee Geddes noted that Superintendent Langis had provided information regarding the difficulties in staffing and funding for primary FI instruction, as well as finding qualified FSL teachers.

<b>MOTION 2017 02 191</b>	<b>(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, January 24, 2017 be approved as amended.	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

<b>MOTION 2017 02 192</b>	<b>(J. Moore – N. Rothwell)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board held Wednesday, February 8, 2017 be approved as presented.	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

**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 presented a motion from the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session on February 8<sup>th</sup>.

<b>MOTION 2017 02 193</b>	<b>(A. Kent – N. Rothwell)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the appointment of Dr. Lisa Walsh as Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, effective April 1, 2017.	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

<b>MOTION 2017 02 194</b>	<b>(A. Kent – C. Schenk)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the extension of Ted Doherty's Terms of Agreement to March 31, 2017.	
	<b>CARRIED</b>

### **Trustee Reflection – Trustee Pratley**

Last December, just prior to Christmas I volunteered to help the Stratford Kiwanis Club with their mammoth task of delivering over 600 Christmas baskets to needy households in Stratford. Stratford, by most standards, is considered a "well to do" place. The city is consistently rated as "a great place to retire", a city with "a high quality of life" and a Canadian centre for the arts. By volunteering to help with Christmas basket delivery, one gets to see first-hand that there is also some misery, poverty and inequality even in an affluent small city in the affluent part of Ontario that we are so privileged to live in.

My usual duty on these occasions is to help assemble baskets. It is an assembly line with about 25 volunteers working to make up baskets and ready them for delivery. The atmosphere is congenial and collegial. Part way through this task I was asked to help a couple do their deliveries. They had some physical limitations but still wanted to help deliver baskets. They had done so for over 20 years. As hard as it is for you, my fellow trustees, to imagine, I was to be the "muscle" that hauled baskets upstairs and into apartments. Most families were excited to get these baskets and the job was a pleasant one as I remembered from previous years. Bringing Christmas cheer reinforces the old adage of being blessed to give.

One delivery will stay with me for a long time. It was near the end of our duties in an apartment building where rents were reasonable and accommodation was not. When the door opened, I felt that I was transformed into Dickensian London. An elderly woman, clearly the grandmother of the children behind her, greeted me with a humourless expression. She directed me to put the basket in the hall behind her. She opened the door more fully to allow me to do so and in so doing revealed two young girls. I would guess their ages to be 8 and 10. As an educator my first thought was "Why are these girls not in school? After all it is a school day". The youngest one particularly distracted me as she is about the age of one of my granddaughters. She was wearing a dirty shift style dress and had bare feet that I could not help but notice, were badly in need of bathing. Her big brown eyes were transfixed on me as were mine on her. After a few short seconds I realized that I was probably rudely staring at her; I quickly blurted out an awkward "Merry Christmas" and exited shutting the door.

I'm sure that I had tears in my eyes as the stairs that I descended were strangely "out of focus". The irrational thought entered my head that I should have swept the young girl away and taken her to live in the relative luxury and love that my wife and I could provide. Perhaps I should go back and give them some money. I felt hopeless, powerless and depressed.

There are many solutions to ending inequality. For just as many reasons they do not appear to be working.

And then I thought about what we are doing in our schools. We are trying to address issues of poor nutrition, low self-esteem, poverty and so many other ills of our world. I applaud our staff who strive to create the conditions and programs that will lead to a much better future for all of our students and thereby our society. You do not see these faces every day but you do the work to address these needs every day. It is easy to be distracted by in the minutiae, politics and tangential issues. We get focused on EQAO scores, grad rates, credit accumulation and the like but despite that you, our staff continue to look for more human ways to serve. A good education in a caring environment will not solve all of the desperate needs of our world but it is a great start and we have the privilege of being a part of that work.

### **Good News**

Communications Manager Wes MacVicar noted in celebrating National Inclusive Education Month, Community Living Ontario extended an invitation to all elementary schools to participate in a contest that was intended to promote and raise awareness regarding inclusive education. Avon Maitland students placed in three categories: first place video was awarded to Exeter Elementary School, third place poem to a grade 3 student from Seaforth Public School and honourable mention poem to five students from Goderich Public School. Congratulations to all staff and students who participated.

Superintendent Langis announced the recent release of the Board's Emerging Leadership Development Program for all staff.

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Superintendent Baker announced the positive feedback on student success data from Semester 1. Provincial data suggests we are exceeding success rates in the province.

Trustee Hunking participated in judging Clinton Public School student's speeches noting the junior and senior students were all very impressive. Congratulations to all students who participated.

### **Student Trustee Update**

Student Trustee Russell reported the student senators were reviewing the preliminary results of their survey. The survey was completed by 2300 students. The results will be presented to trustees at a later meeting.

### **Staff Presentations**

Inside the Strategic Plan: We Will Create Positive, Inclusive Learning Environments, and Maximize Outcomes for Students

Director Doherty provided introductory comments about the renewed Strategic Plan. Director Doherty expressed appreciation to Communications Manager Wes MacVicar and Communications Associate Tim Bilcke for their work on revamping the Board's website and specifically the Strategic Plan. Director Doherty called on Superintendents to present key elements that their staff continue to focus on.

Superintendent Blair highlighted Positive Inclusive Learning Environments and the Inclusive Education strategies and indicators of success from Equity and Inclusivity.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson highlighted the Safe and Welcoming Learning Environment strategies and indicators.

Superintendent Langis talked about the Succession Planning Program and highlighted the indicators including the Aspiring Leaders program that will be revised and relaunched in the spring of 2017.

Superintendent Baker reported on the Progression of Skills specifically strategy #3 related to supporting teachers by technology coaches. Indicators of success were highlighted.

Superintendent Morris spoke to the accelerated growth in literacy and numeracy strategies and how staff will continue to best support schools to support students. Numeracy is the focus in FDK to grade 6 and FDK to grade 8 schools, and literacy is the focus for grades 7 to 12 and 9 to 12 schools.

Director Doherty summarized the presentations and emphasized that staff continue to work diligently with evidence-based practice and seek to have third party experts in the appropriate field of research confirm we are on the right track.

### **Public Delegations**

No delegations were received.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**

There were no items for action.

### **INFORMATION REPORTS**

#### Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented the following staff adjustments for information:

#### Retirements/Resignations:

Philip Conley, Teacher at South Huron DHS effective June 30, 2017

Teresa Hopkinson, Speech/Language Pathologist at the Education Centre effective June 30, 2017

Brian Nesbitt, Teacher at Listowel District SS effective June 30, 2017

Kim Walker, Teacher at Maitland River ES effective June 30, 2017

#### New Hires:

Dianne Mohr, Secretary at St. Marys DCVI effective January 26, 2017

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking reported OPSBA is recruiting for an Executive Director. Trustees were reminded of the Labour Relations Symposium on April 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> and online registration will be available soon. Trustee Pratley reminded trustees of the Regional meeting to be held on April 8<sup>th</sup> in London. More details will follow.

Chair Wagler noted trustees will begin to discuss OPSBA Priorities at the February 28<sup>th</sup> Open Session and trustees will receive the package for review prior to the meeting.

Minutes from Board Committees

SEAC: December 7, 2016 and January 4, 2017

Chair's Activity Update

Chair Wagler reported on his activities since the January 24<sup>th</sup> board meeting. On January 24<sup>th</sup> prior to Board meeting Vice Chair Kent, Director Doherty and Chair Wagler met with Federation leaders to discuss various ways to promote public education in Avon Maitland as part of our Advocacy Plan.

Correspondence

No correspondence was presented.

**NEW BUSINESS**

No new business was presented.

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

- Tuesday, February 28, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Open Session, 7:30 p.m. Student Advisory Committee 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- Tuesday, March 28, 2017 – 5:00 Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Open Session, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session

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

- HPSTS: Tuesday, February 28, 2017 – 3:00 p.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, March 1, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.
- AODA: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION 2017 02 195**

**(J. Moore – C. Schenk)**

**RESOLVED THAT** this meeting be adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario  
February 28, 2017

Randy Wagler  
Chair of the Board

Ted Doherty  
Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board