

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, September 8, 2015

8:00 p.m.

Maitland Room, Seaforth Education Centre

62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, ON

PRESENT:

Trustees: Judy Cairncross, Lynette Geddes, Robert Hunking, Julie Moore, Doug Pratley, Nancy Rothwell, Colleen Schenk (via Skype) Randy Wagler

Absent: Alyson Kent

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

Resource: Communications Manager Wes MacVicar

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, Open Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION

Approval of Committee of the Whole, Open Session Agenda

MOTION 2015 09 115

(R. Hunking – N. Rothwell)

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

CARRIED

Trustee Open Time

Who Does What?

As part of trustee professional development, Michael Hines, from Hicks Morley, presented to the trustees on 'Who Does What?' A Review of the Governance Structure Established by the *Education Act*. The presentation addressed statutory profiles of boards, individual trustees and senior staff.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2015 09 116

(N. Rothwell – R. Hunking)

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 8:00 p.m. and convened the Regular Board Session.

REGULAR SESSION

MOTION 2015 09 117	(N. Rothwell – D. Pratley)
RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session.	
CARRIED	

ROUTINE MATTERS

Approval of Agenda

MOTION 2015 09 118	(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

The following errors were noted in the June 22nd minutes:

On page 4 it should be 'treasurer' not 'treasure', and under Student Trustee Update it should be 'no' instead of 'not'.

MOTION 2015 09 119	(C. Schenk – R. Hunking)
RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Monday, June 22, 2015, be approved as amended.	
CARRIED	

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

Committee of the Whole, Closed Session

MOTION 2015 09 120	(L. Geddes – D. Pratley)
RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the appointment of Jane Morris as Superintendent of Education, effective September 1, 2013, subject to confirmation by the Minister of Education.	
CARRIED	

Strategic Plan Reflection – Chair Randy Wagler

As I begin this reflection on our Strategic Plan I think it's great that this school year's first Board meeting of the year happens to occur on the same day that a new school year also begins for our students. Today, more than 15,000 students will have attended schools throughout our District. Some will be attending for the very first time, and their anxious parents will be close by, while others will be entering their final year or semester with us. No matter whether they are just beginning their education in Avon Maitland, or completing it, each student has at least one common trait – they (or their parents) are trusting us to deliver an education that will prepare them for whatever is their next step. For some that next step will be getting to the next grade, for others it will be graduation to the world of work, university, an apprenticeship, or college. And that's where our Strategic Plan comes in.

Our Strategic Plan is our collective commitment to our students and community about what they can expect from an education within Avon Maitland. I use the words 'collective commitment' deliberately, because while it is us as Trustees who approve the Strategic Plan and hold our Director accountable for carrying it out, we understand that it is not our role to actually carry out the majority of the work required to implement the Strategic Plan. Indeed, this Strategic Plan is a "collective commitment" and as such its development must also be carried out in a collaborative manner so that it truly becomes the Strategic Plan for the whole District including our students, staff, families, community members and Trustees. Last week, when I addressed those gathered at the District Leader's meeting, I indicated that I believed one of the key strengths of our current Strategic Plan was that it was developed in a very collaborative manner. I also encouraged our District Leaders to ensure that they and the staff they manage or represent take every opportunity offered to provide input this school year as the next Strategic Plan is developed. And that is the message I'd like to bring also to us as Trustees this evening. In order for our next 4 year Strategic Plan to be as successful as our current Strategic Plan continues to be we need to do everything we can to ensure that all members of our school community have an opportunity to provide input. We need to provide our input as Trustees to be sure, but we also need to listen to the other voices throughout our District, so that the next Strategic Plan is a true reflection of our collective commitment to our students.

At this beginning of a new school year, a year in which we will update our Strategic Plan, I encourage us all to commit to work together to ensure that our next Strategic Plan reflects the input from all of our education stakeholders. If we do that, I know that our educational community will embrace the updated Strategic Plan as they have our current one and our students can be certain that we have indeed prepared them for their next educational step.

Good News

Director Doherty announced the reorganization of Senior Staff and introduced Communications Manager Wes MacVicar who will be attending and reporting on board meetings, as well as assisting trustees and staff with media communications. Wes will continue his role as Director of Foundation for Education Perth Huron. Director Doherty welcomed Associate Superintendent of Financial Services Cheri Carter to her new role. Superintendent Paul Langis was introduced and welcomed to Avon Maitland DSB. Superintendent Langis has come to Avon Maitland from District School Board O.N.E. effective August 1, 2015.

Superintendent Blair announced South Huron District High School is the recipient of the 2015 Canadian Safe School Network/TD Award for Excellence against LGBTQ Youth Bullying. South Huron's Gender Sexuality Alliance (GSA) organized an exceptional program and initiatives to promote inclusion and safety of LGBTQ youth. The school will receive a financial award of \$2500.00. Superintendent Morris recognized Avon Public School Junior Choir who won Silver at the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals' National Music Festival in August.

Superintendent Baker announced Peter Pitseolak High School in Cape Dorset, Nunavut was recently destroyed by fire. The high school has been part of a student exchange program initiated by Avon Maitland teacher Paul Finkelstein. The Foundation for Education Perth Huron, in conjunction with Paul Finkelstein, has established a Cape Dorset, Nunavut Education Fund. Funds will be used to help replace school supplies.

Student Trustee Update

There was no student trustee update.

Staff Presentations

Director Doherty highlighted the changes in Senior Staff which include Wes MacVicar as Communications Manager, Cheri Carter as Associate Superintendent of Financial Services and Treasurer, and responsible for the Finance Department, and Superintendent Baird-Jackson as Superintendent of Corporate Services which includes facilities, transportation, information services, and information technology. Superintendents Baker, Blair, Langis and Morris will each continued to have school responsibilities, specifically Superintendents Blair and Morris will have responsibilities for elementary schools, and Superintendents Baker and Langis will have responsibilities for secondary. Superintendents will continue to share and blend the work of each department and

remain focused on student achievement and well-being. Superintendent Baker will continue her role in Employee Services (formerly Human Resources Department).

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Chair's Reports:

OPSBA 2015/2016 Membership Fee and Central Bargaining Fee

Chair Wagler presented the report for information noting the membership fee is an annual fee. It was noted this year there was a decrease of \$892.70. An additional new fee for central bargaining for the 2015/2016 school board fiscal year was also invoiced.

Director's Reports

Tenders Over the Summer

Superintendent Baird-Jackson presented the annual September report and reported on the facilities projects including roofing at South Huron District High School and Stratford Northwestern Secondary School, the greenhouse removal and structural repair at Central Huron Secondary School, and the masonry and exterior lighting at Central Perth Elementary School. An update on the construction management projects at Mitchell District High School and FE Madill Secondary School, and IT projects was also provided. Superintendent Baird-Jackson further advised on the progress for the gym floor replacement at Central Huron Secondary School. The gym floor replacement was due to significant damage caused by a major storm in early August.

Chair Wagler expressed appreciation to Superintendent Baird-Jackson and all facilities staff for their diligence in ensuring the schools were ready for opening day.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Baker presented the report for information.

The following retirements/resignations have been received:

- Colleen Campbell, Head Secretary at St. Marys DCVI effective July 10, 2015
- Joan Nowack, Head Secretary at Stratford Northwestern SS effective July 31, 2015
- Patricia Mayberry, Educational Assistant at Listowel Central PS effective August 31, 2015
- Richard Storie, Teacher at Stratford Northwestern SS effective August 31, 2015
- Helen VandenHeuvel, Educational Assistant at Goderich District CI effective August 31, 2015

The following new hires have taken place:

- Ryan Robar, Network Technician at the Learning Resource Centre effective July 9, 2015
- David Giles, Hardware Technician at the Learning Resource Centre effective August 4, 2015
- Nancy Eisenschink, Custodian at Exeter ES and Huron Centennial PS effective July 13, 2015
- Jordan Nuhn, Custodian at Listowel District SS effective July 22, 2015
- Rebecca Coulthard, Secretary at St. Marys DCVI effective September 8, 2015
- Stephanie Bloemberg, Teacher at Maitland River ES effective September 8, 2015
- Amanda Boogerman, Teacher at Seaforth PS effective September 8, 2015
- Tyler Campbell, Teacher at Listowel District SS effective September 8, 2015
- Leann Houle-Laframboise, Teacher at Stratford Central SS and Education Centre effective September 8, 2015
- Terri Houston, Teacher at Hamlet PS effective September 8, 2015
- Krista Jones, Teacher at Elma Township PS effective September 8, 2015
- Brian Oliver, Teacher at Stratford Northwestern ES effective September 8, 2015
- Erin Robinson, Teacher at Huron Centennial PS effective September 8, 2015

- Brad Ropp, Teacher at Romeo PS effective September 8, 2015
- Christine Brindley, Strive-EA at Avon PS effective September 8, 2015
- Jacquelline Valdez, Strive-EA at Stratford Northwestern ES effective September 8, 2015
- Nicole Granter, Strive-EA at Shakespeare PS effective September 8, 2015
- Natasha Calic, Strive-EA at Romeo PS effective September 8, 2015
- Christine Wittig, Strive-EA at Stephen PS effective September 8, 2015
- Tara Antle, Strive-EA at Stratford Central ES effective September 8, 2015

Senior Staff Updates

Superintendent Baker reported local bargaining resumes this week and over the next couple of weeks. At the end of June, Superintendents Blair and Baker ran the PQP Part I course involving 18 Avon Maitland candidates.

Superintendent Langis shared his comments on his initial visits to schools noting he was impressed to see the enthusiasm of staff and students, and the excellent conditions of the buildings. Superintendent Langis commended the custodial staffs on their excellent work in getting the buildings ready for the first day of school.

Superintendent Blair also added that the custodial staffs have done an awesome job in making schools ready for our students. Teachers, support staff and students were excited and ready to commence a new year.

Superintendent Morris expressed congratulations to all teachers who participated in the August Summer Institutes presented by IT, Student Success, Learning Service and Program staff.

Associate Superintendent Carter noted finance staff were busy throughout the summer. The draft report of the regional internal auditors was received and staff are pleased with the preliminary results. Audit Committee is scheduled for September 22nd

Communications Manager MacVicar announced the 'Kids First Perth Huron – Read to Baby' project where parents of every newborn from Perth and Huron counties will receive a special gift designed to provide parents in supporting reading to their babies.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Pratley noted as clarification going forward with OPSBA being the negotiating agent for boards, ratification of any contract goes through the Board of Directors therefore Trustee Hunking is the voting member on the Board of Directors for Avon Maitland DSB, and although Trustee Pratley is still a member of the Board of Directors he is representative of the Western Region so does not vote on ratifications.

The Western Regional meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 24th in Stratford.

Minutes from Board Committees

Joint Health and Safety Committee: March 26, 2015

Correspondence

No items of correspondence were received.

NEW BUSINESS

There were no items of new business.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- Tuesday, September 22, 2015 – 5:00 p.m. Audit Committee, 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session; 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- Tuesday, October 13, 2015 - 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session; 7:00 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)

- SEAC: Wednesday, September 9, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.
- PIC: Wednesday, September 16, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.
- Audit Committee: Tuesday, September 22, 2015 – 5:00 p.m.
- SAL: Tuesday, September 29, 2015 – 9:00 a.m.
- AODA: Wednesday, September 30, 2015 – 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2015 09 121

(N. Rothwell – C. Schenk)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:47 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