

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 10, 2016

Maitland Room, Seaforth Education Centre

62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, ON

PRESENT:

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

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

Student Trustees: Shannon Edwards and Zach Misener

Resource: Communications Associate Tim Bilcke

Recording Secretary: Barb Crawford

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schenk 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 2016 05 57 (L. Geddes – R. Hunking)

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.

Chair Schenk resumed the Chair at 5:45 p.m. and convened into Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION

MOTION 2016 05 58 (R. Hunking – A. Kent)

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

CARRIED

Approval of Committee of the Whole, Open Session Agenda

The following item was added to the Agenda:

3.3.1 b) Secondary Inclusion

MOTION 2016 05 59**(J. Moore – R. Wagler)**

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

CARRIED**Open Session Reports****Strategic Plan**

Director Doherty outlined the collaborative activity for trustee consultation on the 2017 – 2021 Strategic Plan. The consultation process to date has also included input from school administrators and school councils. The process has involved reflection on two questions: 1) what do we want for students while they are in school; and 2) what do we want for students when they leave school? Using the current Strategic Plan trustees were divided into groups and were asked to consider what they think should stay in the plan and what they think is missing. Director Doherty noted that with every component of the Plan so far people have wanted one or all to stay. Five main themes that capture the comments are: 1) global/community engagement and citizenship; 2) perseverance/resiliency; 3) enhanced student/staff voice; 4) inquiry/curiosity; and 5) leveraging digital technology.

The groups were asked to 1) prioritize five themes and 2) think about inserting the themes in order of priority into the Plan.

Secondary Inclusion

Trustee Cairncross brought forward secondary inclusion for discussion and asked what supports are in place for staff and parents.

Superintendent Blair explained the Board's strategies and summarized the supports currently in place. Superintendent Blair shared research relevant to secondary inclusion specifically referencing Dr. Sheila Bennett. A report to board will be brought forward in September to highlight the research, supports and best practices in secondary inclusion in Avon Maitland.

At this time Chair Schenk moved into Regular Session with the intent to return to Committee of the Whole, Open Session immediately following Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION**ROUTINE MATTERS****MOTION 2016 05 60****(R. Hunking – A. Kent)**

RESOLVED THAT this Board convene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

Approval of Agenda

The following item was added to the agenda:
New Business re Suspensions Related to Immunization

MOTION 2016 05 61

(L. Geddes – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as amended.

CARRIED

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION 2016 05 62

(R. Wagler – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, April 26, 2016, be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the Minutes.

Committee of the Whole, Closed Session

Vice Chair Kent reported there was no business brought forward from Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

Trustee Reflection – Trustee Robert Hunking

The Good, The Bad, and The Ugly

A simplistic, maybe naïve, look at what does the good, the bad, and the ugly look like in an education setting/scenario.

Every meeting we have good news. Our students do great things, our staff do great things, our schools do great things. It is not fluff. We are proud of the achievements and accomplishments within our system. Can we always pin point the policy, procedure, pedagogy, practice or philosophy that nurtured that good news? Often not. Everything within the education system is so intertwined. Our students and our front line on the ground staff are our best good news.

The bad unfortunately sometimes happens. But is the bad bad? Engage Inspire Innovate Always Learning. We tell our students to learn from their mistakes, that mistakes are a learning experience not a failure. What about so called mistakes from staff, To Engage, To Inspire, To Innovate? Are they given the freedom and support to try the uncharted? Being at the forefront and jumping on the bandwagon before it is trending may leave one vulnerable to criticism and maybe the realization things are not working. Do they alter course and admit miscalculation or stay course in hopes the mistake goes unnoticed by others? What direction to take? All too often the status quo prevails which leads to the accusation that education reform/transformation is too slow or even not working. Is the resistance to making change from the fear of the unknown or the fear of what one must give up to achieve change? The conversations around these mistakes are maybe just as valuable as the good news. Advancement. The bad may ultimately be the best practice. Always Learning.

The ugly, you never want to deal with. It is out there though. Whether it is an ARC decision, curriculum and programming offerings, staffing & staff issues or finance & budgeting, there will always be those that disagree with the decision. The decisions can be divisive and controversy. This is when we as trustees feel like we are under attack. How we approach the ugly, how we deal with the ugly and how we resolve the ugly can be a challenge and a building opportunity. The ugly allows for the bad and the good.

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In this scenario it almost appears the good is provided by our students, the bad by our staff and the ugly by us. I believe that is the way it should be. You can tell you are doing things right when the ugly and the bad empower the good.

<http://leadlearner2012.blogspot.ca/2016/05/4-questions-to-transform-your-schools.html>

Good News

Director Doherty announced plans are underway for the International Summer Camp and as of today there are 27 students from several counties coming for a range of 2 to 4 weeks. The camp will begin July 4th. Two summer students have been hired to help plan and facilitate the Camp.

Vice Chair Kent highlighted Avon Maitland's second 'Loud and Proud' mass band event held at Stratford Northwestern Secondary School on May 3rd. The event came about through the Music PLCs and some music teachers promoting music education in elementary schools. Grades 5 to 8 came together for an afternoon of music workshops and then each school performed individually. Trustee Cairncross spoke proudly of the collaboration between OSSTF and AMDSB in hosting the Excellence in Public Education banquet on May 5th.

Trustee Rothwell provided an update on North Perth Westfield elementary school advising that the transition is moving along. Also at Elma Township Public School the grade 3 /4 and grade 4 classes participated in the winter challenge from the 60 Minute Kids Club which is an on line tracking of maintaining healthy living habits. The students placed first in Ontario and second in Canada.

Trustee Pratley reported students in My Academy program will stage the production of Shakespeare's Twelfth Night from May 19th to the 21st.

Trustee Hunking announced the Hullett Central Public School annual school carnival silent auction was held on Friday, May 6th and raised over \$12,000.

Chair Schenk announced that AMDSB Psychometrist William Williams daughter, Michelle Williams, was recently selected to represent Canada in two swimming events at the 2016 Olympic Games in Rio de Janeiro August. Michelle is competing in the 50 meter Freestyle, as well as the 4 x 100 meter Freestyle relay. Best wishes to Michelle!

Chair Schenk announced a successful Gala was held in Wingham on April 30th. Over \$57,000 was raised to support the sports field and track refurbishment at F.E. Madill.

Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Misener invited trustees and senior staff to the annual student symposium on Friday, May 13th at the Seaforth Education Centre.

Staff Presentations

There were no staff presentations.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

Election of OPSBA Delegate and Alternate Delegate

Review of Election Procedure by the Chair

The Secretary called the roll. Nine trustees were present in the room. In accordance with the governance by-laws began the election procedures for the positions of the Ontario Public School Boards' Delegate and Alternate Delegate. Chair Schenk called for a motion naming two scrutineers for the election.

MOTION 2016 05 63

(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT the two scrutineers for the election be Superintendent Langis and Associate Superintendent Carter.

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.

The Chair reported that the following trustees had been nominated:

Trustees Robert Hunking, Alyson Kent, and Doug Pratley

In accordance with the Board Governance Bylaws, the nominated trustees were asked if they would allow their name to stand for election. Trustees Kent and Pratley declined. Trustee Hunking agreed to stand.

Trustee Hunking was acclaimed as the Board’s Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association.

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.

The scrutineers reported that the following trustee had been nominated:

Trustees Judy Cairncross, Alyson Kent, Doug Pratley and Nancy Rothwell

In accordance with the Board Governance Bylaws, the nominated trustees were asked if they would allow their name to stand for election. Trustees Cairncross, Pratley and Rothwell declined. Trustee Kent agreed to stand.

Trustee Kent is the Board’s Alternate Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association.

DESTRUCTION OF BALLOTS

MOTION 2015 05 64		(R. Wagler – N. Rothwell)
RESOLVED THAT	the ballots from the elections for the OPSBA Delegate and OPSBA alternate be destroyed.	
		CARRIED

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Director’s Reports

Employee Engagement Survey

Director Doherty referred to the highlights in the report. The survey was conducted by a third party professional company Flex Surveys and was open to staff from March 29th to April 8th. The response rate to the survey was 78%. There will be follow up meetings with union leaders, principals and vice principals, and managers/supervisors to review specific parts of the survey findings and develop next steps. Senior Staff will determine an action plan to work on areas of collective interest and increase overall staff engagement.

Principal and Vice Principal Pool Update

Superintendent Baker presented the report for information. The following are successful candidates for the Vice Principal pool:

Ian Moore
Jenalyn Ignor
Ed Havenga
John Flynn
Greg Schnurr
David Hunt
Kimberly Landsborough
Tracey Swart
Robyn Carnochan
Katie Padfield
Adrienne Jacques
Jim McCutcheon
Shannon McGavin
Lisa Cairncross
Amy Crummer
Missy Pfaff
Helena Finch

The following are successful candidates to the Principal pool:

Joanne Lombardi
Scott Richardson
Lynda Hemming
Tom Bishop
Abby Armstrong
John Herbert
Jana Bayer Smith
Rob Simmons

Kilometrage Rate for 2016/2017

Associate Superintendent Carter explained that a report had been presented in October setting the process for staff to determine the annual kilometrage rates for reimbursement. The kilometrage rate will remain at forty-five cents (\$0.45) per kilometer for the upcoming fiscal year 2016/2017, and the carpooling kilometrage rate will decrease to fifty-four (\$0.54) per kilometer for the upcoming fiscal year 2016/2017.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Baker presented the report for information. The following retirements/resignations have been received:

- Wayne Martin, Educational Assistant at Listowel District SS effective June 30, 2016
- P. Gail Moffett, Educational Assistant at Central Huron SS effective July 31, 2016
- Betty Lealess, Technical Resource Assistant at Little Falls PS effective August 31, 2016

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking reported nominations for any OPSBA Executive Position are due May 12th and nominations for the Working Groups can be taken from the floor at the annual general meeting. Trustee Hunking noted that OPSBA is a member of the organization that is working with the Minister of Education to ensure education is charged the appropriate rates for copyright. This continues to be an ongoing issue, and as of now sectors are being advised not to pay copyright until further notice.

Minutes from Board Committees

Student Advisory Committee: April 26, 2016

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Correspondence

No correspondence was presented or received.

NEW BUSINESSSuspensions Related to Immunizations

Trustee Hunking asked for clarification regarding suspensions if students do not have updated immunization records.

Superintendent Langis explained it is a suspension ordered through the Ministry of Health and the board is mandated to follow the order. Both the Huron County and Perth County Health Units have taken a proactive approach to this in accordance with the *Immunization of School Pupils Act*. In January the Health Units informed families if their medical records were not up to date, they then followed up with phone calls. On April 26th letters were sent home advising parents and students they had until May 17th to update their immunization. The Medical Officers of Health will contact the school regarding the suspensions.

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

- Tuesday, May 24, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session, 7:30 Student Advisory Committee, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- Tuesday, June 14, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee, 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session, 6:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Open Session, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- Tuesday, June 28, 2016 – 3:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session, 4:00 p.m. Regular Board Session

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

- SEAC: Wednesday, May 11, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
- Finance Committee: Tuesday, May 24, 2016 – 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- Ad Hoc Policy Committee: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.
- GAFE Training: Tuesday, May 31, 2016 – 5:00 p.m.
- Audit Committee: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 – 5:00 – 6:30 p.m.
- Finance Committee: Tuesday, June 7, 2016 – 7:00 – 9:30 p.m.
- Board Recognition Reception: Wednesday, June 8, 2016 – 5:30 p.m. at Central Huron Community Complex, Clinton
- Finance Committee: Tuesday, June 14, 2016 – 5:00 – 6:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT**MOTION 2016 05 65****(J. Moore – N. Rothwell)**

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:25 p.m.

CARRIEDRescind Motion to Adjourn**MOTION 2016 05 66****(R. Wagler – L. Geddes)**

RESOLVED THAT the motion to adjourn be rescinded in order to reconvene into Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

CARRIED

Motion to Reconvene into Committee of the Whole, Open Session

MOTION 2016 05 67	(R. Wagler – A. Kent)
RESOLVED THAT this board reconvene into Committee of the Whole, Open Session.	CARRIED

Chair Schenk continued the Committee of the Whole, Open Session agenda with regards to Board Policy Review.

Board Policy Review re Policy #5 re *Board Members' Code of Conduct* and Policy #10 re *Committees of the Board*

Trustees deferred Policy #10 for a future board meeting, and discussed the edits to Policy #5. Noting that the policy had been combined with OPSBA's code of conduct template, Trustees agreed to have the policy reviewed by legal counsel before approval.

Motion to Reconvene into Regular Session

MOTION 2016 05 68	(R. Hunking – A. Kent)
RESOLVED THAT this board reconvene into Regular Session.	CARRIED

Adjournment

MOTION 2016 05 69	(J. Cairncross – L. Geddes)
RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:40 p.m.	CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
Date approved

Colleen Schenk
Chair of the Board

Ted Doherty
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board