

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING

6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, November 14, 2017

Maitland Room, Seaforth Education Centre
62 Chalk Street North, Seaforth, ON

PRESENT:

Trustees: Lynette Geddes, Robert Hunking, Alyson Kent, Doug Pratley, Nancy Rothwell, Colleen Schenk, Al Sygrove, Randy Wagler

Teleconference: Julie Moore

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 Cheri Carter

Student Trustee: Jesse Russell

Resource: Janice Richmond

Recording Secretary: Barb Crawford

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Wagler called the meeting to order for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session at 7:00 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2017 11 337

(L. Geddes – C. Schenk)

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

CARRIED

Vice-Chair Alyson Kent was Chair for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

MOTION 2017 11 338

(C. Schenk – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

Chair Wagler called the Regular Meeting to order at 7:32 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 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."

ROUTINE MATTERS

Approval of Agenda

The following items were added:

New Business

- 1) Review of Policy #2 re Trustee Job Description
- 2) Discussion re OPSBA's email on Cannabis Retain Site Planning

Chair Wagler asked for removal of any Consent items. The following items were removed:

4.4 a) Approval of Tender: iPad Equipment Repair Parts

4.5 b) Process to Establish the per-Kilometre Reimbursement Rates for Travel on Board Business

MOTION 2017 11 339

(D. Pratley – R. Hunking)

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

CARRIED

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No member of the Board declared having a pecuniary interest regarding any item presented in this agenda.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION 2017 11 340

(L. Geddes – R. Hunking)

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, October 24, 2017 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

MOTION 2017 11 341

(A. Sygrove – C. Schenk)

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board poll vote held Thursday, November 8, 2017 be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

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

Vice-Chair Kent confirmed there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

Trustee Reflection – Chair Randy Wagler

For this evening's Trustee reflection, I'd like to focus in on the very last words of our Strategic Plan: "Guided by Principles of Equity, Character and Stewardship". I think of this part of our Strategic Plan by envisioning a pyramid and these guiding principles forming the base of the pyramid. They are a bit different from the other aspects of our Strategic Plan in that they are less concrete and less able to be measured directly, but nonetheless they are absolutely critical and foundational to the success of our Strategic Plan and indeed our Board. To me, they are as vital as the air we breathe, they form our cultural DNA, and they underpin everything else we do.

The first of our guiding principles is "Equity" which is really at the heart of public education. As a public education system, we believe that all students have the right to a high quality education, no matter who they are, where they live, or what their unique circumstances might be. We believe that education does indeed "level the playing field" and enables everyone within our communities to have the same

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

opportunities to benefit from a high quality education. But equity doesn't mean delivering education to the 'lowest common denominator', rather it also means raising the bar to providing the highest possible quality of education to all our students. And while the manner in which that high quality education is delivered may vary somewhat from community to community, school to school, the same educational outcomes are provided to every student. Equity pushes us to ensure that 'no student is left behind' and that every student is engaged and successful.

The second of our guiding principles is character, and in our Board that specifically refers to our 10 character attributes developed in concert with our communities: compassion, courage, empathy, fairness, honesty, integrity, perseverance, optimism, respect and responsibility. These character attributes reflect who we are, and ultimately how everyone in the Board including Trustees, interacts with our students, staff, families, and communities. It also reflects how we as Trustees interact with one another and in order for these character attributes to be seen throughout the Board, it begins with us modelling these character attributes in all we do. Demonstrating and living these character attributes sets the tone and foundation for the open, transparent, positive relationships needed to implement our Strategic Plan.

Stewardship is our third guiding principle, for which the online Merriam-Webster dictionary provides this definition: "1 :the office, duties, and obligations of a steward. 2 :the conducting, supervising, or managing of something; especially :the careful and responsible management of something entrusted to one's care." For me, the resonating words are "Careful and responsible..." and "... entrusted to one's care." So, what are we entrusted with? First and foremost, students are entrusted to us by their families and they expect us to care for their children and be responsible in providing a safe learning environment in which their children receive a quality education. In addition, we have financial resources entrusted to us by the Government of Ontario, and tonight we will be reviewing our Financial Statements which will hopefully demonstrate our "careful and responsible management" of those resources. These are just a couple of examples of the resources in our care, and as Trustees, and as a School Board, this guiding principle reminds us that others are depending on us and trusting us to be good stewards of all that has been entrusted to us.

In closing, I hope that you will agree with me that these guiding principles indeed form the foundation of all we do, and form our cultural DNA. These are not 'easy' or 'simple' principles to apply, nor will we ever 'arrive' at accomplishing them. However if we keep reminding ourselves of them, and striving to live them out in all we do, then I believe we'll not only accomplish our Strategic Plan, but more importantly, we will ensure we have done so in a way that delivers an equitable high quality education to all students, developments character in our students and staff, and demonstrate principles of responsible stewardship in all we do.

Good News

Trustee Pratley attended Stratford Northwestern Secondary School's commencement held at the Avon Theatre, and brought greetings on behalf of the Board. One of the many highlights of the evening was the presentation of an honorary diploma to Peter Mansbridge.

Trustee Sygrove announced that on November 4th the students at Goderich District Collegiate Institute held a country Christmas craft day. The proceeds from this event will go to MADD.

Vice-Chair Kent was pleased to announce another successful Foundation for Education Gala held on November 11th, which was attended by trustees, administrators and community members. Approximately \$25,000. was raised.

Student Trustee Update

Student trustee Jesse Russell announced that he and student trustee Natalie Moore attended the fall OSTA meeting. The conference is an excellent venue for networking.

Staff/Student Presentation

There were no staff/student presentations.

Public Delegations

There were no delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Report of the Audit Committee re Approval of the Consolidated Financial Statements for the Period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017

Associate Superintendent Carter commented that earlier this evening the Audit committee reviewed the consolidated financial statements, along with the audit findings report provided by KPMG. There were no audit differences, and the committee was pleased with the outcome of the financial year-end. School boards are required to follow PSAB with the exception of revenue recognition for capital contributions, where boards are required to adopt Ontario Regulation 395/11.

Associate Superintendent Carter summarized the Notes and Statement changes, noting the Statements have not changed in terms of format.

MOTION 2017 11 342

(R. Hunking – A. Sygrove)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the draft Consolidated Financial Statements for the period September 1, 2016 to August 31, 2017, as presented.

CARRIED

Chair Wagler thanked Associate Superintendent Carter and the Finance Department for their due diligence throughout the year in preparing for the Statements.

Approval of Tender: iPad Equipment Repair Parts

Associate Superintendent Carter presented the report and explained that this is the first time for this tender report. In September staff issued a request for tender for iPad original equipment repair parts. Submissions were received and reviewing based on five criteria. Superintendent Baird-Jackson indicated the increased need arose from the refresh and collection of iPads over the summer. This includes all regular, mini, iPad 1, 2 3 or 4 whether purchased by schools, on carts, through NGL, etc.

MOTION 2017 11 343

(C. Schenk – A. Kent)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board Avon Maitland District School Board award the one-year, fixed price contract to supply iPad Original Equipment Parts, to triPhone Cellular of Chatham, Ontario at a maximum value of \$139,300 for a one-year period.

CARRIED

Process to Establish the per-Kilometre Reimbursement Rates for Travel

Associate Superintendent Carter provided background information on the calculation of the current kilometre rates and explained the CRA Reasonable Rate recommendation. It was also noted that the rate increase is expected to cost approximately an additional \$150,000. per year. Staff are proposing that effective January 2018 the process for establishing the per-kilometre rate by updated to coincide with the CRA Reasonable Rate for all travel. The car-pooling rate will be discontinued.

Trustee Pratley expressed concern with disposing of the current carpooling rate and asked that staff be encouraged to continue to carpool as a cost saving measure.

MOTION 2017 11 344**(L. Geddes – C. Schenk)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board staff will establish the annual per-kilometre rate for reimbursement of employees' personal travel expenses while on board business as follows:
 The rate will be set in January of each calendar year and will be in effect for the entire calendar year;
 The rate will be the reasonable per-kilometre allowance as determined by Canada Revenue Agency (CRA) for an employee in the Province of Ontario; and
 Board staff will bring forward an information report to the first board meeting in a calendar year, to disclose the rate in place for the balance of that calendar year.

CARRIED**INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS****DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Principal /Vice-Principal Pool Update

Superintendent Langis presented the report noting interviews were completed last week and candidates were advised by the end of the day on Friday, November 13th.
 Staff will interview in both the fall and spring to replenish the current pool. Three candidates were interviewed for the vice-principal pool and three for the principal pool.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented staff adjustments for information.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Schenk had attended the regional meeting on November 4th which was hosted by Upper Grand DSB. This was a joint meeting with central west. The morning focus was on mental health and the afternoon sessions were regional meetings.
 As a reminder, the OPSBA Public Education Symposium is scheduled January 25th to the 28th.

Minutes from Board Committees

Joint Health & Safety Committee – May 25, 2017

Chair's Activity Update

Chair Wagler reported he continues to fulfill the duties on behalf of the board, and attends board and committee meetings as required.

Senior Staff Update

Superintendent Blair announced the upcoming December 1st PA day at Stratford Festival theatre and Stratford Northwestern Secondary School 'Exploring the Truths on the Pathway to Reconciliation'. Dr. Niigaan Sinclair is the keynote speaker. Trustees are invited to attend this system PA day.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson indicated that the Ministry third-party auditors were currently in Avon Maitland schools going through their cyclical review of Avon Maitland buildings which involves an update to the building condition database which in turn is reflected in an update to our renewal.

Superintendent Baker highlighted the work of the Student Success Pathway Team and a recent full day workshop on pathway options. The team met with grade 9 students in all secondary schools to talk about specialized programs to engage students.

Correspondence

- a) Letter dated October 17, 2017 from Peel District School Board re EQAO Testing for the 2017/2018 School Year
- b) Letter dated October 25, 2017 from Trillium Lakelands District School Board re support of the letter from Waterloo Region District School Board re the Opioid Crisis

NEW BUSINESSBoard Policy # 2 Change to Board Job Description

Trustees reviewed the suggested changes and provided further comments and edits to the policy. The policy will be brought to the November 28, 2017 meeting for approval.

Cannabis Retail Site Planning

Trustees received an email from OPSBA President Laurie French asking for comments and thoughts on the site locations for the standalone recreational cannabis retail locations. Trustees agreed there should be consideration of the proximity of both elementary and secondary schools, as well as not near municipal transportation hubs or bus pick-up/drop-offs. Trustees also agreed it would be valuable to connect with other partners to receive their input ie Choices for Change. Chair Wagler will convey the board's comments to the OPSBA President.

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

- November 14, 2017 – 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 7:30 p.m. Regular Board Session

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

- SAL: Wednesday, October 25, 2017 – 9:00 a.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, November 1, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.
- Foundation Gala: Saturday, November 11, 2017 – Revival House, Stratford
- Audit Committee: Tuesday, November 14, 2017 – 4:30 p.m.
- HPSTS: Thursday, November 16, 2017 – 4:00 p.m.
- PIC: Wednesday, November 22, 2017 – 6:30 p.m.
- Student Advisory Committee: Tuesday, November 28, 2017 – 7:00 p.m.
- Joint Health & Safety Committee: Thursday, November 30, 2017 – 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT**MOTION 2017 11 345****(N. Rothwell – A. Sygrove)****RESOLVED THAT** this meeting be adjourned at 9:15 p.m.**CARRIED**

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
November 28, 2017

Randy Wagler
Chair of the Board

Dr. Lisa Walsh
Director of Education and
Secretary of the Board