

# AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning*

## MINUTES

**REGULAR BOARD MEETING**  
**8:00 P.M.**  
**Tuesday, May 9, 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, Jane Morris, and Associate Superintendent Carter

**Student Trustees:** Shannon Edwards

**Recording Secretary:** Barb Crawford

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Wagler called the meeting to order at 5:02 p.m. for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION**

**MOTION 2017 05 250** (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.

### **COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION**

**MOTION 2017 05 251** (J. Moore – D. Pratley)

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

**CARRIED**

### **Approval of the Committee of the Whole, Open Session Agenda**

**MOTION 2017 05 252** (J. Moore – D. Pratley)

**RESOLVED THAT** the Agenda of the Avon Maitland District School Board Committee of the Whole, Open Session meeting be approved as presented.

**CARRIED**

## Presentations

### Getting Better Through Leader Learning Teams

Chair Wagler welcomed Dr. Steven Katz. Superintendent Blair introduced Dr. Katz, a professor at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE) in Toronto and also well known for his work on assessment and evaluation. Dr. Katz's areas of expertise include cognition and learning, teacher education, networked learning communities, and the design of data-driven systems for organizational accountability, planning and improvement. Dr. Katz has published a number of books, and has been involved in research and evaluation, professional development, and consulting with a host of education organizations around the world.

### Board Policy Review

Trustees reviewed and provided further edits to Board Policies #1 re Strategic Plan, #7 re Role of the Board Chair, and #16 Selection of the Director. The policies will be brought for board approval to the June 13<sup>th</sup> Regular Board meeting.

## RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

**MOTION 2017 05 253**

**(C. Schenk – J. Moore)**

**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

The following items were added to the Agenda:

- 4.4 Business Arising from the Minutes
  - 4.4.1 Vision for Inclusive Education
- 7.8 Correspondence
  - a) Letter dated April 25, 2017 to Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter from Municipality of West Lincoln re Re-write the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline
  - b) Letter dated May 8, 2017 from Municipality of Central Huron in support of Municipality of West Lincoln's letter
- 8.2 New Business
  - a) Request from Trustee Schenk and Student Trustee Edwards

**MOTION 2017 05 254**

**(R. Hunking – J. Moore)**

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

**CARRIED**

## Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Trustee Geddes declared a pecuniary interest on item 6.3 d) re Approval of Tender: Mechanical and Electrical Upgrades at Mitchell District High School.

**Approval of Minutes****MOTION 2017 05 255****(D. Pratley – C. Schenk)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Thursday, April 25, 2017 be approved as presented.

**CARRIED****Business Arising from the Minutes**Vision for Inclusive Education

Trustees received a laydown information report as a follow up from the tabled motion 2017 04 245 from April 25, 2017. The motion from April 25<sup>th</sup> was:

**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.

At the April 25<sup>th</sup> meeting, trustees agreed 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**

Director Walsh highlighted the shared beliefs within the report noting that in Avon Maitland we believe that inclusive education is a fundamental human right of all learners. Superintendent Blair presented the report outlining the indicators of success and trustees discussed the research. The report also proposed further research by Brock University as per the tabled motion 2017 04 245.

Chair Wagler asked for the motion to be brought back to the table if it was the will of the Board.

**MOTION 2017 05 256****(D. Pratley – L. Geddes)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the Avon Maitland District School Board raise the tabled Motion 2017 04 245.

**CARRIED**

The following motion was brought forward for debate.

**MOTION 2017 05 257****(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 well as educational assistants who continue to work in elementary panel and a representative of teacher and administrators as an addendum to the previous research

Following discussion of the motion, trustees agreed to amend and include 'elementary' educational assistants.

<b>Motion 2017 05 258</b>	<b>(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the 'elementary' be inserted before 'educational assistants' in the original motion.	
<b>CARRIED</b>	

The following amended motion was brought forward.

<b>Motion 2017 05 259</b>	<b>(R. Hunking – C. Schenk)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> 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 well as elementary educational assistants who continue to work in elementary panel and a representative of teacher and administrators as an addendum to the previous research	
<b>CARRIED</b>	

Director Walsh offered final comments on how the board will continue to capture Avon Maitland's universal belief and identify the positive experiences as well as the challenges of students and families.

Superintendent Blair further noted that beginning in September 2017 there are 120 students identified with developmental disabilities in the board. Staff will be providing trustees with regular updates on inclusion beginning in the Fall of 2017.

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

<b>MOTION 2017 05 260</b>	<b>(A. Kent – L. Geddes)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the Avon Maitland District School Board establish an Ad Hoc Committee to review the Executive Compensation Framework within the timeline provided by the Ministry.	
<b>CARRIED</b>	

Trustees discussed the composition of the Ad Hoc Committee.

<b>MOTION 2017 05 261</b>	<b>(L. Geddes – D. Pratley)</b>
<b>RESOLVED THAT</b> the Avon Maitland District School Board appoint Chair Wagler, Vice Chair Kent, and Trustees Cairncross and Hunking, and Director Walsh to the Ad Hoc Committee to review the Executive Compensation Framework within the timeline provided by the Ministry.	
<b>CARRIED</b>	

### **Trustee Reflection – Trustee Geddes**

Spring is always a time of reflection for me. The rapid weather changes and the emerging growth leave me gazing out the window with a wandering mind. And in the life of a trustee the academic year builds to its conclusion.

This spring, Malala Yousafzai was made an honorary Canadian citizen and Ted Doherty was officially no longer a member of our board. (I can see Ted's face now as I put the two names in the same sentence but bear with me.)

Among the many quotes attributed to Malala, one that is most relevant to us is:

“Let us pick up our books and our pens... One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world.”

Ted may update the tools she cited, but everything I have ever heard him say embodies the concept. Provide individuals with the primary tools of being able to read and do rudimentary math, then foster growth and understanding with the 4Cs and a P and the potential of those individuals is limitless.

Five years ago when our Strategic Plan underwent a major revamp, the trustees could not agree on whether the word “learn” belonged in the same string as, “Engage, Inspire, Innovate” – active verbs vs a passive one. (Though whether “learn” is really passive was also hotly debated!) Finally, Ted suggested we add a tag-line – “always learning” – to the end of those three verbs. We were unanimously thrilled. But, as so often happens with simple ideas, “always learning” grew to be much more than a tag-line. It is now a mantra heard everywhere in this board and that is a powerful legacy. But, for me, the best part of that line is the understanding that formal education is not a panacea. There are university graduates who, indeed, change the world – but not for the better in my humble opinion.

Hah – “better” and “my opinion”. I doubt there is a single action or thought that has been or will be unanimously agreed upon. Educated people often disagree so a continuous learning stance is essential. What do we need to better understand an issue and find agreement?

And so we come back around to the end of the academic year when many decisions are made. We make decisions for the future in budgeting, accommodation reviews, boundaries and bussing, evaluation of initiatives, even who gets awards, based on our learning and our understanding so far. The decisions may well not be unanimous, the results never perfect but hopefully we act with integrity and passion to find what is best for the whole even though that is unlikely to be the best for each and every individual.

For trustees, doing the best we can for our students comes from the belief in and the openness to “always learning”.

### **Good News**

Vice Chair Kent along with Trustee Hunking attended AMDSB’s Loud and Proud showcasing elementary bands including students from grades 5 to 8. Sixteen schools participated and over 470 students were involved. This was an excellent collaboration of staff and students, and credits to the conductor for leading the performance.

Trustee Geddes announced a student led initiative at St. Marys DCVI has been chosen as one of six recipients across Ontario for financial support this year through a Community Living Ontario project called Re: Action 4 Inclusion. Their idea included hosting an ‘Inclusion Day’ and distributing pencils decorated with messages encouraging people to stray from their normal routines and meet with others they don’t generally associate with.

On April 29<sup>th</sup> Trustee Schenk attended the second annual ‘Evening of Connections 2017’ Gala Building Bridges which was a success. The event raise over \$54,000. to support finishing the playground this year. This was a real community event and Trustee Schenk expressed appreciation to the Gala team for their hard work.

Trustee Schenk announced James Speer, a grade 3 student at Maitland River Elementary School won the All Ontario Primary Public Speaking Award. The competition was held at the Royal Canadian Legion in Stratford on May 6<sup>th</sup>. James’ speech was ‘Adults Say the Weirdest Things’. Congratulations to James.

Trustee Rothwell highlighted the success of the Elma Township Public School 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebrations on April 29<sup>th</sup>. It is expected there were over 1000 people in attendance throughout the day. Beryl Currie, a teacher from 1967 to 1976 spoke. Ms. Currie is 103 years old. Other dignitaries were in attendance as well.

Trustee Rothwell congratulated the Listowel District Secondary School (LDSS) Choral Ensemble and Concern Band who recently performed at Musicfest Canada Regionals in London. Both groups were

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awarded Silver Medals. A Silver Standard signifies that an Ensemble is demonstrating an exceedingly high standard of musical performance. This was the first year ever that a concert band from LDSS has competed at this level.

Trustee Moore announced Miverton Public School hosted Dr. Eva Olsson, a holocaust survivor and advocate for social justice where she shared her truly compelling story. Dr. Olsson spoke to the students and to the community.

North Easthope Public School is hosting their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary on Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup>.

Superintendent Baker announced 41 students participated in Skills Ontario held from May 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Toronto Congress Centre. There were 14 grade 7 & 8 students and 15 secondary students from Stratford Northwestern Secondary School (SNSS), and 12 grade 7 & 8 students from Mitchell District High School (MDHS). Congratulations to all students and to the medal winners.

Superintendent Baker announced Cameron Johnson from Stratford Central Secondary School has recently been appointed to represent Avon Maitland at the 2017/2018 Minister's Student Advisory Council. There were over 480 applications received by the Minister.

### **Student Trustee Update**

- a) Technology Survey – the students presented their Technology Use in the Classroom survey feedback.
- b) Plans for the 2017 Student Symposium – Stratford Northwestern Secondary School will be hosting this year's symposium on Friday, May 12<sup>th</sup> from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

### **Staff/Student Presentations**

#### Watson & Associates – Jack Ammendolia

Superintendent Baird-Jackson introduced Jack Ammendolia from Watson & Associates. Detailed enrolment projections were presented which included population trends, birth trends, provincial school aged population trends, and Avon Maitland demographic trends. Enrolment projections for elementary and secondary were also presented.

### **Public Delegations**

There were no delegations.

### **Election of OPSBA Delegate and Alternate Delegate**

Chair Wagler called the roll and nine trustees were present. Chair Wagler called for a motion naming two scrutineers for the election.

#### **MOTION 2017 05 262**

**(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the two scrutineers for the election by 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:

Trustee Hunking and Vice Chair Kent

In accordance with the Board Governance Bylaws, the nominated trustees were asked if they would allow their names to stand for election. Trustee Hunking agreed to stand. Vice Chair Kent declined.

The first nomination ballot resulted in the election of Trustee Hunking 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 Chair reported that the following trustees had been nominated:  
Trustee Cairncross and Vice Chair Kent

In accordance with the Board Governance Bylaws, the nominated trustees was asked if they would allow their name to stand for election. Trustee Cairncross agreed to stand, Vice Chair Kent declined.

Trustee Cairncross is the Board's Alternate Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association.

**DESTRUCTION OF BALLOTS**

**MOTION 2017 05 262**

**(L. Geddes – N. Rothwell)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the ballots from the election for OPSBA Delegate and Alternate Delegate be destroyed.

**CARRIED**

**RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION**

**Director`s Reports**

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

Director Walsh presented the report as follow up from the April 25<sup>th</sup> notice of motion to revise the opening statement on the Board agenda.

**MOTION 2017 05 263**

**(J. Moore – L. Geddes)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the Avon Maitland District School Board amend Policy #9, Section 4 with the following statement, and that each full board meeting begins with the statement: *"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."*

**CARRIED**

Approval of Tender: Civil at Elma Township Public School

Superintendent Baird-Jackson spoke to the report noting this is the removal and replacement of the original 1967 asphalt in the parking lot and playground. Work also includes the installation of new storm sewers and new electrical conduit installed along the driveway to the county road. The project will be funded through the Facilities Renewal grant.

**MOTION 2017 05 264****(R. Hunking – N. Rothwell)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Steed and Evans Limited for civil and asphalt work at Elma Township Public School in the tender amount of \$577,000.00.

**CARRIED**

Superintendent Baird-Jackson further noted that following the recent fire call and further investigation of the work that was discovered the consultant will do an addendum to this project.

At 10:28 p.m. Chair Wagler asked for a Motion to continue beyond 10:30 p.m.

**MOTION 2017 05 259****(C. Schenk – L. Geddes)**

**RESOLVED THAT** board continue beyond 10:30 p.m.

**CARRIED**Approval of Tender: Masonry, Windows and Door Replacement at Mitchell District High School

Superintendent Baird-Jackson explained the projects includes masonry in the courtyard and south classroom elevation as well as window replacements, and door system replacements. The project will be funded through the School Condition Improvement funding.

**MOTION 2017 05 260****(J. Cairncross – D. Pratley)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Belliveau Construction, for masonry, windows and doors at Mitchell District High School in the tender amount of \$296,267.92.

**CARRIED**

Trustee Geddes left the meeting room for the following discussion.

Approval of Tender: Mechanical and Electrical Upgrades at Mitchell District High School

Superintendent Baird-Jackson highlighted the scope of the project and noted the project will be funded through the School Condition Improvement funding.

**MOTION 2017 05 261****(R. Hunking – N. Rothwell)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Brad Baker Plumbing, Heating & Electrical Inc. for mechanical and lighting upgrades at Mitchell District High School in the amount of \$551,553.00.

**CARRIED**

Trustee Geddes returned to the meeting room.

**INFORMATION REPORTS**15 Year Enrolment Projections

Superintendent Baird-Jackson and Information and Reporting Analyst Hugh Cox presented the enrolment report and highlighted the elementary and secondary enrolment projections by planning area which was attached as an appendix. Analyst Hugh Cox noted earlier this evening trustees heard Jack Ammendolia, a demographic consultant, who provided detailed enrolment projections and updates. Total elementary projected enrolments decline slightly over the next 5 to 6 six years. Secondary enrolment continues to decline with a moderate increase during the last three years of the projections.



### Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented the following staff adjustments for information:

Retirements/Resignations:

Brooke Austin, HR Service Rep, Seaforth Education Centre, effective May 1, 2017

Anne Marie Prentice, Educational Assistant, Elma Township PS, effective June 29, 2017

Terry Worsell, BES Chief, Goderich District CI, effective June 30, 2017

### OPSBA Update

Trustee Hunking advised that trustees would have received an email from OPSBA with items that are for consideration at OPSBA's AGM. Trustee Hunking asked that the Policy Resolution and the Priorities be added to the next Committee of the Whole, Open Session for discussion prior to the AGM. A list of candidates running for election will be available on the OPSBA website. OPSBA has appointed a new Executive Director Rusty Hicks from Kawartha Pineridge DSB. The Ministry's Rural and Remote engagement session will be held in Thedford on May 24<sup>th</sup>. More information will be forthcoming.

### Minutes from Board Committees

Student Advisory Council: March 28, 2017

### Senior Staff Update

Superintendent Morris highlighted the successful system-wide May 8<sup>th</sup> PA. Support staff from OSSTF-ESS, UNIFOR, PSSP and non-union attended the activities held at Central Huron Secondary School. Kindergarten teachers and DECEs spent the day together, as did music teacher from K to 12, and French teachers also came together and reviewed the new document including students with special education needs in classrooms. Teachers of math and SERTS were together and all other teachers and administrators held an in-school professional learning day working on school improvement planning.

Superintendent Blair announced SEAC is hosting the annual Learning for All Parent conference featuring Dr. Caroline Musselwhite on May 23<sup>rd</sup> at Anne Hathaway Public School starting at 6:30 p.m. Dr. Musselwhite's presentation will be "Literacy for All".

### Correspondence (laydown)

- a) Letter dated April 25, 2017 to Minister of Education Mitzie Hunter from Municipality of West Lincoln re Re-write the Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline
- b) Letter dated May 8, 2017 from Municipality of Central Huron in support of Municipality of West Lincoln's letter

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### June 27, 2017 Regular Board Meeting

The June 27<sup>th</sup> Board meeting coincides with grade 8 ceremonies across the district. Trustees agreed to move the time of the June 27<sup>th</sup> meeting to 3:00 p.m. for Committee of the Whole, Closed Session and 3:30 p.m. for Regular Board.

### Trustee Schenk and Student Trustee Shannon Edwards

Trustee Schenk and Student Trustee Edwards asked to make a motion asking schools to consider acknowledgement of Indigenous Peoples as part of their opening and closing exercise.

As this is a school operational matter, Senior Staff will consult with schools and review AP 203 re Opening and Closing Exercises.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

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

- 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 – 3:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 3:30:00 p.m. Regular Board Session

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

- 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 05 262**

**(N. Rothwell – C. Schenk)**

**RESOLVED THAT** this meeting be adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario  
May 23, 2017

Randy Wagler  
Chair of the Board

Lisa Walsh  
Director of Education and  
Secretary of the Board