

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

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, March 24, 2015

8:00 p.m.

**Maitland Room, Seaforth Education Centre
62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, ON**

PRESENT:

Trustees: Judy Cairncross, Lynette Geddes, Robert Hunking, Alyson Kent, Julie Moore, Nancy Rothwell, Colleen Schenk, Randy Wagler

Absent: Doug Pratley

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

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 5:00 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2015 03 29

(R. Hunking – C. Schenk)

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

CARRIED

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

Chair Wagler resumed the Chair at 6:00 p.m. and convened into Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

Approval of Committee of the Whole, Open Session Agenda

Chair Wagler explained that item 3.3.1 d) OPSBA will be to discuss workshop presentations, and item 3.3.1 e) will include revisiting the French Immersion discussion as part of the CATYO survey.

MOTION 2015 03 30

(N. Rothwell – C. Schenk)

RESOLVED THAT the agenda for Committee of the Whole, Open Session, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Little Falls Forest School Presentation

Director Doherty announced the student/staff presentation this evening is from Little Falls Public School – Forest School. The Forest School is a nature awareness education program that is integrated at the school and provides outdoor education in balance to the work in technology, etc. There are a number of leaders in this area in our district and one of course is what's happening at Little Falls. Director Doherty introduced principal Helen Brockman and Teacher Kendra Martin. The presentation also included primary grade students and teachers who are involved in the program. Trustees received a very enlightening report from staff highlighting the journey of creating the Forest School, as well as student's personal reflections on what the Forest School means to them.

Chair Wagler thanked the students and staff for the presentation and for all the work that it takes to keep the program running. Chair Wagler also expressed appreciation to the community partners and the school council for their tremendous support for the program

Trustee Open Time

Participation on Committees and Expectations

Trustees discussed what the expectations are for reporting to their respective Committees. Chair Wagler noted that participation and expectations depends on what the committee is and while there is no set rule, if there are items that a committee member wants trustees feedback than it could come to the Open Session for trustees discussion.

FNMI – Education Staff Input

As part of the ongoing work to develop an advocacy paper on FNMI, OPSBA is asking for Board input. The submission deadline is March 26th. Superintendent Morris reviewed the input form with trustees and advised that Program Coordinator Laura Allan is the Board lead for FNMI and could complete the document. Chair Wagler agreed and asked that trustees be copied on the submission related to the FNMI content in the Ontario curriculum.

Impact of Direct Actions of Trustees

Trustee Moore brought forward the item for discussion regarding the impact of decisions that trustees make ie NGL, accommodation reviews, budget, etc. and how the board is reflecting and evaluating these decisions specifically are there follow up reports, presentations, etc necessary. Trustee Moore further noted for example the Next Generation Learning project (NGL) and while trustees agree there has been great outcomes from the pilot, what further information will be presented on a go forward basis.

Chair Wagler noted as trustees follow the progress of the initiative, if there is something specific that needs to be revisited then communication with the Chair and Vice Chair to ask for a review and follow up with staff would be appropriate.

Director Doherty commented that the Board's Strategic Plan reports on the priorities and areas of focus, as well as the 'stop lights' are an update for trustees to see what stage the projects are at. Director Doherty also commented that over the next 18 months there will be interim reports on what we are seeing in the deployment of the one to one devices for example.

OPSBA – AGM re '5 Minute' Presentation Proposal

Chair Wagler advised that OPSBA has given boards an opportunity for input on workshop presentations for the Annual General Meeting on June 11th to 14th in Collingwood. The intent of the workshops are to showcase innovative programs and initiatives that are addressing leading edge education issues and are making a difference for children and youth. Submissions are due by March 31st. Boards have also been invited to suggest topics for a '5 Minute' presentation that also showcases innovative programs. The 5 minute session is based on the Ignite model that has been used in the past to share stories of successful practices and initiatives. Trustees agreed a workshop presentation on inclusion, and suggested 2 '5 Minute' presentations including the digital human library and international studies, cultural student visits.

At 7:30 p.m. Chair Wagler adjourned the Committee of the Whole, Open Session. The Student Senators attended at this time.

Student Senators and Trustees

Trustee Hunking welcomed the Student Senators and asked the students to share their Facebook survey results.

Student Trustee Misener reported that recently a question was posted to the Student's Facebook site asking would students prefer pen and paper surveys, or an online like Survey Monkey, etc. and the results show that they want the surveys to be done online and maybe not through Facebook poll but stronger forms like Survey Monkey. At this time there are close to 1000 student followers. The Students Senators would like to advertise in the schools through teachers and school groups as student senators try to bring more awareness of the Facebook page and to let students know if they have concerns here's a way to get it looked at. Other questions asked include 'what is the preparedness level for your post-secondary choices'; 'how well do you feel your high school experience prepared you'; 'how do you feel about AMDEC courses', etc. Students were also asked for feedback on the standard exams as most common form of finding final marks. The response was in general students felt they are necessary but at the same time shouldn't be weighed too much.

The Committee of the Whole, Open Session reconvened at 7:50 p.m.

CATYO Follow-up Survey

Director Doherty reported that the CATYO survey was a follow up from the discussion the Board had in the fall, and asked staff to create something generic to find area of interests for their children as they begin their educational journey.

Trustee Cairncross noted, related to the CATYO survey, there has been quite a movement in Huron County, specifically Goderich area, to initiate French Immersion (FI). Trustee Cairncross advised that she and Trustee Hunking had heard a presentation at a parent meeting held at Goderich Public School on March 23rd. The parents that presented noted they want their children in FI and have already been told it is not possible to get into St. Marys school in Goderich. They presented a list of 71 people that are committed to sign up for FI but at this time only have 26 committed that are 3 or 4 years old now. The parents were asking for research to be done, and wanted to look at what numbers would make it sustainable.

Chair Wagler suggested when the results are available from the recent survey, trustees will review and determine what input will be necessary from Senior Staff.

The Regular Board session convened at 8:05 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

MOTION 2015 03 31

(R. Wagler – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

ROUTINE MATTERS

Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2015 03 32

(R. Hunking – C. Schenk)

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

Trustee Hunking noted an error on page 1 of the February 24th minutes. It should read ‘Vice Chair Geddes was Chair for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session’.

MOTION 2015 03 33**(J. Cairncross – R. Hunking)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, February 24, 2015, be approved as amended.

CARRIED**MOTION 2015 03 34****(C. Schenk – N. Rothwell)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board Special Board meeting held Tuesday, March 10, 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 – Trustee Judy Cairncross

Reading the Strategic Plan for the first time was exciting. It is full of new ideas. The Strategic Plan begins with the statement “We will create Positive, Inclusive, Learning Environments.” Today I have chosen to reflect on the inclusion element of the plan.

It is my opinion that this innovative idea has the potential to enhance the whole learning environment and to produce many positive results for students, parents, teachers and schools. With inclusion, families have reported how children with intellectual and physical needs have been accepted, and in some cases, embraced by their peers. One teacher reports that since inclusion there has been a marked difference in the overall behavior of students in her class. The other students have become more caring and compassionate, not only to the newly included students, but to each other.

There is no doubt that the “inclusion” concept affects all of the education stakeholders but none more than the classroom teacher. Inclusion needs the classroom teacher to take ownership and to “buy in” or it is otherwise doomed to failure. It is human nature to resist change. Teachers need assurances and demonstrations that there is value in change before they embrace it. It is important to realize that they will be reluctant to abandon tried and true pedagogy for a new one with yet unproven results. Also, and perhaps most importantly, there is the very significant matter of increased workload and new classroom management protocols.

I witnessed the implementation of including the grade 7 and 8 students in several of our secondary schools. Where the new structure was simply dropped on teachers there were significant issues. Where there was teacher discussion, involvement and collaboration prior to implementation the change was relatively seamless.

So how do we get the classroom teacher to “buy in”? I am not sure how this has been dealt with to date but these are my reflections. Teachers need to first recognize the problem that currently exists in a learning model that does not include all of our students. They need to be able to sit down and openly discuss the positive and negatives aspects that the inclusion process brings. They need to be consulted as how to best incorporate inclusion in their schools and their classrooms. Since they are on the frontlines, they will most likely have ideas on implementation that administration and other stakeholders won’t have. Inclusion coaches and EAs are great support but is this enough, or are there any alternative or additional aids to assist in achieving success of this strategic plan objective? We need to keep asking this question.

I know we have teachers who have experienced successful results with inclusion. Teachers like collaboration so let's share these successful results. Teachers need to understand how positive this experience can be not only for the included students and their families but also for all of our students and ultimately for the classroom teachers themselves.

Good News

Superintendent Baird-Jackson noted a plaque has been received from Festival Hydro recognizing the Board as a participant on the 'Save on Energy' program.

Trustee Cairncross announced Curtis Jeffrey, a grade 10 student at Goderich District CI, won the Marion Drysdale award, a prestigious OSSTF award at the District, Regional and Provincial levels. Curtis received \$1000.00 and a trip to the awards ceremony in Toronto.

Superintendent Blair announced Dr. Michael Ungar will present an in-service to school staff and will also do a public presentation on Saturday, May 2nd at Anne Hathaway Public School. Dr. Unger is world renowned in helping parents understand what it takes for parents to build resiliency in youth.

Communications Manager Steve Howe announced Sears Drama Festival will be held from March 25th to 27th at Goderich District CI. There are 9 schools participating.

Chair Wagler commended the three bands from South Huron District HS who have qualified for the National Competitions in May. The Junior grade 7 & 8 band was also successful.

Student Trustee Update

Student Senator Rachel Suffern reported on the OSTA-AECO conference that she attended along with Student Trustee Shaw held in Ottawa from February 26th to March 1st. The conference was a great opportunity for the students to work directly with staff from the Ministry of Education. The Annual General Meeting is scheduled for the end of May and Student Trustees Misener and Shaw are planning to attend.

Vice Chair Geddes advised that she had also attended the conference as chaperone and was impressed with the group, noting the conference was very well organized.

Staff/Student Presentations

NGL – Part 2

Superintendent Morris introduced teacher technology coaches Rick Saunders and Joanna Jackson who brought grade 7 and 8 students from Mitchell District HS to collaborate with trustees using their iPad technology.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Report of the School Year Calendar Committee re School Year Calendar 2015/2016

Superintendent Morris presented the School Year Calendar report on behalf of the School Year Calendar Committee. The school year calendar is a process that begins in November with a Ministry memo outlining expectations and guidance for the calendar. *Regulation 204, School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days* outlines the requirements for school boards in preparing and submitting school year calendars to the Ministry.

This year the Committee recommendation is that the calendar not be modified. The elementary school year will commence on Tuesday, September 8, 2015 with an instructional day and classes will end on Wednesday, June 29, 2016. The secondary school year will commence on September 8, 2015 with an instructional day and ends on Thursday, June 20, 2016. Christmas break will commence on Monday, December 21, 2015 and conclude on Friday, January 1, 2016. March break will commence on Monday, March 14, 2016 and conclude on Friday, March 19, 2016. There are 6

professional activity dates scheduled: Thursday, September 3, 2015; Friday, November 6, 2015; Wednesday, February 3, 2016; Friday, April 22, 2016; Friday, June 10, 2016; and Thursday, June 30, 2016

MOTION 2015 03 35**(A. Kent – J. Cairncross)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the 2015/2016 Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars.

CARRIED**INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS****Director's Reports**Comparison of 2014/2015 Actual Versus Tendered Prices

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported this is the 11th year for this report and the ongoing focus is to develop better cost and standardizing of our process in order to be consistent and accurate in our pricing. In terms of this year the variance on four of our projects was over including total contingency as noted in items 3.6 to 3.9 in the report. Other projects were significantly under and as result we did not use all the contingency. Staff is looking at opportunities to define and redefine standards for application across the system, and continue to take advantage of better materials and recent technologies ie lighting and plumbing controls, high efficiency rooftop units and low maintenance finishes in our construction and renovation projects.

Expense Statements for September 1, 2014 to February 28, 2015

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported at the end of February in terms of these expenses, it is expected that teacher related salary expenses are at approximately 56%, ten-month employee salary expense at 60% and twelve month employee expenses at 50% of the budgeted amounts. Staff continues to monitor closely the energy billings, particularly hydro costs, and not seeing anything untoward.

2014 Report for the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act

Director Doherty provided the annual report for information and in accordance with the *Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act, 1996*.

Director's Activities

Director Doherty presented the report for information.

Staff Adjustments

The following retirements/resignations have been received:

- Cindy Hamather, Principal at Seaforth PS effective June 30th
- Carolyn Jenkins, Teacher at Bedford PS effective June 30th
- Martin Judge, Teacher at Stratford Central SS effective June 30th
- Ruth MacLennan, Teacher at Bedford PS effective June 30th
- Cathy Westwood, Teacher at Exeter ES effective June 30th
- Michael Ash, Superintendent of Education at Seaforth Education Centre effective August 31st
- Julie Holmes, Principal at Howick Central PS effective December 31st

The following new hire has been received:

Nicole Kaufman, Teacher at Howick Central PS effective March 4th

Facilities Update (verbal)

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported following a facilities review this year an underlying structural issues was found at MDHS which is being addressed, and with Ministry approval we are using disposition to cover in terms of the required work.

In terms of the new North Perth school, Facilities Administrator Mike Rau had taken pictures of the site and progress is definitely underway. Superintendent Baird-Jackson passed the photos to trustees.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking reminded trustees of the call for nominations for the OPSBA Awards for outstanding contributions to the public education system made by individuals across Ontario.

Minutes from Board Committees

Joint Health & Safety Committee: November 27, 2014

SEAC: February 24, 2015

Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

NEW BUSINESS

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- Tuesday, April 14, 2015 – 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, April 28, 2015 – 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)

- SEAC: Wednesday, April 1, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
- OPSBA Regional Meeting at Thames Valley DSB – April 11, 2015
- PIC Information Session: Wednesday, April 15, 2015 – 6:30 p.m.
- SAL: Tuesday, April 28, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
- Audit Committee: Monday, May 11, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.
- MPPs and Trustees: Tuesday, May 19, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2015 03 36

(A. Kent – J. Moore)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:30 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