

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

REGULAR BOARD MEETING

7:30 p.m.

Tuesday, January 23, 2018

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
Julie Moore (via teleconference)

Senior Staff: Lisa Walsh, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, Superintendents Jodie Baker, Kim Black, Paul Langis, and Associate Superintendent Cheri Carter

Student Trustee: Natalie Moore

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 6:26 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2018-01-23-363

(C. Schenk – L. Geddes)

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

CARRIED

Vice-Chair Robert Hunking was Chair for the Committee of the Whole, Closed Session.

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

MOTION 2018-01-23-364

(C. Schenk – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

REGULAR SESSION

Chair 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 revisions were made to the Agenda for Regular Session:

4.0 Recommendations for Immediate Action item 4.3 a) to be removed from Consent Item.

5.0 Information and Progress Reports items 5.3 a), 5.3 b), and 5.3 c) were removed from Consent Items. Items 5.5 a) and 5.5 b) are Consent Items. Items 5.8 a) and 5.8 b) are Consent Items. There is an additional laydown item 5.3 e) re Administrative Transfers Effective February 20, 2018.

MOTION 2018-01-23-365

(A. Sygrove – D. Pratley)

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

CARRIED

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

Trustee Geddes declared conflict of interest on 5.3 a) Approval of Tender: Electrical Upgrades at St. Marys DCVI.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION 2018-01-23-366

(C. Schenk – A. Kent)

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Monday, December 18, 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 Hunking noted there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

Trustee Reflection – Trustee Schenk

I have thought long and hard about what to reflect on tonight. This is an election year on two fronts in our province. One of course particularly affects us individually as some of us may or may not choose to run again for our positions as Trustees on the Avon Maitland District School Board. The other election, our provincial election, will of course affect us also, as all of our funding comes from the province and the outcome of the election will most certainly affect our budgets, among other things, now and in the years to come.

However, at the present moment, I will focus on the municipal elections and my love affair with public education. Did you know that the oldest public school in the world still exists in Japan? It was built in 1670 for “the common folk.” In the mid-17th century, Massachusetts became the first state to mandate public schooling and on April 23rd, 1635, the first public school known as Boston Latin School opened its doors. In Ontario, in 1871, a law was passed making it compulsory for students to attend at least elementary school; most provinces followed soon after. Free, provincially-run schools offered answers to major social and economic problems of the time. A better education would make a better society, reformers argued, as children would learn the skills needed to be good workers and good citizens. Because children’s labour contributed to family survival, many parents were reluctant to send their children to school. Others objected to compulsory schooling because they feared that it did not match their language or religion. By the mid 1890’s, most people had come to hope that free and compulsory schooling would improve their children’s lives and contribute to a more just and equitable Canada. Most students attended to age 14. Canada was also responsible for instituting one of the longest summer holidays in the world to accommodate farm children working on the land.

However, public schooling was not without its problems. There was a large degree of segregation due to language and race, which prohibited a number of students from attending the public system. Aboriginal students fared the worst. Under the *Indian Act*, residential schools were established that were supposed to run parallel to the public school system. In fact, for many reasons including but not limited to, a shortage of qualified teachers; the separation of parent and child; horrible living conditions; mistreatment of the Aboriginal students and forced assimilation into the Anglo culture, these students left these schools marred for life. Instead of receiving an equitable education, black and Asian students were also often denied the right to a free public education due to prejudice.

When we look back and reflect on these early beginnings, we realize just how far our public education system has evolved.

- a) We now have technology that links us with the world and opens endless possibilities to all, including staff and students. We are now able to offer our students a chance to explore and experience the world first hand enabling them to go abroad and investigate other cultures and to use languages far beyond the two native languages of our Canada.
- b) As well, we are now able to offer students from other countries an opportunity to come and explore and enjoy life as we know it in Ontario. This benefits us and our families by letting us get to know and appreciate these students too.
- c) We are able to offer courses through on-line learning that gives students opportunities beyond those offered in our traditional classrooms.
- d) We are able to offer differentiated learning to students through public education because we have come to realize that one size does not fit all and everyone is entitled to a well-rounded education in whatever learning style works best for them.
- e) We are able to offer inclusive education geared again to support students with special needs and help students appreciate that we are not all made the same.
- f) We are able to offer learners of all ages the opportunity to study and learn through our public education system.
- g) We are able to attract and retain some of the best minds in the world who dedicate themselves to students and their learning on many levels.
- h) We are able, in Canada, to offer a safe learning environment where students can grow and flourish without concern for their safety or the safety of others around them.
- i) We are able to have a say in our public education system through our school boards by electing Trustees every 4 years from our local areas thereby ensuring that a fair and equitable education system is available to all students throughout the board.
- j) We are able, through our Ontario Provincial School Boards Association, to communicate with the present day government to ensure that our local needs throughout the province are being met.
- k) We are now beginning to witness a change in our curriculum to better reflect our history, especially with respect to our First Nations peoples.
- l) We are continually witnessing ongoing changes in the curriculum to better reflect the ever-growing and ever-changing needs of modern technology.

Yes, public education has and always will be a necessity. I strongly believe that public education is a right; one that should be defended at all costs and I strongly believe that every individual, young or old, should have ongoing opportunities to improve their lives and the lives of their families. I also believe that new opportunities continuously evolve as education has continued to evolve and it is exciting to be a part of that growth.

These are the many reasons that I have served public education for over 23 years and still have a passion to continue that service for the next 4 years. Thank you to all of you for your present and past contributions to education. It is my hope that many of you will choose to continue on that journey with me; a journey that many times has given as much as it takes.

Good News

Chair Wagler officially welcomed Kim Black in the role of Superintendent, Learning Services.

Public Delegations

There were no delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee Report re Draft Revised Estimates 2017/2018

Finance Chair Hunking introduced the report that was presented to the Finance Committee at the 5:00 p.m. meeting this evening. The Committee received an extensive review of the draft revised estimates. Associate Superintendent Carter added that the financial reporting cycles, as in past years, are prepared on a modified Public Sector Accounting Board (PSAB) basis which is required for education sector. The statements include operating revenue, expenses and capital. Total revenue and allocation is up \$13.9 million but when you remove new capital money the actual operating revenue is up \$5.5 million and expense is up \$5.1 million. Associate Superintendent Carter reported a balanced revised estimates with nil use of working funds, for the first time in a number of years.

MOTION 2018-01-23-367

(R. Hunking – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the Operating Revenue and Transfers of Reserves totaling \$210,120,326 and Expense Estimates in the amount of \$210,120,326 for the period of September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018.
and
That the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the Capital allocations and spending in the amount of \$20,275,797 for the period September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018.

CARRIED

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Trustee Geddes left the meeting room for the discussion of the Approval of Tender.

Approval of Tender: Electrical Upgrades at St. Marys DCVI

Associate Superintendent Carter presented the report. Associate Superintendent Carter will provide clarification for trustees regarding the % difference between bids from a vendor, and will confirm why all vendors, who received packages, were listed in the report.

MOTION 2018-01-23-368

(N. Rothwell – A. Kent)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board accept the tender from Brad Baker Plumbing, Heating & Electrical Incorporated for electrical upgrades at St. Marys DCVI in the amount of \$170,630.00.

CARRIED

Trustee Geddes returned for the remainder of the meeting.

INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Rural and Northern Education Fund (RNEF)

Associate Superintendent Carter reported that on June 28, 2017 the Ministry announced a plan to strengthen rural and northern education in Ontario. Boards were invited to attend engagement sessions held throughout the province during April and June, 2017. Associate Superintendent Carter explained that after working through the consultation process, the Ministry released the rural education framework. The summary and link to the Ministry site is http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/rural_schools.html.

The RNEF is based on the list of Ministry defined eligible schools connected to where students are in location to rural school. Avon Maitland has 29 schools that have met the Ministry criteria. Avon Maitland has received \$838,666. Staff will bring forward the final RNEF report as the fiscal year ends.

2018 Per-Kilometre Reimbursement Rate for Travel on Board Business

Associate Superintendent Carter reminded trustees that a report was presented at the November 14, 2017 meeting wherein the board passed a motion related to the process for setting the kilometer rate. The reasonable per-kilometre allowance as determined by the CRA is posted on the CRA website. The rates for the 2018 calendar year are as follows a) fifty-five cents (\$0.55) per-kilometre for the first 5,000 kilometres driven; and b) forty-nine cents (\$0.49) per-kilometre driven after that. The rates are effective January 1, 2018.

Expense Statements for September 1, 2017 to December 31, 2017

Associate Superintendent Carter reported the statements reflect details as per Schedule 10 Expenses of financial submissions to the Ministry. At this point things are tracking on budget and as expected.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented staff adjustments for information.

Retirements/Resignations:

Kayla Streicher, DECE at North Easthope PS effective January 15, 2018

Karen McNeight, TRA at Little Falls PS effective January 26, 2018

Jean Stacey, Vice-Principal at North Perth Westfield ES effective February 20, 2018

Susan Stephenson, EA at North Woods ES effective February 28, 2018

Denise Drinkwalter, Principal at Hamlet PS effective March 31, 2018

Jerry Kollman, Teacher at Stratford Northwestern SS effective June 30, 2018

Alice Sikma, Teacher at Goderich District CI effective June 30, 2018

New Hires:

Steve Lostell, Custodian at Listowel District SS effective January 2, 2018

Ian Thom, Custodian at Stratford Northwestern SS effective January 8, 2018

Sarah Perreault Ellison, HRS Representative at Education Centre effective January 22, 2018

Jessica Damen, Secretary at Stratford Central SS effective January 22, 2018

Julian Twardus, Teacher at Stratford Central SS effective February 2, 2018

Administrative Transfer effective February 20, 2018

Superintendent Langis confirmed an administrative transfer effective February 20, 2018. Jim McCutcheon, teacher at North Perth Westfield Elementary School to acting vice-principal at North Perth Westfield Elementary School.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Schenk reminded trustees that the Public Education Symposium begins on Thursday, January 25th.

Minutes from Board Committees

The following Committee minutes were received:

a) Student Senators: November 28, 2017

b) SEAC: December 6, 2017

Chair's Activity Update

Chair Wagler, Vice-Chair Hunking and Director Walsh met on January 16th to review planning for upcoming months.

Senior Staff Update

No updates were presented.

Correspondence

a) Letter from Grand Erie DSB dated December 7, 2017 re Pilot to Improve School-Based Supports for Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder.

- b) Letter from Halton DSB dated December 14, 2017 re Support of Current Review of Assessment Practices.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- 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
- February 27, 2018 – 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, January 24, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.
- OPSBA – Public Education Symposium: January 25 – 27, 2018
- SEAC: Wednesday, February 7, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2018-01-23-369

(L. Geddes – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:17 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
February 13, 2018

Randy Wagler
Chair of the Board

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