

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

8:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 27, 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, Paul Langis, and Jane Morris

Absent: Peggy Blair, Cheri Carter

Resource: Communications Manager Wes MacVicar

Recording Secretary: Barb Crawford

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Schenk called the meeting to order at 6:50 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2016 09 110 (L. Geddes – J. Cairncross)

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 8:00 p.m. and reconvened into Regular Session.

REGULAR SESSION

ROUTINE MATTERS

MOTION 2016 09 111 (L. Geddes – J. Cairncross)

RESOLVED THAT this Board convene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

Oath of Allegiance – Student Senators

Chair Schenk welcomed the Student Senators and expressed appreciation to the students for their contributions in the upcoming school year. All Student Senators in attendance recited the Oath of Allegiance and signed the Declaration of Office for the school year 2016/2017.

Approval of Agenda**MOTION 2016 09 112****(R. Wagler – R. Hunking)****RESOLVED THAT** the agenda be approved as presented.**CARRIED****Declaration of Pecuniary Interest***There were no declarations of pecuniary interest.***Approval of Minutes****MOTION 2016 09 113****(J. Moore – J. Cairncross)****RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, September 13, 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

There was no business brought forward from Closed Session.

Trustee Reflection – Chair Schenk

Twenty one years ago I began a journey ... not an easy journey in many ways, you have to have very thick skin when you take on the role of trustee; but a journey that has proven to be one of much learning on so many levels.

In 1995, I became a trustee on the former Huron County Board of Education, Bill Clinton was President. Isn't it interesting that the former first lady will hopefully become the next president of the United States in November.

We have come a long way since 1995. Our children begin school earlier, some as young as 3 in a play based classroom which has engaged and enriched them and lead to earlier identification of problems in our students. Our children are far more involved in technology and know far more than we do when it comes to computer operations. Most of our classrooms are all wired for sound with state of the art systems while twenty one years ago the first satellite television was legalized in Canada.

In the last few years we began to welcome international students who are enriched by their exchange there, but very importantly, our students are enriched by their presence. We learn a lot from these global visitors. As a board we were some of the first authors of on-line programming in the province which has grown in leaps and bounds. A number of our graduating students will have taken at least one on-line course over their high school career. When I began my trustee journey I never imagined that I would be fortunate enough to lead our trustees association, I just wasn't the type of individual to aspire to that kind of role. I'm really not sure how that happened but I have made lifelong friends, all over Ontario and globally, learned invaluable lessons, and promoted team work and working towards a common goal as a way of moving forward.

At the local level, I have been through multiple school closures and court cases, always keeping in mind the Friedrich Nietzsche quote: 'that which does not kill us makes us stronger'. The driving force behind making difficult decisions is always, of course, our students and what is best for them and their futures.

I am grateful to have been a part of the many processes and experiments over the years. We have made a few mistakes, however we have experienced multitudes of successes and I am truly thankful for both.

As we begin yet another school year, I would like to thank our present and past trustees, and our present and past staff for all of the adventures thus far and the support and the challenges over the years. By focussing on our students we have maintained a fabulous school board, we have built many pathways to the future for them, and after all it's all about the kids.

Good News

Superintendent Baker announced that the Youth Justice Committee of Huron County will be hosting a Drug Educational Forum on Wednesday, October 19th from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Salvation Army in Goderich.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson announced that October 28th is the official opening date for North Perth Westfield. Staff are working through details with the principal and more information will be available as soon as possible.

Chair Schenk reported she had attended the 96th Annual School Fair on September 14th. The fair is a great community event and going forward it's getting bigger and better.

Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Shannon Edwards reported the students discussed issues within their schools.

OSTA provided an orientation webinar for all student trustees to help students better understand their role and position as a student trustee. The webinar was hosted by the Ministry.

The OSTA annual general fall meeting will be on November 17th to 20th in Toronto,

Student/Staff Presentations

Director Doherty commented that the presentations this evening will highlight three different examples of summer learning. Superintendent Morris, System Vice Principal Jacques and Teaching & Learning Coach Susan Marklevitz will speak to the summer learning program, Superintendent Baker will highlight summer camps and Superintendent Langis will report on Summer School.

The Summer Learning program was a three week program held at eight sites directed to grade 1 and 2 students. There were 141 students participating in the program which focussed on either literacy or numeracy instruction. The program was funded through CODE and is an annual grant intended to support students across the district. The eight sites were Upper Thames ES, Avon PS, Anne Hathaway PS, Maitland River ES, Listowel Eastdale PS and Clinton PS. Two sites were full morning literacy, 2 sites were full morning numeracy and 4 sites were blended literacy and numeracy. The program also partnered with recreation facilities, chefs, museums and conservation areas.

The Summer Camp programs was a pilot this year and provided interesting experiences for international students. Capture Canada was a summer camp for international students held in Stratford. Students accessed ESL instruction as well as outdoor recreation through Huron and Perth counties. The Summer Family Immersion offered international students opportunities to experience living with a Canadian host family.

Summer School provided 230 secondary students an opportunity to complete courses over the summer. The program was offered at eight secondary school. Students were able to complete courses including Co-op, Dual Credits, Make-up/Recovery Credits and new credits.

Public Delegations

There were no public delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTIONCommunication and Advocacy Plan 2016/2017

Chair Schenk presented the report for approval. Trustees discussed minor edits to the plan.

MOTION 2016 09 114**(J. Cairncross – D. Pratley)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the Communication and Advocacy Plan for 2016/2017 as amended.

CARRIEDBoard Policy Review

Director Doherty brought forward Policies #5 *Board Members' Code of Conduct* and #16 *Selection of the Director* for review. Policy #5 was presented at the April 12th Board meeting and trustees were asked to submit further revisions if necessary. No further edits were received. Trustees were asked to approve Board Policy #5.

Director Doherty further noted that Policy #16 has been revised and trustees were asked to provide further edits before the October 11th meeting when it will be presented for approval.

MOTION 2016 09 115**(R. Wagler – D. Pratley)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve revisions to Policy #5 Board Members' Code of Conduct.

CARRIED**INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS**Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented the report for information. The following staff adjustments were reported:

Retirement/Resignation

Darlene McCann, Custodian at Anne Hathaway

William Price, Head Custodian at Seaforth PS

New Hire:

Jason Sippel, Teacher at Mitchell District HS 7-8 Campus

Nadine Fletcher, Teacher at South Perth CPS

Stacy Furtney, Teacher at Little Falls PS

Courtney LaPorte, Teacher at Upper Thames ES

Melissa Pearce, Teacher at Avon PS

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking advised that OPSBA Directors have received the Code of Conduct for OPSBA Board of Director Members and Alternates.

Trustee Pratley announced the Regional meeting will be held on November 5th hosted by Lambton Kent District School Board in Sarnia.

Minutes from Board Committees

No Minutes were presented.

Correspondence

1) Letter dated September 13, 2016 from Peel District School Board re the impact of EQAO testing on Syrian Newcomer Students in the Spring of 2016.

Superintendent Morris clarified that although newcomer families had arrived during the last school none arrived in time to be part of EQAO, therefore Avon Maitland did not have any students in their data. This current school there will be students who are registered in grade 3, 6, and 9 and

potentially grade 10. Those students will be or have been assessed by ESL Coordinator to determine their level of language proficiency and may be deferred or exempted from EQAO.

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Rothwell reminded trustees that the Parent Involvement Committee will be hosting an Orientation for school council members on Wednesday, October 19th at 6:30 p.m. and school council chairs and 2 or 3 other council members are invited to attend. The Orientation will include an overview of the Parent Involvement Committee, preview of the Parent Voice website, school council financing/fundraising and a round table opportunity for councils to share best practices.

Superintendent Morris clarified that EQAO will be written twice this school year. Grade 10 will have an online practice test on October 20th and all eligible students are encouraged to take this practice test. Students will be writing on a variety of different devices. Grade 9 will write a practice paper test. Students in grade 10 will have a chance to write again if they are unsuccessful on March 31st. Staff are hopeful to have results by December.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

Tuesday, October 11, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole – Closed Session, 5:45 p.m.

Committee of the Whole – Open Session, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session

Tuesday, October 25, 2016 – 5:00 p.m. Director’s Review Committee, 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)

Director’s Selection Committee: Tuesday, October 4, 2016 – 7:00 p.m.

SEAC: Wednesday, October 5, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

AODA: Wednesday, October 18, 2016 – 4:00 p.m.

PIC: Wednesday, October 19, 2016 – 5:30 p.m. Committee meeting, followed by School Council Orientation at 6:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2016 09 116

(J. Moore – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:25 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