

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

**MINUTES**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION,  
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION  
and REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

**5:00 p.m.**

**Tuesday, September 25, 2018**

**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, Al Sygrove, Randy Wagler

**Absent:** Julie Moore

**Senior Staff:** Janet Baird-Jackson (Acting Director), Superintendents Jodie Baker, Kim Black, Paul Langis, Jane Morris and Associate Superintendent Cheri Carter

**Student Trustee:** Natalie Moore

**Resource:** Wes MacVicar and Dani Rathwell

**Recording Secretary:** Barb Crawford

**CALL TO ORDER**

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION 2018-10-09-471**

**(C. Schenk – L. Geddes)**

**RESOLVED THAT** this Board convene into Committee of the Whole, Closed Session at 5:09 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION**

**MOTION 2018-10-09-472**

**(N. Rothwell – R. Hunking)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the Agenda of the Avon Maitland District School Board Open Session meeting be approved.

**CARRIED**

Communication and Advocacy Plan 2018/2019

Trustees reviewed the Plan for 2018/2019 and provided revisions. The Plan will be brought forward to the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting for approval. It was also agreed that the Plan should become an Appendix to Board Policy #9.

Board Policy Review

Board policies 11 and 12 were brought forward for further review. A Notice of Motion will be brought forward to the October 23<sup>rd</sup> Board meeting. Policies 3, 4 8 and 13 will be brought forward to the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting for review.

Trustee Open Time – Questions / Issues

Trustees discussed planning an orientation session for the incoming trustees. The orientation will take place in early January, 2019. More information to follow. Chair Wagler will draft a plan for an orientation session prior to the November 27<sup>th</sup> board meeting to prepare the incoming trustees for the December Inaugural.

**RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION****MOTION 2018-10-09-473****(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)****RESOLVED THAT** this Board reconvene into Regular Session at 7:20 p.m.**CARRIED**

Chair Wagler called a recess at 7:20 p.m.

The Board reconvened into Regular Session at 7:30 p.m.

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 Indigenous Peoples in Canada 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**

The following amendments were made to the agenda:

Consent Items were confirmed.

**MOTION 2018-10-09-474****(A. Sygrove – A. Kent)****RESOLVED THAT** the Agenda of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting be approved as amended.**CARRIED****Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

*No trustee made a declaration of pecuniary interest.*

**Approval of Minutes**

The following amendment was made in the report of the IEAC. It should state FNMI.

**MOTION 2018-10-09-475****(L. Geddes – C. Schenk)****RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, September 25, 2018 be approved as amended.**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 Hunking confirmed there were no reports from Closed Session.

**Trustee Reflection – Trustee Kent**

Since this will be my final Trustee Reflection, I was hoping to be able to say something profound, but I decided to lower my expectations, and just simply reflect on a few things I’ve learned over the past 8

years in this role. Usually we are reflecting on the work we do to improve student achievement and well-being, and I don't want to take away from that, but I wanted to make this a more personal reflection. To start this process, I went back to look at the material I produced when I first ran for election in 2010. I wanted to see what I thought was important for our students at that time. There are three points I noted on my flyer – Funding for the early years, effectively integrating new technologies into the classroom, and ensuring educational access for all students, regardless of ability. Over the past eight years these three issues have certainly remained as consistent priorities of our board, and they are ones where we have done some excellent work. We have successfully implemented Full-Day Kindergarten in all of our schools, and we have significantly expanded daycare spaces in Perth and Huron Counties, with the help of our community partners. Our Next Generation Learning project has ensured that all students, beginning in grade 7, have equitable access to an individual digital device for use as an Avon Maitland student. Our commitment to inclusive classrooms has been recognized provincially, and we continue to refine our work in this area. I know that our ongoing efforts to improve in all these areas will ensure that our students have the best possible opportunities.

When I came into this position I knew that I would have a lot to learn. There were five of us who were newly elected in 2010, and we were all grateful to have a solid group of “seasoned” trustees to guide us into our new role. Those folks were all so welcoming and encouraging that I soon felt comfortable in the position. Despite my confidence in my existing knowledge and experience, I now know that I didn't truly understand the role of the Trustee until I was at least a year or two into it. Learning the intricacies of how the education system works in practice was a complicated process. Unless one comes from a background working within the public school system, understanding the structures in place and the terminology used on a regular basis is a real challenge. I remember one session we had early on where system leaders gave brief presentations on their roles and responsibilities, which was followed by a game of BINGO where trustees had to mark their cards as certain terms and abbreviations were used in presentations that followed. This was a fun way to begin to immerse ourselves into the new environment.

Another discovery, which was something I should have known, but did not fully comprehend, is that all staff and board decisions are significantly more complex than they first appear. As an engaged member of my community I thought that I would be bringing a wealth of knowledge and skills to the table. And although I think I did do that on some level, I have certainly been humbled by learning more about the multi-faceted approaches that lead to every decision made by our senior team or board of trustees. Everything seemed so clear to me from the outside looking in, but the more I learned about how the school board operates, the more I realized I didn't actually know or understand. We are fortunate to have a strong team of thoughtful and dedicated leaders at the Ed Centre, and I've enjoyed the process of learning more about our system from them.

One area where I feel I personally grew over these two terms was in developing resilience and a thicker skin. In a role like this we don't often hear from the public about all of things we are doing well. More often we are contacted when people are unhappy or concerned about a particular situation. I have learned that I cannot take these things personally. Most people just want to be heard, and they may need direction on next steps to help them problem-solve. It's not about me. My role, in these circumstances, is to listen, answer questions, and refer folks to the person or department who can best help them work through their concern. It was a relief when I finally figured this out, and I think it helped me to be a better Trustee.

I have one final thing to note. The Ontario Public School Boards Association (OPSBA) has been instrumental in helping me to grow as a Trustee over the past eight years. I have truly enjoyed attending the annual Public Education Symposium with Trustees from across the province. It is a terrific opportunity to hear from leaders in education and fellow trustees about the issues that involve all of us. Our Western Regional meetings have also been a great resource, offering the chance to discuss policy as well as local issues with other Trustees from our area of the province.

My experiences working with our current and former Trustees, as well as Director Doherty and Director Walsh, and the current and former members of our Senior Team, have affected me in ways that I will carry with me well after my term here is over. I am grateful to have had the chance to work with this group, and I'm confident that your new board of trustees will continue to contribute to the excellent work that all of you do for the students of Avon-Maitland.

**Good News**

Acting Director Baird-Jackson extended a welcomed Dani Rathwell, the new Communications Manager.

Superintendent Baker invited trustees to the Riverside Rural Learning Program Open House on October 25<sup>th</sup> from 12:00 to 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Trustee Rothwell attended the Listowel District Secondary School commencement on October 5<sup>th</sup> held at North Perth Westfield Elementary School. The evening was very well organized and congratulations to the graduates and award recipients.

Superintendent Langis announced that UNIFOR will be making the transition to the health trust effective November 1<sup>st</sup>. This is the last employee group to make the transition.

Trustee Pratley announced an information and trustee session will be held at the Stratford Public Library on October 14<sup>th</sup> at 2:00 p.m.

Vice-Chair Hunking attended Central Huron Secondary School commencement on October 5<sup>th</sup>. The Honourable Lisa Thompson in attendance. Congratulations to the graduates and the award recipients.

Trustee Schenk attended FE Madill Secondary School commencement on October 5<sup>th</sup>.

**Student Trustee**

Student Trustee Moore noted there will be elections for president and vice-president at the October 23<sup>rd</sup> meeting. OSTA-AECO is scheduled for October 25<sup>th</sup>. Student Trustees Kristin Vleeming and Natalie Moore, and Vice-Principal Jason Burt will be attending.

**Student / Staff Presentation**

There were no presentations.

**Public Delegations**

There were no delegations.

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION****DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**Approval of Board Policy #14 re Trustee Honoraria

Acting Director Baird-Jackson presented the report. Following a Notice of Motion at the September 25<sup>th</sup> meeting the policy was presented for approval as no additional edits were received.

**MOTION 2018-10-09-476****(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the revisions to Policy #14 re *Trustee Honoraria*.

**CARRIED****INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS**Elementary Class Size Reporting – Requirements and Compliance

Superintendent Langis presented the annual report and the board is in compliance with the Ministry's target and all Collective Agreement class size requirements have been met. Trustees will receive an update on the enrolment data following the October 31<sup>st</sup> Ministry submission. A formal review of elementary class sizes will be completed using the updated enrolment data as at October 31<sup>st</sup>.

### Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented the staff adjustments for information:

### Retirement/Resignations

James Flynn, Teacher at Listowel District SS effective September 28, 2018

Marjorie McBurney, Educational Assistant at North Woods ES effective September 30, 2018

### New Hires

Art James, Teacher at Avon PS effective October 1, 2018

Claudia Mancini, Teacher at South Huron District HS 7-8 effective September 26, 2018

Antonio Martinez, Teacher at South Huron District HS effective September 26, 2018

### OPSBA Update

Trustee Schenk attended OSPBA Board of Directors meeting held on September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> in Toronto. The OSTA-AECO met with OPSBA's Board of Directors and shared their history and vision for the student trustee association. Trustee Schenk highlighted the topics from the two day session including school board governance regulation updates, provincial education reform consultations, cancellation of the Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund and the Indigenous Trustees Council.

### Senior Staff Update

Superintendent Baker announced the Pathways Night for Central Huron Secondary School will be held on October 17<sup>th</sup> from 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. in conjunction with the parent/teacher night which starts at 6:00 p.m.

Superintendent Morris advised that in a memo released on Monday, October 8<sup>th</sup>, an invitation to interested students to apply to attend five days of workshops and outdoor activities on a grade 8 and 9 French excursion to St. Donat, Quebec from February 20 to 24, 2019.

Acting Director Baird-Jackson provided an update on Stratford re *thoughtexchange* and plans for the transition year.

### ThoughtExchange

Staff are currently working on a confidential, electronic input-gathering platform, called *thoughtexchange*, for broad public input to the Stratford process. The launch is planned for October 22<sup>nd</sup> to run through November 5<sup>th</sup>, a two-week window, which is ideal for input. There will be communication to the two Stratford schools and feeder elementary schools providing the access link to the platform, information on home school and public library access in case people do not have good Internet connections at home, along with email reminders to access *thoughtexchange*.

### Transition Year

After reviewing input and analysing options for the configuration of the transition year, staff have made the decision to proceed with the transition year, beginning next September, 2019, for grades 7-12, at Stratford Northwestern with the possible use of satellite campuses in a few locations for specialized program, such as physical education activities.

### Board Committee Minutes

a) Audit Committee: June 19, 2018

b) SEAC: September 12, 2018

### Correspondence:

a) Letter from Bluewater DSB re Health & Physical Education Curriculum

b) Letter from Bluewater DSB re Student Voice

c) Letter from Chair Wagler to Minister of Education Lisa Thompson re IEAC

## **NEW BUSINESS**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- October 23, 2018 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Open Session, 7:00 p.m. Student Advisory Committee, 7:30 Regular Session
- November 13, 2018 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Open Session, 7:30 p.m. Regular Session

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

- SAL – Monday, October 29, 2018 – 8:30 a.m.
- Director’s Review Committee – Tuesday, October 30, 2018 – 4:30 p.m.
- SEAC – Wednesday, November 6, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.
- HPSTS – October 16<sup>th</sup> conference
- HPSTS – Tuesday, November 13, 2018 – 3:30 p.m.
- Audit Committee – Tuesday, November 13, 2018 – 5:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

<b>MOTION 2018-10-09-477</b>	<b>(N. Rothwell – R. Hunking)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> this meeting be adjourned at 8:15 p.m.	
<b>CARRIED</b>	

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario  
Date Approved

Randy Wagler  
Chair of the Board

Janet Baird-Jackson  
Acting Director