

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, February 10, 2015

8:00 p.m.

Maitland Room, Seaforth Education Centre

62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, ON

PRESENT:

Trustees: Lynette Geddes, Robert Hunking, Alyson Kent, Julie Moore (teleconference), Doug Pratley, Nancy Rothwell, Randy Wagler

Absent: Judy Cairncross, Colleen Schenk

Senior Staff: Ted Doherty, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, Superintendents Mike Ash, Janet Baird-Jackson, Jodie Baker, and Peggy Blair

Student Trustees: Zach Misener and Kaitlinn Shaw

Resource Staff: Steve Howe

Recording Secretary: Barb Crawford

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wagler called the meeting to order at 7:33 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2015 02 10 (N. Rothwell – A. Kent)

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

CARRIED

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

REGULAR SESSION

MOTION 2015 02 11 (A. Kent – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

ROUTINE MATTERS

Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2015 02 12 (R. Hunking – D. Pratley)

RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No trustee declared a pecuniary interest regarding any item presented in this agenda.

Approval of Minutes**MOTION 2015 02 13****(R. Hunking – A. Kent)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, January 27, 2015, be approved as presented.

CARRIED**Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Committee of the Whole, Closed Session

There were no items brought forward from Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

Strategic Plan Reflection – Chair Wagler

As I was thinking about our Strategic Plan and how it has impacted my role as a Trustee, I reflected back to a meeting held just about 3 years ago in the library at Stratford Northwestern on a warm spring day. Directory Doherty had been meeting with various stakeholders throughout the year to determine what the Strategic Plan should look like, and as a result of that consultation he had brought some ideas and directions into that meeting that he wanted to coalesce into something that could become our Strategic Plan. As I recall, he brought together the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board, teachers, education assistants, parents, community members, senior staff, and other staff in order to try to come to a consensus on the main elements of the Strategic Plan - essentially our Mission, Vision and Values. The result of that meeting as well as further Trustee input led to the "First page" of our Strategic Plan that has been in place for about two and a half years. I give this background because there are just two words in our Strategic Plan that I would like to highlight, and I recall that these two words clearly came out of the discussion with that group nearly 3 years ago. Those two words, which have impacted me the most in our Strategic Plan and which I believe should impact all of us when we reflect on them are: "We Will".

"We Will" - two simple words, not "edu-speak", not complex, 6 letters in all, but I think they can make the difference between a 'good' Strategic Plan, and a 'great' Strategic Plan. And, by the way, I believe we have a **great** Strategic Plan!

Let me examine briefly these two words a bit more to find out why I think they are so impactful, and why that group three years ago thought them so important too. First, the word "We". "We" speaks to me of course of a group, of a collective. It reminds me and us, that education is not something that happens in isolation or is the accomplishment of one person. "We" includes all of us in the Avon Maitland District School Board - Trustees, our Director and Senior Staff, Teachers, EAs and all Staff who are part of the Board. "We" reminds us that while it may be that this Strategic Plan is set by the Trustees, it is only accomplished if we work together. "We" reminds me that each of us has a unique role to play in education, whether that be in the setting of policy, priorities and budget, or in the enacting of those policies and priorities and monitoring of outcomes. "We" reminds me that collectively we are better together when we are all aligned to the same vision and goals for our students. And finally, "we" reminds me that we are all in this together, there is no 'us' and 'them', but each of us is on the same team, focused on the same purpose for the benefit our students.

The second word, "Will" has great significance too. For me, the word 'commitment' comes to mind when I reflect on "Will". It speaks not of a hope to accomplish something, or a plan to accomplish something, but a deep commitment to accomplish something, no matter what the obstacles. And in education, it's easy to focus on the many obstacles we face: too little funding, too many demands, too many social problems, declining enrolment, changing curriculum, inadequate resources, and the list goes on. For me, as a Trustee, and I believe everyone in Avon Maitland, the word "Will" helps us to refocus not on what the obstacles are, but what the possibilities are, because it helps me remember that in spite of these obstacles I and we are committed to seeing our Strategic Plan accomplished with the resulting benefits for our students.

So why did that group 3 years ago believe that the words "We Will" are so important? They did so because they believed as do I that our children deserve no less than our collective commitment and promise to do the very best we can for them each and every day to ensure that they have positive inclusive learning environments, and that their educational outcomes are maximized. What heartens me the most as a Trustee, is that I see this collective commitment and promise to our students and communities enacted day in and day out in every area of our Board, and that's what makes me proud and yet humbled to be part of Avon Maitland. Thank you.

Good News

Chair Wagler attended D&D Automation's 'Awesome Battle of the Bots' on February 9th in Stratford. Chair Wagler witnessed students as they participated in the competition, and learned to operate industrial robots. Chair Wagler gave special thanks to Michael McCourt and staff from D&D Automation in displaying their great example of partnership.

Trustee Kent announced following the regional meetings held at OPSBA Public Education Symposium on January 31st, Trustee Pratley was elected to regional vice president and chair for the Western Region. Trustees expressed congratulations to Trustee Pratley.

Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Misener reported the senators continue to plan their spring symposium, and talked in depth about what they are looking for in speakers. The committee is also finalizing plans for their main project and how it will revolve around mental health which coincides to inclusion. Another question posted to the Senators' Facebook site is 'how well do you feel your high school has prepared you in the ability to make decisions about your future'. Student Trustee Shaw and Student Senator Suffern will be attending the OSTA conference at the end of February in Ottawa. Vice Chair Geddes will chaperone.

Staff/Student Presentations

Learning Services Department – Superintendent Blair

Superintendent Blair reported Learning Services comprises of four areas including special education, ESL, equity and inclusive education and mental health. Superintendent Blair highlighted the 'If, Then' statement within the Inclusive Education tab – 'If we create a learning culture where all students feel a sense of belonging and their outcomes are leveraged through new pedagogies and embedded technology, then all students will be deeply engaged in authentic tasks which accelerate learning.

Learning for All Coordinator Missy Pfaff and Mental Health Lead Dr. Anne Robinson referred to the Strategic Plan reporting on strategies and indicators of success.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

Chair Wagler noted following Trustee Pratley's election as vice president and chair for OPSBA's Western Region, it is necessary to elect an OPSBA delegate and alternate delegate.

ELECTION OF OPSBA DELEGATE AND ALTERNATE DELEGATE

Review of Election Procedure by Secretary

In accordance with the governance by-laws, Chair Wagler highlighted the election procedures for the positions of Ontario Public School Boards' Delegate and Alternate Delegate. Chair Wagler called the roll and Trustee Moore attended by electronic vote. Trustees Cairncross and Schenk were absent.

Chair Wagler called for a motion naming two scrutineers for the election.

MOTION 2015 02 14

(A. Kent – R. Hunking)

RESOLVED THAT the two scrutineers for the election be Superintendent Baird-Jackson and Superintendent Blair.

CARRIED

Election of the Board's Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association

The Chair called for a nominating ballot for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association delegate for the Board.

Chair Wagler reported that the following trustees had been nominated:

Trustees Hunking and Kent

In accordance with the Board Governance Bylaws, the nominated trustees were asked if they would allow their names to stand for election. Trustee Hunking agreed to stand as the Board's Delegate to OPSBA.

Trustee Hunking will be the Board's Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association for 2015.

Election of the Board's Alternate Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association

The Chair called for a nominating ballot for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association alternate delegate for the Board.

Chair Wagler reported that the following trustees had been nominated:

Trustees Geddes and Kent

In accordance with the Board Governance Bylaws, the nominated trustees were asked if they would allow their name to stand for election. Trustee Kent agreed to stand as the Board's Alternate Delegate to OPSBA.

Trustee Kent will be the Board's Alternate Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association for 2015.

DESTRUCTION OF BALLOTS

MOTION 2015 02 15

(R. Hunking – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT the ballots from the elections for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association's Delegate and Alternate Delegate be destroyed.

CARRIED

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Draft Revised Estimates 2014/2015

Finance Chair Geddes called on Superintendent Baird-Jackson to introduce the Report of the Finance Committee.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported that Finance Committee had met at 5:00 p.m. this evening and had a fulsome discussion and review in detail of the draft 2014/2015 Revised Estimates. Revised Estimates are required to be filed annually and due to the Ministry by December 15, 2015. The Board was compliant and filed by the due date.

Financial Services Administrator Carter noted the Board is in a better position at Revised Estimates due to an overall increase in enrolment and also due to additional grants received by the Ministry.

Section 3.0 of the report highlights the various adjustments and outlines material changes to Revenues and Expenses.

The Finance Committee passed a motion to approve and recommend to the Board that the Board also approve the operating revenue and transfer of reserve.

MOTION 2015 02 16**(L. Geddes – R. Hunking)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the Operating Revenue and Transfers of Reserves totaling \$198,668,327 and Expense Estimates in the amount of \$198,668,327 for the period of September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015,
and that
the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the Capital allocations and spending in the amount of \$17,184,459 for the period September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015.

CARRIEDMotion to Rescind Motion 2015 01 08 re Board Membership in OSTA-AECO

Chair Wagler passed the gavel to Vice Chair Geddes. Chair Wagler presented the report to rescind Motion 2015 01 08 in light of the previous motion 2014 04 59 approved on April 22, 2014. The motion was to approve the membership for the student senate to join OSTA-AECO.

MOTION 2015 02 17**(R. Hunking – N. Rothwell)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board rescind motion 2015 01 08.

CARRIED**INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS****Chair's Reports****Director's Reports**AODA Plan

Superintendent Blair noted this Plan represents the twelfth annual plan for the Board. The multi-year plan outlines the goal to mitigate or remove barriers for people with visible and/or invisible disabilities. This is not just a Learning Services Plan but encompasses many departments involved in the work including facilities, transportation and human resources, etc. Some of the things that were reviewed this year included the transportation department work with Learning Services to create individual student support plans and bus driver training. The Board and School websites are in the process of a redesign, according to accessibility guidelines. Superintendent Blair noted that Avon Maitland DSB was nominated for the David Onley Award for leadership in accessibility in the category of role model/champion award.

The list of working group members will be revised to reflect the trustees from the 2014 committee assignments and will include former trustee Michael Bannerman.

Inclement Weather Situation on Monday, February 2, 2015

Superintendent Ash noted the report is presented for information to explain the impact of the weather situation on Monday, February 2nd. Annually school staff and transportation services put plans in place that mesh with the co-terminous board. On February 2nd inclement weather resulted in the late cancellation of in-town buses in Stratford as well as rural buses around Stratford. Communication that took place between the bus contractor and both school boards was not clear and as a result the in-town buses did not get cancelled in a timely fashion.

Trustee Kent agreed the weather situation that day was unusual, but inquired as to what is the best way that communities can get information on whether buses are running. Trustees were advised the best place is on the website 'ourschoolbuses.ca'. Cancellations and other announcements are also available through the Avon Maitland DSB Facebook site.

Director's Activities

The Director's activities were presented for information.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Baker noted an error in the January 27th staff adjustments which was corrected in this report. The report incorrectly stated Wayne Martin as a retirement but it should be Wayne Murray. HR staff have contacted the individuals and apologized for the error.

Facilities Update (verbal)

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported the work on the new elementary school in North Perth is carrying on as weather permits. In terms of other facility work, staff continues on various projects throughout the district and tender reports will be forthcoming to board for approval as projects move into the spring.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Pratley noted all Avon Maitland trustees were in attendance at OPSBA – Public Education Symposium held from January 29th to 31st. There will be a feedback survey sent to all trustees in the near future. The Board of OPSBA Directors meeting is scheduled from February 20th to 21st in Toronto.

Minutes from Board Committees

SEAC: January 14, 2015

Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- Tuesday, February 24, 2015 – 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 Senate Committee, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- Tuesday, March 24, 2015 – 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 Senate Committee, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session

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

- Audit Committee training: Thursday, February 12, 2015 at Best Western Lamplight Inn, London
- Principals Conference: February 19 to 20, 2015 in Niagara Falls
- SAL: Tuesday, February 24, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
- AODA: Wednesday, February 25, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, March 4, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
- HPSTS Joint Orientation Session with AMDSB and HPCDSB: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 – 4:30 p.m.
- PIC: Wednesday, March 11, 2015 – 7:00 p.m.
- MPPs and Trustees: Tuesday, April 7, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2015 02 18

(N. Rothwell – A. Kent)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:40 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