

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION AND REGULAR BOARD MEETING

5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, May 8, 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, Colleen Schenk, Al Sygrove, Randy Wagler

Senior Staff: Lisa Walsh, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, Superintendents Janet Baird-Jackson, Jodie Baker, Kim Black, Paul Langis, 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 5:04 p.m.

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2018-05-08-414

(A. Kent – 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 – Convened at 6:00 p.m.

Approval of Agenda

The following item was added to the Open Session Agenda

3.3.2 Update on Friendship Games

MOTION 2018-05-08-415

(C. Schenk – L. Geddes)

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

CARRIED

Experiential Learning

Superintendent Baker introduced Experiential Learning Coordinator Jodi Froud. The role of Coordinator was created in January 2018, and the work is focused on experiential learning opportunities for K to 12 students. Jodi highlighted many events that have been taking place to increase and better assist students' and teachers' participation in experiential learning opportunities. Some of the recent events include Pathways Night held at Central Huron Secondary School and at the Stratford Rotary Complex, the Take TECH Tour with Jamie McMillan to all elementary schools, grade 7s participation in JUMP program, the grade 8s tour of Fanshawe College, Cowbell Environmental Stewardship and the Funny Money Assemblies.

Employee Engagement Survey Results

Director Walsh presented in detail the overall results of the April 2016 Employee Engagement Survey as a follow up to the board report that was presented on May 10, 2016. Director Walsh noted 78% of Avon Maitland employees completed the survey, and noted that the majority of the survey was implemented with a 5-point scale i.e. strongly disagree, disagree, neutral, agree and strongly agree. Director Walsh commented that based on results of the survey, senior staff at that time had begun to implement plans to address ways to improve on employee engagement.

Director Walsh outlined the Themes of Strengths including 1) overall AMDSB is a good place to work, 2) people feel they know what is expected, 3) supervisors create a caring environment, 4) senior staff builds trust, 5) benefits provided meets employee expectations, and 6) employees are willing to give extra effort and want more opportunities.

Director Walsh spoke in detail about the action plans that address areas of job/role clarity, supervisor skills, senior staff, learning development and promotion, compensation and benefits, job satisfaction and commitment. Themes for continued improvement include 1) AMDSB does a good job at managing poor performers to help them improve, 2) employee efforts and achievements are recognized, 3) AMDSB does honour all voices (students, staff, families and communities), and 4) employees are valued at AMDSB. Director Walsh focused on what actions have been initiated to address these themes. Director Walsh explained next steps are to share these results/themes with the federation/union partners at an upcoming collaborative professionalism meeting, continue to get feedback from various employee focus groups, and continue to build a strong culture of trust and transparency.

Update on Friendship Games

Superintendent Black explained there is a long-standing history of the Friendship Games dating to 1997 in Perth County and 2000 in Huron County. Students with special needs compete in a variety of games and socialize with each other. The Games are a student-run event and staff volunteer to assist. Avon Maitland provides some financial assistance i.e. t-shirts, snacks, and pizza lunch. Goderich District CI hosts the Games on the west side of the Board and on the east schools in the past have rotated hosting. This year the games will be held on May 17th with a rain date scheduled for June 5th. Participation in the event has decreased over the years and as of late some schools do not participate.

In planning the Games for 2018 it was thought that there was a time in history that a revision of the games could take place. The decision was never to eliminate that students should have fun, socialize or compete. It was a time to offer a period of innovation and think outside the box.

List of Policies to be Reviewed

This item was deferred to the May 22nd board meeting.

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION**MOTION 2018-05-08-416****(C. Schenk – A. Kent)****RESOLVED THAT** this Board reconvene into Regular Session at 7:30 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:

Item 6.3 b) Remove Notice of Motion from Consent Items

Item 6.3 d) Add Administrative Transfers

MOTION 2018-05-08-417**(L. Geddes – R. Hunking)**

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 Consent Items**MOTION 2018-05-08-418****(D. Pratley – A. Sygrove)**

RESOLVED THAT the Consent Items be approved as presented.

CARRIED**Approval of Minutes**

The following revision was made to the April 24, 2018 Minutes. On page 5 of Minutes, in Correspondence, it should read “Superintendent Langis noted that Avon Maitland has an established health and wellness program and compared to school boards in the province Avon Maitland is below average with respect to sick leave spending.

MOTION 2018-05-08-419**(C. Schenk – A. Kent)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, April 24, 2018 be approved as amended.

CARRIED**Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the April 24, 2018 minutes

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

Vice-Chair Hunking advised there was no report.

Trustee Reflection – Trustee Julie Moore

Trustee Moore chose to showcase some exciting things happening in Avon Maitland schools working with community partners. The Ontario Student Nutrition Program provides great opportunities to access grants and funds in a variety of different formats. Trustee Moore is an active volunteer in her school communities and assists with coordinating the food programs within her area schools. The program is an excellent way to engage parents, caregivers and community partners. Trustee Moore encouraged trustees to visit www.osnp.ca, and introduce the school councils to this program if it’s not already happening in area schools.

Good News

Trustee Schenk announced at the end of April FE Madill hosted a 'BYOB' – bring your own banana. The event was sponsored by OSAID and students and staff were invited to a BBQ lunch and a 'make your own sundae'. Proceeds from the event are to support FE Madill's OSAID group in their campaign to raise awareness of the dangers of impaired and distracted driving.

On May 3rd the Blyth Festival Art Show opened. Vice-Chair Hunking and Trustee Schenk attended the opening. Trustee Schenk noted once again students from across Avon Maitland were able to showcase their talents. The Show is open until May 23rd at the Blyth Gallery.

Trustee Schenk also noted that Howick Central Public School hosted their Family Fun Night on May 7th.

Student Trustee Moore announced that Listowel District Secondary School will be performing at the National Theatre School Drama Festival on Saturday, May 12th at 2:30 p.m.

Superintendent Langis announced a positive initiative as part of recruiting Educational Assistants. A partnership between Avon Maitland and Conestoga College has resulted in a diploma course being offered at the Conestoga College Stratford Campus in September 2018. More information will be available on the Board's website.

Superintendent Baker noted the week of May 7th to 13th is recognized as mental health week and staff are wearing green ribbons. Students and staff across the district held various activities to promote positive mental health and well-being. The first Mental Health newsletter was distributed.

Trustee Pratley announced that Shakespeare Public School will be having a Fun Fair on Friday, May 11th. Students will be participating in a series of 8 workshops and the focus is on health and wellness.

Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Natalie Moore announced the new student trustee for 2018/2019 is Kristin Vleeming from South Huron District High School. Kristin will be joining Student Trustees Natalie and Jesse at the upcoming OSTA conference on May 24th to 27th. The Student Symposium is set for Friday, May 11th at the Arden Park in Stratford from 9:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. There will be an opportunity to provide thoughts/views on how to better improve engagement in Avon Maitland schools. Will Richardson is the guest speaker.

Student Trustee Russell provided highlights from the OSTA-AECO document 'The Student Platform' and explained that following extensive consultation students from across Ontario prepared the document in lieu of the upcoming 2018 provincial election. There are three pillars to the Platform which include 'Student Well-being', '21st Century Learning', and 'Equitable Access to Opportunities'.

MOTION 2018-05-08-420

(L. Geddes – R. Hunking)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board direct the Chair, on behalf of the Board, to write a letter to the Minister of Education in support of the Ontario Student Trustees' Association Platform "A Turning Point for Education: Student Platform".

CARRIED - UNANIMOUS

Student / Staff Presentation

There was no student or staff presentation.

Public Delegations

There were no delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

The following items were approved by consent:

1. Approval of Tender: Life Safety Upgrades at North Easthope Public School, Shakespeare Public School and South Perth Centennial Public School
2. Approval of Tender: Accessible Washroom Renovations at Mornington Public School, Shakespeare Public School and Goderich District Collegiate Institute

INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:

Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) 2018/2019

Associate Superintendent Carter provided highlights. It was noted that the Ministry has provided funding for the central employee labour agreements as well as some inflationary enhancements. The Rural Education Funding will be continued, which is something that Boards had advocated strongly for. The Ministry has provided capital funds in addition to the School Renewal Allocation included in the GSNs. Avon Maitland will receive \$7,491,260 within the School Condition Improvement Grant, and the Greenhouse Gas Reduction is also continued. The allocation is \$832,360.

Associate Superintendent Carter highlighted the enhancements which included the continuance of the Rural and Northern Education Fund in the amount of \$840,000, investments to increase services and supports in Special Education, investment in elementary teachers for grade 7 and 8 student pathways and career planning, and supports to help fund mental health workers in secondary schools. EPO grants for Avon Maitland is \$1,266,219 with more funds to be announced in upcoming months.

The following Finance Committee meetings are confirmed: Tuesday May 22nd at 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, June 5th at 5:00 p.m. and Tuesday, June 12th at 5:00 p.m.

Notice of Motion re Board Policy #6 Role of Trustee

Director Walsh presented a notice of motion for approval of Board Policy #6 at the May 22, 2018 board meeting.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented for information.

Retirement/Resignation

Melissa Askin, Teacher at North Perth Westfield effective June 30, 2018

Jill Calder, Teacher at Listowel District SS effective June 30, 2018

John Clarke, Teacher at Goderich District CI effective June 30, 2018

Carole Oliver, Speech Language Pathologist effective June 30, 2018

Ann-Marie Kennedy, Teacher at Stratford Central SS effective June 30, 2018

New Hire

Jordan Ireland, Critical Systems Analyst at Learning Resource Centre effective May 7, 2018

Administrative Transfer

Superintendent Langis announced effective May 14th Amy Crummer will become principal of Hamlet Public School, replacing interim principal Debbie Johnson, and also effective May 14th Tim Doherty will become the acting vice-principal at St. Marys DCVI. On May 28th Mary Jill McCLure will become the interim principal of Exeter ES replacing Rick van Maanen until the end of June 2018.

OPSBA Update

Trustee Schenk reminded trustees that the annual general meeting is May 31st to June 2nd.

Senior Staff Update

Superintendent Black announced Education Week is May 7th to 13th and the theme is Equity in Action. A number of events and activities will be highlighted on the Board's website. Trustees were invited to contact schools and join activities to celebrate this week.

On April 26th Avon Maitland partnered with Optimism Place in support of the Pride Retreat. Thank you was extended to the Revival House in Stratford who provided their venue.

Foundations Huron will present The Dream Big event – a night of inclusion, reaching goals and overcoming obstacles on May 10th at 7:00 p.m. at the Libro Community Hall in Clinton. Nicole Flynn, Sam Forbes, Josh Easton and Colby Nargang are the key speakers. Avon Maitland is a sponsor of this event.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson announced the AODA Committee has been working on a poster campaign sharing the message of safe learning environments. The poster was distributed.

Superintendent Morris announced plans are underway for summer learning again this year. This includes grade 1 literacy and grade 2 numeracy. These programs are now fully subscribed and we are expanding into eight different school locations across the district. This week is DELF assessment and 160 students from across Avon Maitland are challenging the DELF.

Associate Superintendent Carter announced the Ministry has advised that Avon Maitland will be subject to enrolment audit this year at two secondary schools and one elementary school. The last time there was an audit was in 2012.

Director Walsh announced Avon Maitland is participating in a provincial pilot 'Student Identify-Based Data Collection. Avon Maitland is one of seventeen school boards in the province that will be participating. The Ministry has announced \$199,000 will be provided to help support the project, which will include collecting data on students ie first language, race, class, gender, etc. The pilot will explore innovative practices that will help bridge gaps and eliminate existing disparities in educational outcomes.

Correspondence

a) Letter from Lambton Kent DSB dated April 16, 2018 re OSTA Platform

NEW BUSINESS

No items of new business were presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- May 22, 2018 – 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee, 6:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Student Advisory Committee, 7:30 p.m. Regular Session
- June 12, 2018 – 5:00 p.m. Finance Committee. 6:30 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)

- SEAC: Wednesday, May 30th, June 6th
- Municipal and Community Partners: Tuesday, May 29, 2018 Municipal at 1:00 p.m. and Community Partners at 2:00 p.m.
- Joint Health & Safety: Thursday, May 31, 2018 – 1:30 p.m.
- School Year Calendar Committee: Wednesday, June 6, 2018
- PIC – 'Let's Talk Tech & Math' Technology and Math Night: Wednesday, June 6, 2018
- Avon Maitland DSB Recognition Reception: Monday, June 11, 2018

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2018-05-08-421

(N. Rothwell – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
May 22, 2018

Randy Wagler
Chair of the Board

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