

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.

Monday, December 18, 2017

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

PRESENT:

Trustees: Lynette Geddes, Robert Hunking, Alyson Kent, Julie Moore, Doug Pratley, Nancy Rothwell, Colleen Schenk, Al Sygrove, 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 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 5:06 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2017 12 355

(C. Schenk – R. Hunking)

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.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION

MOTION 2017 12 356

(C. Schenk – D. Pratley)

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

CARRIED

BIPSAW

Director Walsh provided an in-depth presentation of the 2017-2018 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Well-being (BIPSAW). Target areas for 2017-2018 include Literacy and Numeracy, Intellectual Engagement, Social and Institutional Engagement. School administrators will share the plan for their school teams and ensure their School Improvement Plans align with the Board Plan.

Board Review – Self Evaluation

Chair Wagler noted as part of year end processes, trustees review accomplishments, regrets, opportunities and barriers to reflect on various aspects of the Board of Trustees' role. The self-evaluation is a method to reflect and look ahead. Trustees provided their detailed comments and a summary of the evaluation will be presented at the February 13th Committee of the Whole, Open Session.

Board Meeting Time Change Feedback

Chair Wagler asked trustees for a consensus on continuing with the current time change to the regular board meetings, and whether to continue with Consent Items on the agenda. Trustees agreed to continue with the time of the Regular Board meeting starting at 7:30 p.m. Trustees also agreed to continue with the Consent Items but want the items clearly identified.

Inclement Weather Communication

As a follow up to a question from Trustees, Superintendent Langis advised that the inclement weather communication is not a new policy. In the past year administration has met regularly with the Labour Management Committee and has discussed expectations, protocols and communication to staff and communities. There has always been an expectation that schools should be accessible and open to students whenever possible. School administrators have been asked to ensure there is a weather plan in place and under certain scenarios be able to make appropriate decisions in a timely matter.

Director Walsh further commented that while staff are expected to attempt to get to work, safety is a priority for both staff and students. The expectation is that people will try to get to work and that schools will be open to accommodate students if possible. If buses are cancelled and there are students that are walking to schools then there will be a learning program in place for students. If students are not in classrooms, staff will have time to collaborate, plan and prepare.

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION**MOTION 2017 12 357****(L. Geddes – C. Schenk)****RESOLVED THAT** this Board reconvene into Regular Session.**CARRIED****INAUGURAL SESSION****CALL TO ORDER**

The Secretary of the Board, Lisa Walsh, called the Inaugural meeting to order at 8:12 p.m. Director Walsh extended a welcome to the trustees and guests to the Inaugural Meeting of the Avon Maitland District School Board. The Secretary called the roll. Nine trustees were present in the room.

REVIEW OF ELECTION PROCEDURE BY SECRETARY

In accordance with the governance by-laws, Director Walsh briefly explained the election procedures for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair. Director Walsh called for a motion naming two scrutineers for the election.

MOTION 2017 12 358**(D. Pratley – R. Hunking)****RESOLVED THAT** the two scrutineers for the election be Superintendents Janet Baird-Jackson and Peggy Blair.**CARRIED****ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR****Election of Chair of the Board**

The Secretary called for a nominating ballot for the office of the Chair of the Board. The Scrutineers distributed the ballots and left the room to tally the nominations.

The Director reported that the following trustees had been nominated: Robert Hunking, Julie Moore, Nancy Rothwell, Randy Wagler.

In accordance with the Board Governance By-Laws, the nominated trustees were asked if they would allow their names to stand for election. Trustees Hunking, Moore, and Rothwell declined. Trustee Wagler agreed to let his name stand.

Trustee Wagler took the Chair and presided for the remainder of the meeting.

Election of the Vice-Chair of the Board

Chair Wagler called for a nominating ballot for Vice-Chair. The Scrutineers distributed the ballots and left the room to tally the nominations.

The Chair reported that the following trustee had been nominated: Robert Hunking

In accordance with the Board Governance By-Laws, the nominated trustee was asked if he would allow his name to stand. Trustee Hunking agreed to stand. The nomination ballot resulted in Trustee Hunking as Vice-Chair.

DESTRUCTION OF BALLOTS

MOTION 2017 12 359

(N. Rothwell – A. Sygrove)

RESOLVED THAT the ballots from the elections for Board Chair and Vice-Chair be destroyed.
CARRIED

REMARKS FROM CHAIR RANDY WAGLER

I'd like to begin by saying thank you to my fellow Trustees for again placing your trust in me as Chair for the year ahead. I have appreciated your support over the past year and I count it a privilege to serve as a Trustee alongside all of you who are so committed to public education. I want to also thank Trustee Kent for being a great Vice-Chair over the past year. Alyson, I have appreciated your insight, suggestions, and feedback and for the many great discussions we had as we wrestled with various issues, so thank you. I now look forward to working in a similar collaborative manner with our new Vice-Chair, Trustee Hunking.

Before looking briefly to the year ahead, I want to first take a moment to recognize someone who is attending her last Board meeting with Avon Maitland. It was 7 years ago that Peggy Blair joined our Board, and since that time she has been an invaluable member of our Senior Team and provided excellent leadership in the area of Special Education. It has been her vision and leadership that has been instrumental in having us challenge our thinking about education for our students with unique needs, and the great strides we have made in having those students participate more and more in regular classrooms with their peers is in no small measure due to Peggy's firm belief that this philosophy is simply the right thing to do. Peggy, on behalf of the Board, I want to thank you for all you have done for the students of Avon Maitland and we wish you all the best as you embark on a new phase in your career when you begin your new position with Hamilton Wentworth in February.

In looking ahead for the next year, as usual there are a number of challenges and changes that we will be facing, but I know we can do so successfully as we work together as a Board with our Director and Senior Team. First, we will continue to have the challenge of offering quality programming and education in our small high schools. However, I am grateful that the government has recognized the unique challenges mainly rural Boards like us face, and has provided additional resources to help us address those challenges. Our Board has begun to use these resources as we've seen with some pilot funding for additional buses for extra-curricular activities, and our AMDEC team is piloting an e-Hub concept to ensure our students are successful with their online learning. Second, this coming year we will receive the results of the research we have commissioned with regard to inclusion of students with developmental disabilities. As a learning organization, we have been a Board who consistently seeks to make evidence-based decisions and this research will allow us to identify both best practices as well as areas for growth so that we deliver the highest possible education to all of our learners. Third, the year ahead will also bring changes to our Accommodation Review Policy as the Ministry has indicated that

there will be consultation followed by changes to the accommodation review process. This will be important for us because we do have a number of areas of pupil accommodation concern that need to be dealt with. Finally, we will indeed have change in our Board next year as a result of the upcoming Municipal election next November. It's important for us as Trustees to do what we can to inform potential candidates of the role of the Trustee so they can make an informed decision about whether to get involved or not. This will help ensure that our Board continues to have Trustees who are committed to public education and ensuring the students of Huron and Perth Counties continue to receive the highest quality education possible.

These are just a few of the changes and challenges facing us in the year ahead, and I'm sure there are many more to come as well. We are a Board that rises to challenges and embraces change, and I know that by working together collaboratively, openly, respectfully, and with a shared vision through our Strategic Plan, we will indeed ensure that our students, as well as all of us, are "Always Learning".

Chair Wagler called the Regular Meeting to order at 8:30 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 to Consent Items:

7.3 d) Staff Adjustments

7.5 a), b), and c) re Board Committee minutes from Joint Health & Safety Committee, AODA, and SEAC

MOTION 2017 12 360

(J. Moore – L. Geddes)

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

CARRIED

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No trustees declared having a conflict of interest.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION 2017 12 361

(C. Schenk – A. Sygrove)

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, November 28, 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
Use of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers

MOTION 2017 12 361**(R. Hunking – A. Kent)**

RESOLVED THAT Avon Maitland District School Board amend the current arrangements for mechanical and electrical services to expire at the conclusion of the current year capital plan projects.

CARRIED**Good News**

Trustee Geddes announced SEAC is hosting their annual Learning for All Parents event on January 10, 2018 at Stratford Northwestern Secondary School from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Families and youth with developmental disabilities are invited to hear about 'Life After High School – Exploring Your Future'.

Trustees Pratley and Schenk attended the Ministry's assessment consultation 'Independent Review of Assessment and Reporting in Ontario' on December 5th.

Trustee Schenk acknowledged former Director of Education Paul Carroll who passed away on December 16, 2017. Paul Carroll was known for his passion for education for all and a strong supporter of his community.

Associate Superintendent Carter announced Central Huron Secondary School and Mitchell District High School are recipients of a memorial donation from Kathleen Francis Stapleton who passed away in 2017. Her estate was distributed amongst many public organizations in the area, and two scholarship funds have been established for the two secondary schools as noted above.

Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Jesse Russell noted the senators have applied for the Speak Up grant to help fund the upcoming student symposium. The theme this year is 'Sense of Belonging'. OSTA has released the student-parent-educators survey.

Staff/Student PresentationEquity Action Plan

Superintendent Blair referred to the three documents that are set to guide equity in Ontario/Canada. The documents are Ontario's Equity and Inclusive Education Strategy, Ontario's Education Equity Action Plan and Achieving Excellence – A Renewed Vision for Education in Ontario. Ontario boards must develop a multi-year Equity Action Plan. Key initiatives of the plan are to include school and classroom practices; leadership, governance and human resources practice; data collection, integration and reporting; and organization culture change.

Administration has established an Equity Advisory Committee to review current administrative procedures, review current practices that support equity and inclusion, and to guide next steps in the work of equity and inclusive education.

Public Delegations

There were no delegations.

INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS**DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Director's Annual Report

Director Walsh noted in accordance with the *Education Act*, a Director's Annual Report must be submitted at the first meeting of the board of trustees in December, and posted to the Board's website by January 31st. Director Walsh introduced the report and a review of the progress and accomplishments over the past year was presented by senior administration.

Trustee Honoraria – Annual Calculation

Associate Superintendent Carter presented the annual report highlighting the calculation as prescribed by Ontario Regulation 357/06. The calculation shows a decrease in rates for the year beginning December 1, 2017. Trustees will see a decrease of approximately \$25.00 compared to prior years.

Trustee Expenses and Attendance

In accordance with Board Policy #9 re *Board Governance By-Laws*, Associate Superintendent Carter highlighted the annual report of trustee expenses and attendance at Board meetings.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented staff adjustments for information.

Superintendent Langis announced school admin transfers effective February 2, 2018. Debbie Green, Principal at FE Madill SS to System Principal Learning Services, Marie McDade from Clinton Public School to FE Madill SS and Luise Hoffman, System Vice-Principal to Principal at Clinton Public School.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Schenk reported the Board of Directors' meeting was held on December 1st and 2nd. Discussion included a representative from CAS highlighting key commitments ie age of protection raised to 18 year olds, financial updates re school energy coalition, student transportation, the impact of Bill 174 re Cannabis, and initiatives to create solutions to the growing demand for French teachers.

Trustee Schenk reminded trustees of the upcoming Public Education Symposium from January 25th to 27th, and the 2018 Summit on Youth and Mental Health will be held April 12th and 13th.

Minutes from Board Committees

The following Committee minutes were received:

- a) Joint Health & Safety: September 28, 2017
- b) AODA: October 11, 2017
- c) SEAC: November 1, 2017

Senior Staff Update

Superintendent Baird-Jackson reported the Ministry has released the 2017: B15 memo re New Vision for Student Transportation – Discussion Paper. Two reference groups have been established, the Innovation Reference Group and the Transportation Reference Group. Avon Maitland's Transportation Manager David Frier will be part of these groups. Further, the Ministry released 2017: B16 re School Bus Driver Retention Bonus Program to address concerns across the province about driver retention. Associate Superintendent Carter announced Revised Estimates were filed on Friday, December 15th with a balanced budget.

Superintendent Morris confirmed as of December 15th requirements were completed for the Before and After School viability survey. There were 799 surveys returned from families across the district.

Correspondence

No correspondence was received.

NEW BUSINESS

No new business was presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- January 23, 2018 – 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee, 7:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 7:30 p.m. Regular Board Session
- February 13, 2018 – 5:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 6:00 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Open Session, 7:30 p.m. Regular Session

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

- SEAC: Wednesday, January 10, 2018 held at Stratford Northwestern SS – prior to the Transition Fair

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2017 12 362

(C. Schenk – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 9:48 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair Wagler extended season's greetings to all and wished everyone a safe and happy holiday.

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
January 23, 2018

Randy Wagler
Chair of the Board

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