

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING

6:00 p.m.

Tuesday, February 13, 2018

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, Al Sygrove, Randy Wagler

Absent: Colleen Schenk

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

Student Trustee: Natalie Moore, 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 5:03 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2018-02-13-370

(D. Pratley – A. Sygrove)

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 2018-02-13-371

(L. Geddes – A. Sygrove)

RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session.

CARRIED

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION

Approval of Agenda

The following revisions were made to the Agenda for Open Session:

3.3.3 – Stratford Arts and Cultural Collective Email

MOTION 2018-02-13-372

(A. Sygrove – N. Rothwell)

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

CARRIED

Centres for Employment and Learning (CEL) Presentation

Superintendent Langis introduced Principal Ralf Mesenbrink and Site Coordinators Brittany O'Brien (Exeter and Seaforth), Liz Durnin (Clinton and Goderich CEL), and Nancy Lazenby (Listowel and Wingham CEL). Stratford Site Coordinator is Erin Jones. The presentation highlighted recent changes that have been implemented in the CEL sites and also emphasized the school board's connection to CEL in supporting educating adults in the work environment.

Chair Wagler thanked staff for the work they continue to do for students and adult learners throughout Huron and Perth regions.

Auditor General Report

Associate Superintendent Carter provided highlights of the Auditor General's 2017 annual report noting some of the key findings that included school board recommendations in the report. It was noted this is not an audit of Avon Maitland DSB. The report was released in December 2017 and focussed on a number of value-for-money audits across many sectors including two education-related audits 'Funding and Oversight of School Boards' and 'School Boards' Management of Financial and Human Resources. The four school boards that were audited for this report are Hamilton-Wentworth DSB, Hastings & Prince Edward DSB, Toronto Catholic DSB, and Halton Catholic DSB.

Potential Trustee Information Night

Trustees discussed hosting an information night for interested candidates for the 2018 election of school board trustees. It was decided to hold an information night at 7:00 p.m. at Central Huron SS in Clinton on April 17th and in Stratford on April 18th. The night will be based on the outline discussed at the Trustee Retreat in November. It was also suggested that material be posted to the Board's web-site, and potentially include a video that shows 'a day in the life of a school board trustee'. Chair Wagler and Trustee Geddes agreed to collate materials and plan the sessions.

Community Input / Consultation

Trustee Rothwell brought forward the topic for discussion on establishing a Task or Advisory Group where there is a public forum to get community voice and to provide ongoing ideas from the public as another way to be transparent and seek input on a range of topics. Trustees agreed to establish an Ad Hoc Committee consisting of Vice-Chair Hunking, Trustees Rothwell and Moore, and Communications Manager Janice Richmond to bring forward recommendations to the board.

MOTION 2018-02-13-373**(N. Rothwell – L. Geddes)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board strike an Ad Hoc Committee on community input that will meet and provide a report to the Board at the May 22nd Board meeting, with a recommendation on how the Board could seek planned intentional community input.

CARRIEDLetter from Stratford Arts and Culture Collective

Trustees received a letter from the Stratford Arts and Culture Collective asking for a letter of support of their project to build a Centre in Stratford. The Collective is not asking for financial commitment but only a letter of support of such a Centre.

MOTION 2018-02-13-374**(D. Pratley – A. Kent)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board direct the Chair, on behalf of the Board, to write a letter to the Stratford Arts and Culture Collective in support of their initiative in Stratford.

CARRIED**MOTION 2018-02-13-375****(N. Rothwell – L. Geddes)**

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RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session at 7:30 p.m.

CARRIED

ROUTINE MATTERS

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 revisions were made to the Agenda for Regular Session:

Add chair’s report re executive compensation

MOTION 2018-02-13-376

(L. Geddes – A. Sygrove)

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

CARRIED

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No trustees made a declaration of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Minutes

MOTION 2018-02-13-377

(A. Kent – R. Hunking)

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, January 23, 2018 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 advised there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

Trustee Reflection – Vice-Chair Hunking

A common thread in education lingo these days, “In Learning it is not what question you answered today but what question did you ask.” The most important thing we as Trustees do, is our Strategic Plan. We will Create Positive, Inclusive Learning Environments and Maximize Outcomes for students by engaging our students, staff, families, communities and our world and inspiring with evidence-informed teaching and learning, innovating through the creative potential of emerging technologies guided by principles of equity, character & stewardship. The Strategic Plan sets the direction. On the surface and on the ground what does that look like for/to us as trustees? Do we as trustees reflect upon the plan to see where every decision we make fits into it? “We are doing for the students” is not enough. The alignment of the BIPSAW to the Plan allows us to see the many areas that an administrative decision can impact. Do we reflect back, review, follow up to see how those decisions are materializing? Are they having the goals/results we anticipated? Then there is the SIPSAW. The grassroots on the ground version of the plan. And then we can’t forget the Ministry’s plans (documents) Growing Success and Achieving

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Excellence. Within all these plans are various priorities, themes, visions, initiatives, strategies, goals, indicators, etc, etc. Here is an excerpt from the book *Fighting for Change in Your School* by Harvey Alvy. (P. 2) “Tyack and Cuban (1995) define reforms as ‘planned efforts to change schools in order to correct perceived social and educational problems’ (p.4). At the same time, they insist that change ‘is not synonymous with progress. Sometimes preserving good practices in face of challenges is a major achievement, and sometimes teachers have been wise to resist reforms that violated their professional judgement.’ (p.5) Sirotnik (1999) maintains that most reforms are ‘about whatever is politically fashionable, pendulum-like in popularity, and usually underfunded, lacking professional development, and short lived’ (p.607-608), noting that too many reformers focus on ‘mandates and accountability schemes’ while overlooking context, commitment, and the resources necessary to implement change. Sirotnik contrasts reform with renewal, stressing that reforms have a beginning and an end (e.g. teaching leads to students’ scores) whereas ‘renewal’ is not about a point in time; it is about all points in time – it is about continuous, critical inquiry into current practices and principled innovation that might improve education’ (p.608)”. I ask these questions: can any of these plans exist without the others? What would alignment, integration and implementation look like if one or if two or if even three plans were removed? Which plan has the most impact on student learning? What is the relevancy of these plans? Where does accountability lie and by whom to whom? Engage Inspire Innovate Always Learning – are they more than just words? I have asked my questions now I need to answer them.

Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Russell advised that the Student Senator Committee is meeting more frequently in the second half of year. The Committee continues to work on the plans for the Student Symposium. Student Trustees Moore and Russell are attending the OSTA-AECO conference in Ottawa from February 16th to 19th.

Good News

Trustee Sygrove reported Goderich Public School held their Family Literacy Day on Friday, January 26th. Grade 3 teacher Sherry Hodges organized grades 1 to 3 where fathers, grandfathers and one great-grandfather read to the students. The day was a wonderful opportunity for the students and the volunteers to show their storytelling abilities.

Trustee Pratley extended an invitation to all trustees to attend the 4th annual Choosin’ Inclusion Student Symposium on February 21st at Stratford Rotary Complex from 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Trustees were invited to drop in anytime throughout the day. The keynote speaker is Norman Kunc who will be sharing the ‘Story of the Stranger’ at 10:00 a.m. Students will learn about their own identities, about power and privilege and how to appreciate the strengths each and every one of us brings to make our schools and our communities, places where everyone belongs.

Vice-Chair Hunking announced on January 31st Seaforth Public School parent council held a very successful ‘Speak LOUD’ family evening of stories, speakers and support for youth and adults in Huron County. The family event was very well attended.

Trustee Rothwell reported that Elma Township Public School participated in the Bell Let’s Talk Day on January 31st and the response was overwhelming. The event was led by M.J. Bender, Strive CYW at Elma Township PS. Three committees were established 1) Fundraising, 2) Education and 3) K-3 Committee. The Fundraising Committee sold popcorn and had a wear a hat day with their fundraising efforts going to Kids’ Help Phone. The students raised \$375.00. The Education Committee presented videos and had trivia questions with prizes to all grade 4 to 8 classes. OPP Officer Julie McLeod presented on bullying and cyber bullying to all interested classes. And the K-3 Committee focussed on exercise, healthy eating and fun promoting positive mental health.

Superintendent Baker announced Paul Finkelstein, Teacher at Stratford Northwestern Secondary School, has received the 2018 Gold Award from the Ontario Hospitality Institute. Paul Finkelstein has been recognized for his excellent contribution to the industry. The OHI Gold Awards dinner will be held in Toronto on April 26, 2018.

Chair Wagler congratulated Mr. Finkelstein for his continued vision on behalf of the Avon Maitland District School Board.

EatFit Presentation

Superintendent Baker introduced Paul Finkelstein who provided an update on the EatFit Project. Staff and students travelled to Pangniritung, Nunavut in November 2017. The trip was an incredible experience for the students from Avon Maitland and from Pangniritung.

Public Delegations

There were no delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION COMMITTEE REPORTS

Appointment of External Auditors

Associate Superintendent Carter advised that at the Audit Committee meeting on November 14, 2017, a motion was passed directing staff to negotiate the contract renewal under similar terms as the expired contract. The five-year term for Avon Maitland's external audit firm KPMG expired following the year-end work in November 2018. Based on review the Audit Committee has approved to bring forward the following recommendation.

MOTION 2018-02-13-378

(A. Sygrove – R. Hunking)

RESOLVED THAT Avon Maitland District School Board approve the extension of the current external auditor, KPMG, for the period December 1, 2017 through to November 30, 2022 under similar terms and conditions.

CARRIED

Executive Compensation Program

At this time Chair Wagler passed the gavel to Vice-Chair Hunking.

Chair Wagler addressed the detailed report providing background to the Executive Compensation framework. The Executive Compensation Framework Regulation came into effect in September 2016. An Ad Hoc Committee was established in May 2017 to review the framework within the timelines provided by the Ministry. Chair Wagler highlighted the intent of the framework and the steps and direction taken by the Board to ensure compliance within the Regulation. Following approval of the motion the Executive Compensation Program will be posted to the Board's website by February 28, 2018. The Program will be implemented retroactive to September 1, 2017.

Vice-Chair Hunking returned the gavel to Chair Wagler. Chair Wagler called for the motion.

MOTION 2018-02-13-379

(A. Kent – R. Hunking)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the Executive Compensation Program dated February 13, 2018.

CARRIED

MOTION 2018-02-13-380**(D. Pratley – L. Geddes)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board dissolve the Ad Hoc Executive Compensation Committee effective February 13, 2018.

CARRIED

Trustee Pratley extended appreciation to the Ad Hoc Committee for the excellent job in completing the task as directed.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS**INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS****DIRECTOR'S REPORT**Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented staff adjustments for information.

Retirements/Resignations

Peggy Blair, Superintendent of Education, Education Centre effective January 31, 2018

Brian Jones, Teacher at St. Marys DCVI effective January 31, 2018

Timothy Bilcke, Communications Associate at the Education Centre effective February 16, 2018

Lisa Scott, System Support Analyst at the LRC-Education Centre effective March 29, 2018

New Hire

Gary Sousa, Educational Assistant at Stratford Northwestern SS effective January 24, 2018

Administrative Transfer

Superintendent Langis reported effective March 5, 2018 the following administrative transfers are Principal Jane Morton transfers from Downie Central PS to Seaforth PS, Principal Bevan Moir from Exeter ES to Downie Central PS and effective Semester II Vice-Principal John Stewart from FE Madill SS to Stratford Central SS.

OPSBA Update

Vice-Chair Hunking reminded trustees of the Regional OPSBA meeting to be hosted by Bluewater District School Board on April 7th. More meeting details will be forthcoming.

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, in addition to regular Chair activities, attended the January 31st Speak LOUD event at Seaforth Public School.

Senior Staff Update

Superintendent Baird-Jackson noted the Early Years Program Expansion Announcement will be held on Wednesday, February 21st at 9:00 a.m. at Upper Thames Elementary School. The Ministry is providing more than six million dollars to Avon Maitland to support five capital projects for Early Years' programs.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson announced that on Thursday, February 15th Transportation Manager David Frier, Trustee Rothwell, Cheryl Peach and Superintendent Baird-Jackson participated in the

Ministry's New Vision in Student Transportation in Ontario. The Ministry is undertaking extensive consultation on student transportation. Vice-Chair Hunking noted OPSBA is also consulting on transportation to create additional response to the Ministry.

Superintendent Baker announced the proposal for a SHSM Agriculture Program at Mitchell District High School. The program is for one full semester and will meet the credit and specialist high skills major requirements for students. Pending Ministry approval the program will begin September 2018 at Mitchell District High School.

Correspondence

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

- Foundation for Education: February 22, 2018 at 5:30 p.m.
- HPSTS: February 27, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.
- AODA: February 28, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.
- Joint Health and Safety: March 8, 2018 at 1:30 p.m.
- PIC – Public Event on Computer Technology: March 21, 2018 – details forthcoming

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2018-02-13-380

(R. Hunking – A. Sygrove)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
February 27, 2018

Randy Wagler
Chair of the Board

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