

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

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MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING

5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, March 27, 2018

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

PRESENT:

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

Absent: Doug Pratley

Senior Staff: Lisa Walsh, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, Superintendents Janet Baird-Jackson, Jodie Baker, Kim Black, Jane Morris, 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 5:29 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2018-03-27-390

(C. Schenk – 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.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION at 6:05 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

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

3.3.3 Update from the Ad Hoc Committee for Community Input (or New Business in Regular Session)

MOTION 2018-03-27-391

(A. Sygrove – A. Kent)

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

CARRIED

Review and Discussion of Communication Guidelines for Trustees

Chair Wagler introduced the topic for discussion.

Communications Manager Janice Richmond provided a presentation on Facebook guidelines for trustees and referenced Board Policy #6 Role of the Trustee, section 4. which outlines the communication guidelines.

Chair Wagler provided background information in the report and referenced sections 1.3 and 1.4 noting that from time to time there are complaints which may come from a group, and even beyond the complaint there are other questions/concerns that is not something that can be addressed by trustees. Trustees agreed the general rule is to be an active listener, find out what the concern, is it specific to a

particular situation or just a question about a particular procedure/policy. Trustees also noted that when advising individuals or groups there are options for their concerns e.g. delegate to the board, refer concern to school administration and/or the superintendent.

Director Walsh recommended that if it's an issue about something general then the contact would be the Communications Manager. Communications Manager Richmond will create a flowchart for trustees on protocol to respond to concerns/issues.

Trustees agreed to review Policy 6 and bring to a future open session before the election for feedback.

June 26, 2018 Regular Board Meeting

The June 26th Board meeting coincides with grade 8 ceremonies across the district. Trustees agreed to move the time of the June 26, 2018 meeting to 3:00 p.m. for Committee of the Whole, Closed Session and 3:30 p.m. for Regular Board.

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

MOTION 2018-03-27-392

(C. Schenk – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session at 7:33 p.m.

CARRIED

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:

6.8 a) and b) are Consent Items

6.8 c) Item of correspondence was not in package, will be brought forward to the April 10th meeting.

7.0 New Business – update from Ad Hoc Committee on Community Input

MOTION 2018-03-27-393

(J. Moore – A. Sygrove)

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

CARRIED

MOTION 2018-03-27-394

(C. Schenk – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT the Consent Items be approved as presented.

CARRIED

Trustee Kent noted a point of order that the Declaration of Pecuniary Interest should be moved before the motion to adopt consent items. Chair Wagler noted the correction and asked for declaration of pecuniary interest. No trustees made a declaration. Trustees agreed to let the motion stand.

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No trustees made a declaration of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Minutes**MOTION 2018-03-27-395****(C. Schenk – R, Hunking)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, February 27, 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 noted there was nothing to report from Closed Session.

Trustee Reflection – Trustee Al Sygrove

Tonight I would like to share a few thoughts about student voice. As a former teacher and school administrator you would think I would have some expertise in this area. But as I look back on my “horse and buggy” days in education I don’t think we listened enough or at least well enough to our students. In previous reflections I have talked about the “good old days” of education as being exactly that...good. As a trustee I have gained some insight into the even better “new” days of education. One of the ways we have gotten better is that as adults we are learning to value the student voice. Student voice refers to the values, opinions, beliefs, perceptions and cultural backgrounds of individual students and groups of students. Historically, student councils and other student parliaments were the most common channels for students to share their opinions and viewpoints. However, discussion with school administration often centred around social events such as school dances, and many opportunities for students to make authentic contributions to the leadership of a school were unfortunately undervalued. Ministry document, *Support Every Child Reach Every Student* states, “Student voice is a metaphor for student engagement and participation.” Student engagement not only enhances student growth academically but socially and emotionally as well. Student engagement also promotes improved teaching practice.

There is no better example of the power of student voice than what we have witnessed with respect to the recent Marjory Stoneman Douglas tragedy. A little closer to home...

The Ontario Student Trustees Association {OSTA-AECO} is an organization representing over two million students. Following extensive consultation OSTA-AECO has developed a Student Platform in preparation for the 2018 provincial election in hopes of improving Ontario’s education system and to better prepare students for opportunities and challenges in the modern world. The platform is based on three pillars including: Student Well-Being, 21st Century Learning and Equitable Access to Opportunities.

Locally, Avon Maitland has a group of student senators/trustees that I admittedly don’t know very well. However, as a grandfather of two secondary students in grades 10 and 12, I am somewhat aware of the challenges of balancing academics, extra-curriculars and part-time jobs as well as the social pressures of today’s society. And yet our student senators not only deal with the demands of life as a student individually but also choose to work for the betterment of their schools and fellow students.

Student Trustee, Jesse Russell, in his Director’s Annual Report message outlined some of the great work our student senators have accomplished this year. He highlights the group’s work in founding student advisory councils in our secondary schools, researching technology in classrooms, investigating students’ sense of belonging and working with OPP on a new student advisory council. According to Jesse, “Ensuring students are heard is critical to successful education; besides who better to consult about education than the students themselves”.

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In summation, there is no doubt Avon Maitland has benefitted greatly from this group of dedicated students and I just want to thank these young people for sharing their voice and being the lead voice for their fellow Avon Maitland students.

Good News

Trustee Geddes announced Rachel Strathdee, a student from St. Marys DCVI has been selected from over 400 applicants as one of 60 students to serve on the Minister's Student Advisory Council. The students share their ideas and perspectives and provide advice to the Minister on a variety of topics regarding Ontario's publicly funded education system. Congratulations Rachel!

Trustee Kent announced Avon Public School recognized World Down Syndrome Day on Wednesday, March 21st. Students from Emelie Taylor's grade 4 class created unique sock puppet characters to celebrate diversity. The school also hosted a school-wide yoga class in the gym on Wednesday afternoon and students were encouraged to wear funky socks.

Superintendent Black reported as part of the BIPSAW plan for indigenous studies and to increase knowledge and awareness, Indigenous author Margaret Pokiak-Fenton and her daughter-in-law Christy Jordan Fenton were invited to attend Little Falls Elementary School. Margaret Pokiak-Fenton is a residential school survivor. They shared their story and their book titled Fatty Legs.

Trustee Rothwell reported North Perth Westfield Elementary School participated in the Coolest Trips Park Canada contest and were voted in the top ten. This contest is across Canada and at this time the grade 7 students at North Perth Westfield are still in the running. Their entry was called Restoring the Reputation of Halloween Animals. Their selected park is Georgian Bay Islands National Park. For this year's contest students must participate in a stewardship activity that contributes to the protection of the local environment or presentation of local history or culture. Good luck to North Perth Westfield students.

Student trustee Natalie Moore reported that from March 21st to the 24th the National Theatre School Drama Festival (formerly the Sears Drama Festival) was held in Stratford. There were eleven schools participating with twelve performances and three of the schools will move on to Regionals. The schools are Goderich District Collegiate Institute, Listowel District Secondary School and Stratford Central Secondary School. The Regionals will be held from April 15th to 21st.

Trustee Moore reported that a graduate of Elma Township Public School and Listowel District Secondary School, Corbyn Smith, participated on Team Canada's Sledge Hockey at the Paralympics held in PyeongChang, South Korea. Canada won a silver medal. Congratulations Corbyn!

Superintendent Baker announced twenty-three students from grades 7 to 11 returned at the end of March break from an experiential learning trip to Berlin. The students from Berlin will return to Avon Maitland DSB in October 2018. Chaperones were Vice-Principal Julie Hohner and Principal Kendra Brohman.

Vice-Chair Hunking reported the New Horizons Youth Engagement Initiative hosted an event 'Disable the Label' on March 21st in Mitchell. The participants talked about mental health in their schools.

Student Trustee Update

The Student Symposium will be held on May 11th. More information will be provided at a future meeting.

Student / Staff Presentation

There was no presentation.

Public Delegations

There were no delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS

Consent Items:

- a) Approval of Tender: Re-roofing at Bluewater Coast Elementary School and South Huron District High School
- b) Approval of Tender: Re-roofing at Howick Central Public School and Listowel District Secondary School
- c) Approval of Tender: Re-roofing at Stratford Northwestern Secondary School

Trustee Determination and Distribution

Director Walsh presented the report referencing Ontario Regulation 412/00 *Elections to and Representation on District School Board* which governs the determination of the number of trustees and the geographic distribution of trustees. Director Walsh noted the Tables within the report were generated through the use of the OESC calculator based on the population of elector groups which is 99,858. In 2010 and 2014 the board determined that the number of trustees would be nine. The *Education Act* gives the decision making power to the board to make the determination. It was recommended that the number of trustees remain at nine. The board is required to pass a resolution by March 31st and report to the Minister by April 3rd.

The Regulation requires the board to appoint a Compliance Audit Committee by October 1, 2018 to hear and decide on applications for compliance audits of candidate's campaign expenses.

MOTION 2018-03-27-396

(R. Hunking – A. Kent)

RESOLVED THAT Avon Maitland District School Board determine that the number of board members to be elected to the board for the 2018 election is nine (9);
and
Not designate any municipality within the board's area of jurisdiction as a low population municipality.

CARRIED

INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

2017 Report for the Public Sector Salary Disclosure Act

Director Walsh presented the annual report. Boards are required to comply with this legislation. The record must be made available no later than March 31st and is available until December 31st.

Expense Statements for September 1, 2017 to February 28, 2018

Associate Superintendent Carter reported that we are half way through the year and there is nothing exceptional to report. The budget is tracking on where we would expect and finance staff continue to monitor.

Staff Adjustments

Retirements/Resignations

Terry Bewick	Listowel District SS	Secretary	March 23, 2018
Lois Kennedy	Stephen CPS	Teacher	June 29, 2018
Beverly Dougall	Anne Hathaway PS	Teacher	June 30, 2018
Marie-Josée Houle	Anne Hathaway PS	Teacher	June 30, 2018
Christina Querengesser	Anne Hathaway PS	Teacher	June 30, 2018
Leasa Barclay	Avon PS	Vice-Principal	June 30, 2018
Kim Thomas	Avon PS	Teacher	June 30, 2018

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Audrey Melick	Bluewater Coast ES	Teacher	June 30, 2018
Linda Doig	Central Huron SS	Teacher	June 30, 2018
Loree Skinner	Central Perth ES	Teacher	June 30, 2018
Pauline Boertien	Elma Township PS	Teacher	June 30, 2018
Tracey Peters	Goderich PS	Teacher	June 30, 2018
Sandra Yantzi-Thomas	Hamlet PS	Teacher	June 30, 2018
Claire Bowers	Romeo PS	Teacher	June 30, 2018
Natalie Killick	Little Falls PS	Teacher	June 30, 2018

New Hires

September Koskela	Maitland River ES	Custodian	March 5, 2018
Christopher Jenkins	Listowel DSS	Custodian	March 12, 2018
Sandra Soepboer	Milverton PS	Custodian	March 12, 2018

OPSBA Update

Trustee Schenk reminded trustees of the upcoming regional meeting April 7th Bluewater DSB will be hosting.

Minutes from Board Committees

The following Committee minutes were received:

- a) AODA: November 11, 2017
- b) Joint Health & Safety: January 25, 2018
- c) SEAC: February 27, 2018
- d) Student Advisory Committee: February 28, 2018

Chair's Activity Update

Chair Wagler attended and presented at the South Huron and Bluewater municipal council meetings last week with Director Walsh.

Senior Staff Update

Superintendent Black updated the board on the Brock research project on inclusion which was initiated in February 2017, following board motions to SEAC. At this time there have been two updates and staff are in constant communication with the researchers. A report to the board will be presented at the end of May or mid-June.

Superintendent Morris provided copies of the Summer Learning – one for secondary grades 9 to 12 traditional summer school learning; summer learning experience for grades 1 or 2 in numeracy and literacy which is not open to all students, but by invite through the teacher and principal; and a grade 7 & 8 summer learning experience; a four-day program which runs across the district.

Kindergarten registration typically takes place in November but an on-line registration has been launched.

Superintendent Morris updated trustees on the Ontario Smoke Free Act which determines what Public Health Units and Tobacco Enforcement can enforce regarding e-cigarettes. E-cigarettes are not in the *Act*. Avon Maitland's administrative procedure #356 does not permit e-cigarettes on board property.

Superintendent Baker announced through International Education, sixteen Avon Maitland elementary and secondary teachers have been offered the opportunity to travel to China for two to four weeks this summer. The teachers will assist at summer camps where Chinese students will focus on learning English and learning about Canadian culture.

Avon Maitland grade 7 & 8 students are either attending Fanshawe College or Wilfrid Laurier Jump Program to see various pathways and opportunities.

Avon Maitland will be hosting events throughout the schools to highlight pathway opportunities. Take Tech will be held on April 5th at Central Huron Secondary School from 7:00 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. This event

will be a combination of Take Tech promotions and feature Ironworker Jamie McMillan who is a well-known mentor and inspiration to young students.

Correspondence

- a) From Waterloo Region District School Board dated February 26, 2018 re concerns about funding for children with special education needs
- b) From Durham District School Board dated March 6, 2018 re upcoming trustee election

NEW BUSINESS

Trustee Rothwell, Chair of Ad Hoc Committee for Community Input reported that the committee has met twice since the February 13th Board motion. Vice-Chair Hunking, Trustees Kent, Moore and Rothwell, and Communications Manager Richmond are members of the Committee. The purpose of the Committee was to discuss ideas on getting community voice. The Committee have discussed hosting two board meetings through the school year at a school site followed by a question and answer forum at the end of each board meeting. There was also discussion about utilizing communication managers from other boards to see how they encourage community input. Chair Wagler and Vice-Chair Hunking will discuss with Director Walsh the possibility of hosting the board meetings on school sites.

Chair Wagler announced the Science Fair will be held on Thursday, April 5th.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- April 10, 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
- April 24, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Student Advisory Committee, 7:30 p.m. Regular Session

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

- SAL: Wednesday, March 28, 2018 – 9:00 a.m.
- SEAC: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.
- Foundation for Perth Huron: Wednesday, April 4, 2018 – 5:30 p.m.
- Huron Perth STS – Tuesday, April 10th at 4:00 p.m. conference call
- AODA: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 – 4:00 p.m.
- Information Sessions for Potential Trustees: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. in Central Huron Secondary School Library; Wednesday, April 18, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. in Stratford Northwestern Secondary School Library
- School Year Calendar Committee: Monday, April 23, 2018
- Joint Health & Safety: Thursday, May 31, 2018 – 9:30 a.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2018-03-27-397

(C. Schenk – A. Sygrove)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:42 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
April 10, 2018

Randy Wagler
Chair of the Board

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