

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING
8:00 P.M.
Tuesday, April 25, 2017
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: Lisa Walsh, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, Superintendents Janet Baird-Jackson, Jodie Baker, Peggy Blair, Paul Langis, and Associate Superintendent Carter

Student Trustees: Shannon Edwards
Recording Secretary: Barb Crawford

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wagler called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2017 04 240 (D. Pratley – C. Schenk)

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.

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

MOTION 2017 04 242 (R. Hunking – J. Cairncross)

RESOLVED THAT this Board convene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

Chair Wagler called the meeting to order at 8:00 p.m.

REGULAR SESSION

Chair Wagler recited the Opening Statement:

"We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Anishnaabe Peoples. We wish to recognize the long history of First Nations and Metis Peoples in Ontario and show our respect to them today. We recognize their stewardship of the land; may we all live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship."

ROUTINE MATTERS**Approval of Agenda****MOTION 2017 04 243****(J. Cairncross – R. Hunking)**

RESOLVED THAT the Agenda of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting be approved as presented.

CARRIED**Declaration of Pecuniary Interest**

No trustee declared a pecuniary interest.

Approval of Minutes

The following edits were made to the April 11, 2017 minutes:

Under Good News it should read 'Trustee Rothwell announced Elma Township Public School will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on Saturday, April 29th. The celebration will include a meet and greet and an open house, followed by an evening social.'

Also under Good News it should read 'Trustee' Pratley.

Under Business Arising from the Minutes, Trustee Cairncross clarified that Beth Rumble, representing the Huron County Library and Christine Wick, Librarian at FE Madill Secondary School, will be working together to develop lesson plans that will encourage and familiarize Avon Maitland Students with the library websites, how to navigate them and what is available to them.

MOTION 2017 04 244**(L. Geddes – R. Hunking)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Thursday, April 11, 2017 be approved as amended.

CARRIED**Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business brought forward from the April 11th minutes.

Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, Report to Board Public Session

Vice Chair Kent confirmed there was no business to report.

Trustee Reflection – Trustee Moore

In this, my sixth year as a school Board Trustee, I have recently been feeling reflective about my experiences at this table and my reasons for putting my name on a ballot 6 1/2 years ago. Much has changed for me since I first took this seat: I am no longer nursing an infant before and after Board meetings, both of my own children are now Avon Maitland students, I've had the privilege of congratulating 30 graduating classes in Perth East schools, I feel like I might now competently understand our discussions in finance meetings and of course, the Leafs made it to playoffs. Who would have thought that possible 6 years ago? Not this Blackhawks fan.

What have I contributed and what have I learnt in this role?

I would suggest our Always Learning credo aptly describes my two terms. I'd like to think some days I bring a fresh energy and a unique perspective to this table, that I know my community and that I am well connected to my schools. I hope I demonstrate a profound respect for our teachers, our staff and our school communities.

If I had to break my learning down into a David Letterman style Top 10 list, it would go something like this:

#10. Asking questions is important. Trustees need information and lots of it to understand issues locally and provincially and to make decisions. Ask these questions in a way that is respectful but keep asking. Keep asking until you understand.

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#9. Our staff are our greatest resource. We must be diligent in recognizing their contributions, honoring their voices and ensuring they feel valued and engaged as our employees.

#8. Collaboration is vital. The myriad of perspectives, lived experiences and communities that are represented at this table has made for meaningful discussions and if I were honest with you, has changed my thinking and my perspective on more than one occasion and on more than one issue.

#7. The issues are complex. Whether it be declining enrolment, boundary adjustments, strategic planning, labour negotiations or board finances, the issues facing school Boards are rarely simple and are complex by nature. I would not have known or fully appreciated this 6 years ago.

#6. Trustee relationships must be built on positive assumptions. Assumptions that we are all doing our best, trying our best and have something valuable to bring to this table. We need to be open minded and approachable and we need to work from a place that is supportive and encouraging.

#5. Wearing two hats is not easy or honestly, even enjoyable. Balancing the knowledge, understanding and position of being the school board trustee with that of being a school parent can be challenging and even socially awkward. I am not convinced I do this well all the time. I know I have not done it well on occasion and I expect I will continue to struggle to get this right.

#4. Spending time in schools is important and is the best part of the job! Christmas concerts, graduations, fun fairs, sporting events or council meetings - it's vital that you know your schools, you participate in their communities and understand the uniqueness of each school community and the issues that are of concern to them.

#3. System planning is not school specific and decision-making does not happen by consensus. Big picture thinking is critical.

#2. Leadership is key. Effective, transparent and respectful leadership is vital to governance. Without it we risk fracturing our dynamic and impeding the work we are elected to do.

#1. Our schools are vibrant, robust places chalk full of talented, dedicated educators. We have much to be proud of in Avon Maitland.

So, when I next hear "So, you're a school board trustee," followed by what's that like? what do you do? and why would you want to do that? I can quite honestly respond that I do it because I am excited about the work in our schools and I enjoy the challenging of learning, asking questions and working collaboratively at this table.

Good News

Trustee Moore announced that North Easthope will be celebrating their 50th anniversary on Sunday, June 4th with an open house from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. Trustees and administration were extended an invitation.

Student trustee Edwards reported, on behalf of student trustee Jesse Russell, that on April 19th a team of students from Stratford Northwestern Secondary School attended the board-wide Canadian Team Math Competition at the University of Waterloo, Stratford Campus. Schools competing included Central Huron Secondary School, St. Marys DCVI, Listowel District Secondary School, South Huron District High School and Stratford Northwestern. Stratford Northwestern finished as the top school in the competition.

Superintendent Baker announced that 13 students have just returned from Pangnirtun and Cape Dorsets as part of the partnership between Stratford Northwestern's EatFit Project and YMCA Youth Exchange Canada. The exchange included students from St. Marys DCVI, Stratford Central and Stratford Northwestern.

Trustee Moore announced that on May 1st Milverton Public School is hosting a parent presentation called 'Learning from our History: An evening with Eva Olsson, a Holocaust Survivor. Also on May 2nd Central Perth Elementary School grades 4 to 8 students will be joining Milverton Public School students for a presentation by Eva Olsson. The project started with Milverton Public School junior students who were reading the story "Hana's Suitcase" and teachers found a way to deepen their students' understanding of Hana's Suitcase and that period in history.

Trustee Hunking announced on Tuesday, May 2nd Stratford Northwestern Secondary School will be hosting the 'Loud and Proud' mass gathering of elementary school bands. The evening begins at 6:30 p.m. with individual presentations and followed by the mass band presentation.

Student Trustee Update

Student trustee Edwards reported the student senators have finalized the program for the May 12th Student Symposium. The students will be presenting their year-end project sharing the student survey results at the May 9th regular session.

Staff/Student Presentations

Superintendent Baker provided updates on the international program. International staff continue to review information and processes to ensure the program aligns with all schools. At this time Avon Maitland is expecting 56 students for September 2017. These students will be coming from Brazil, china, Germany, Italy, Japan, Spain, Thailand and Vietnam.

Public Delegations

There were no delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

Committee Reports

Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Trustee Geddes presented the report and noted the Board motion from February 14th was brought forward to SEAC at their March 1st meeting. SEAC appointed a subcommittee to review the Board motion. Trustee Geddes noted tonight's report of the SEAC should show that Superintendent Blair attended the subcommittee meetings as a resource, not as a member. At the April 12th SEAC meeting the draft definition of inclusive education was accepted: *Inclusive education in the Avon Maitland District School Board values the individual, social and academic contributions of every learner. Inclusive education acknowledges that every student has unique characteristics, interests, abilities and learning needs that are enriched in a common learning environment through student-centered pedagogy. Inclusive education embraces diversity, to create rich learning communities where all students are supported to learn and grow together in general education settings regardless of difference.*

Trustee Geddes presented the subcommittee's recommendation to the Board's motion of February 14th. Superintendent Blair and MISA Lead Sandy Kunkel answered questions regarding the recommendation. Trustees discussed in detail how to proceed with the recommendation from SEAC. The following motion was forthcoming and tabled for more information.

MOTION 2017 04 245

(R. Hunking – C. Schenk)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board engage Dr. Sheila Bennett from Brock University to do further research, based on the Board's motion to SEAC on February 14, 2017, on the Board's inclusion model with additional stakeholders of parents, students and adult service providers as an addendum to the previous research.

Trustees discussed the intent of the motion and what would be the next steps for the Board. Trustees agreed they required more information to help frame the timelines for the proposed research and costs associated with the research. Trustees asked for the information to be brought forward to the May 9th regular board meeting and agreed to table the motion.

Motion to Table Motion 2017 04 245**MOTION 2017 04 246****(L. Geddes – J. Moore)****RESOLVED THAT** the Avon Maitland District School Board table Motion 2017 04 245.**CARRIED**Motion to Continue Discussion with Delegation**MOTION 2017 04 247****(R. Hunking – N. Rothwell)****RESOLVED THAT** the Avon Maitland District School Board direct the appropriate staff ie director, superintendents, and inclusion coaches to continue to talk and engage with the delegation and the community to continue to discuss the issue.**DEFEATED**

Trustees discussed and concluded that staff has been communicating and will continue to do so, therefore the motion was defeated.

Chair Wagler thanked the members of SEAC and the subcommittee for their work and their input into the recommendation.

Director`s Reports**Approval of Tender: Masonry, Windows and Doors at Listowel District Secondary School**

Superintendent Baird-Jackson highlighted the extensive project at Listowel District SS. The project will be funded through the School Condition Improvement funding.

MOTION 2017 04 248**(N. Rothwell – D. Pratley)****RESOLVED THAT** the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Feltz Design Build Ltd., for masonry, windows and doors at Listowel District Secondary School in the tender amount of \$307,075.55.**CARRIED****INFORMATION REPORTS****Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) 2017/2018**

Associated Superintendent Carter presented the report and the appendices. GSNs were released by the Ministry of Education on April 12th. At the time of writing this report the Ministry had not released EFIS but as of late Friday, April 21st the web-based information system was released. The appendices included the Ministry's B07 memo re Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) for 2017/2018, the EPO Funding memo and the 'Grey Book' which is the projected GSNs for the 2017/2018 school year. The Technical Paper and other related memos are available on the Ministry's website at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/policyfudning/funding.html

Associate Superintendent Carter noted overall it is a very positive announcement for Avon Maitland. The Ministry delivered on their promise to fund contract extensions, and also provide some inflationary enhancements and enhanced capital funds for school buildings.

Associate Superintendent Carter referenced future Finance Committee meetings, May 23rd, June 6th and June 13th, which are held as open budget consultation meetings.

Expense Statements for September 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

Associate Superintendent Carter reported that expenditures are in line with expectations, and staff continue to track and monitor weekly as we draw closer to end of fiscal year.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented the following staff adjustments for information:

Retirements/Resignations:

Beverly Hovius, Custodian at South Huron District HS April 30, 2017

Rick Rompf, Custodial Supervisor at Seaforth Education Centre effective May 31, 2017

Ken Bailey, teacher at Listowel District SS effective June 30, 2017

Molly Graham, teacher at Goderich District CI effective June 30, 2017

New Hire

Christopher Bondi, Custodian at Stratford Northwestern effective April 10, 2017

Notice of Motion re Statement on Board Agenda re Recognition of Indigenous Peoples

Director Walsh introduced the notice of motion to revise the statement on the Board agenda from using First Nations and Metis Peoples in Ontario to 'Indigenous Peoples in Canada'. The intent of this notice of motion is to also amend Board Policy #9, section #4 item 1. to read:

'We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Anishnaabe Peoples. We wish to recognize the long history of Indigenous Peoples in Canada and show our respect to them today. We recognize their stewardship of the land; may we all live with respect on this land and live in peace and friendship.' A motion will be brought forward to the May 9th meeting.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking attended the OPSBA Board of Directors meeting from April 21st to 22nd. TVO presented and provided an overview of their services and showed interactive elementary programming. It was also noted that mPower, Teach Ontario, Homework Help and TVO kids are digital offerings to OPSBA.

OPSBA's keys works were shared. The budget for 2017/2018 was approved.

Trustee Hunking reviewed education policy and program issues that were also brought forward. Resolutions were presented and will be forwarded to trustees for feedback to approve or defeat. Legislative Updates and OPSBA Connect reports are available on the OPSBA website.

Trustee Pratley thanked Trustee Hunking for his diligence in covering the meeting. Trustee Pratley advised that the Labour Relations Council is winding down now that negotiations have been completed. OPSBA recognized former Director Ted Doherty for his contribution on the Labour Relations Council. There was discussion about a student's death related to energy drinks and Trustee Pratley suggested staff may want to review administrative procedures with regard to these kinds of issues. Regarding recent letters in the news on whether or not school boards have a purpose, OPSBA president Laurie French has been responding to accordingly.

Minutes from Board Committees

SEAC Minutes from March 1, 2017

Chair's Activity Update

Chari Wagler participated in a teleconference with Trustee Hunking and Director Walsh regarding executive compensation framework. On April 18th Chair Wagler attended Bluewater and South Huron municipal council meetings with Director Walsh.

Senior Staff Update

Superintendent Baird-Jackson advised trustees following the April 28, 2017 announcement to support a new Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund (GGRF), which was not anticipated, facilities staff reviewed the timelines for eligible expenditures incurred between April 12, 2017 and March 31, 2018. Staff further reviewed the prescribed list of what qualifies and noted anything not on the prescribed list will not be recognized without specific approval from the Ministry of Education. Facilities staff then reviewed the previous tenders that were to be funded through the School Condition Improvement funding and have determined that the tenders for mechanical upgrades at Sprucedale Public School (\$403,144.45) and mechanical upgrades at South Huron District High School (\$432,253.25) would qualify to use the GGRF.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported that in advance of the GSNs release, there was concern about the transportation funding. In review of the route efficiencies staff determined there was a need to change current bell times at some schools. The biggest time change will be at Little Falls Elementary School. There has been ongoing discussion with administration and school staff to accommodate the necessary bell time change. There are some bell time changes expected at Mitchell and some in the Stratford schools ie aligning Stratford Northwestern SS with some elementary schools.

Motion to Continue to 11:00 p.m.

MOTION 2017 04 249

(C. Schenk – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board continue beyond 10:30 p.m. but not later than 11:00 p.m.

CARRIED

Superintendent Baker reported this spring all grade 4 to 12 Avon Maitland students will be participating in an online school survey for students 'Our School Student Survey' previously known as the 'Tell Them from Me' survey. This is a similar survey to the Ministry's school climate survey that schools completed every 2nd year. The survey is open from April 17th to May 19th. The survey will measure a number of topics including behaviours and attitudes linked to student success, emotional and social well-being and physical health.

Correspondence

- a) Letter dated April 11, 2017 from Thames Valley DSB to Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter re Class Size Requirements for Native Language Courses
- b) Letter dated April 11, 2017 from Thames Valley DSB to Office of the Prime Minister re Request for Reduction of Class Size Requirements for Native Language Courses

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Moore asked if there could be consideration of an alternate date or earlier meeting on June 27th. This change is due to trustee's attendance at grade 8 ceremonies throughout the district. Chair Wagler, Vice Chair Kent and Director Walsh will discuss scheduling of the June 27th meeting at their next agenda planning meeting.

Trustee Rothwell noted Child and Youth Mental Health Week takes place the week of May 1st to 7th and inquired what Avon Maitland has scheduled. Superintendent Blair noted Dr. Anne Robinson and System Vice Principal Luise Hoffman have created various activities for schools to use to promote good mental health and wellness as a foundation for student learning.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- Tuesday, May 9, 2017 – 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, May 23, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. – Finance Committee, 6:15 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 6:45 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 7:30 p.m. Student Advisory Committee, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- June 13, 2017 – 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 8:00 p.m. Regular Board Session
- June 27, 2017 – 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

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

- AODA: Wednesday, April 26, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.
- Excellence in Education Banquet: Wednesday, May 3, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.
- Huron Perth Student Transportation Services (HPSTS): Tuesday, May 9, 2017 – 2:30 p.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, May 10, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.
- Student Senators Symposium: Friday, May 12, 2017 (more details to follow)
- PIC: Wednesday, May 17, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.
- Finance Committee: Tuesday, June 6, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.
- AMDSB Recognition Reception: Wednesday, June 7, 2017 – 5:30 p.m.
- Audit Committee: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 – 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2017 04 249

(J. Moore – J. Cairncross)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 10:38 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
May 9, 2017

Randy Wagler
Chair of the Board

Lisa Walsh
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board