

AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD
Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning

MINUTES

**COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION,
COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION
and REGULAR BOARD MEETING**

5:00 p.m.

Tuesday, September 11, 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

Resource: Sarah Stright

Recording Secretary: Barb Crawford

CALL TO ORDER

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2018-09-11-456

(L. Geddes – C. Schenk)

RESOLVED THAT this Board convene into Committee of the Whole, Closed Session at 5:07 p.m.

CARRIED

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION – convened at 6:25 p.m.

The following item was added to the Open Session Agenda

3.3.3 Update re Health & Physical Education Curriculum and Math Curriculum

MOTION 2018-05-08-457

(A. Sygrove – N. Rothwell)

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

CARRIED

Board Policy Review

At the May 8, 2018 trustees agreed to divide into three groups and were tasked with review of Board policies. Edits were reviewed and further revisions were made to Policy 11 re Board Representatives. Trustee Kent will provide a suggested paragraph for the Foundation for Enriching Education, Perth-Huron regard the purpose and membership of the Foundation Board.

Policy 12 re Policy Making edits were reviewed. Trustee Pratley will provide suggested reformatting for the graph in Section 5.

Policy 14 re Trustee Honoraria will be brought forward to the September 25th board meeting as a Notice of Motion, and then to the October 9th meeting for approval.

Off-site Board Meetings

Trustees discussed hosting board meetings at a site other than the Seaforth Education Centre where there could be some community discussion as well as the Regular board meeting. Trustees agreed with the concept of off-site meetings and felt a topic of interest to a local community could highlight work that has been done within the community and the district. Chair Wagler, Vice-Chair Hunking and Director Walsh will continue to discuss the possibility of off-site meetings.

Key Messages for Trustees re Curriculum Changes by the Provincial Government

Superintendent Morris distributed a paper version of what was provided to Principals, Vice-Principals and Educators from the Director's Office on August 31, 2018. The elementary Health and Physical Education grade 1 to 8 was released in 2015 and has since been pulled back for review. An interim document will be used until the release of a revised elementary curriculum. The following link is to the interim document:

<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/curriculum/elementary/health1to8.pdf>

Fundamental math skills are seen to support students as they connect their learning to real life and solve everyday problems. To support this work, the Ministry has released a teacher's guide

(<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/teachers/teachers-math-guide.html>)

and a parent fact sheet (<http://www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/parents/parents-math-guide.html>).

Chair Wagler called for a ten-minute recess at 7:32 p.m.

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION

MOTION 2018-09-11-458

(N. Rothwell – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session at 7.41 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 amendments were made to the agenda:

Remove Consent Items 6.2 a) OPSBA Membership Fee, 6.3 a) Tenders Over the Summer – Facilities Projects, and 6.8 b) Letter from Simcoe County DSB

MOTION 2018-09-11-459

(A. Kent – C. Schenk)

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

CARRIED

Declaration of Pecuniary Interest

No trustee made a declaration of pecuniary interest.

Approval of Minutes**MOTION 2018-09-11-460****(L. Geddes – C. Schenk)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, June 26, 2018 be approved as presented.

CARRIED**MOTION 2018-09-11-461****(D. Pratley – A. Sygrove)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board Special meeting held Friday, August 17, 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**MOTION 2018-09-11-462****(R. Hunking – D. Pratley)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board Special authorize Chair Wagler to review the Director's Terms & Conditions with Director Walsh.

CARRIED**Trustee Reflection – Chair Wagler**

For tonight's Trustee Reflection, I would like to do just that: reflect. Specifically, I'd like to reflect on the past nearly 18 years that I've been honored and privileged to serve as a Trustee, and to do that I'm going to go back 18 years to when I first put my name forward to be elected as Public School Board Trustee. I recently found my introduction speech I used a few times during my first (and only!) election race, and just like the phrase "everything old is new again", I was surprised and not so surprised to see that the key challenges I highlighted 18 years ago are not so dissimilar from those facing us today. So I'm going to step back a bit in time if you'll let me, and review those key challenges I identified way back then, and very briefly outline the progress I think we've collectively made during that time. And I do this to show that we have indeed made great strides, but many of those challenges still lie ahead.

The first challenge I highlighted in 2000 was the broad topic of funding. As you may recall, the provincial funding formula had been in place for about 3 years, and here is some of what I said on this important issue: "There are ongoing concerns that the provincial funding formula does not adequately address the unique needs of rural boards, for example in the areas of transportation and small schools. We need to address both sides of the funding equation – lobby the government for funds in those areas that are inadequately funded at present, and ensure that our spending is carried out in a responsible, prioritized way." I would say that we have made some excellent progress in this area, but it did take time no doubt. On the transportation side, it took many years of lobbying to ensure that transportation funding was adequate, but at the same time we had to demonstrate prudent, responsible transportation efficiencies and spending, which we did. In the same way, while there have been various grants to try to support our small, rural schools, only in the past year did some significant funding come forward specifically targeted at rural schools, and again this came after both lobbying and consultation. Of course, we still have funding challenges, however the fact that stewardship is one of the core foundational values in our Strategic Plan demonstrates our commitment to spending our funds most appropriately.

The next challenge I highlighted was "Enrolment and School Capacity". I had just been a member of 3 different committees looking at school closures, and McCurdy Public School in my area had just closed, so this topic was a very 'hot button' issue. I stated that, "At the present time, our Board is in a state of declining enrolment. This means that we will receive fewer funds, and our schools will be less full in the future. We need to look at all options, and act in a proactive fashion so that we have a long-term

solution in place that meets the needs of all students.” I can definitely state that our Board has met this challenge head-on over the ensuing years, and I believe our students today are reaping the benefits. While accommodation reviews were never easy discussions to have or decisions to make, I firmly believe we found innovative solutions together that were aimed at improving education for our students, not just maintaining the status quo in fewer buildings. Our innovative approach to provide grade 7-12 programming in most of our high schools was just one example of this philosophy. This student accommodation challenge continues to be present in some pockets in our District, but again I know that we will continue to innovate as we have in the past to find solutions to this challenge.

Accountability was the next challenge I spoke to. Here’s what I said, “The province is requiring more accountability from School Boards. Parents, students and the community need to have confidence that our school system is delivering what we all want – a quality education for our students.” I think this is an area where we have over the years found it challenging to address effectively. While we report regularly to the Ministry about all manner of our work from how we spend enveloped funds to student achievement, it feels to me like our connection and communication with our communities around accountability has been more difficult. Certainly the revamping of our web-site a number of years ago, and the way we have presented our strategic plan to show progress, as well as various articles that highlight the great things being done throughout the District are all ways we have improved our accountability, as are the annual meetings with our Municipalities collectively as well as individually. However, I think this is an area we can continue to improve on in terms of having our communities understand the great education we are delivering to the students of Huron and Perth Counties.

Finally, to no one’s surprise, I’m sure, I indicated that “Educational Improvement” was a key issue. Here are some of the things I said: “We need to strive to ensure that the education of our children is being constantly improved, and is of excellent quality. We need to create and execute a systematic plan for improving the quality of education that is delivered. When our children leave the Avon Maitland District School Board, they compete against the world. It is our responsibility to see that they receive the very best education possible.” Easy words to say, but much more difficult to put into practice. On this front, I can say that it really has been the goal of our Board since I have been a part of it to deliver the highest possible quality of education for all students. Everything we’ve done, whether it’s been technology in our classrooms, accommodation changes, improved professional practices of our staff, or the development of our Strategic Plan, improving student achievement has been our core driver. While our tests on the province’s standardized testing have generally been at or above the provincial average, we need to continue to look beyond these results, which of course do have a place, and look to the engagement of our students and their preparedness for the next step in their lives after they leave Avon Maitland.

So, in conclusion, as I said, everything old is indeed new again, and while some items such as student well-being have been added to the challenges we face, this list and our collective progress shows me that it means we never really arrive when it comes to education and that now more than ever School Boards, and Trustees like us, need to be the voice of our communities to ensure our students are prepared more than ever to face a world that is changing rapidly and will continue to change. I’ve been privileged, together with all of you to be a small part of that preparation for our students and I look forward to seeing how that will continue to happen even more so in the future.

Good News

Trustee Schenk announced on September 12th the annual Elementary School Fair will be held in Belgrave. Students in grades 1 to 6 will be in attendance.

Trustee Schenk introduced incoming trustee Colin Carmichael who is the acclaimed trustee from the Town of Goderich and Ashfield-Colborne-Wawanosh.

Trustee Kent announced after winning the Stratford Kiwanis Music Festival competition this past spring, the Avon Public School Musical Ensemble went on to compete in the Ontario Music Festival Association's 2018 Provincial competition. Two other groups from Avon Maitland Schools were also submitted to Provincials – the Hamlet PS Junior Choir, and the Avon PS Boys Choir. All three of these groups of young vocalists are conducted by long-time music teacher Mark McIntosh. The Avon Public School musical ensemble placed first in the category of school choirs aged 12 and under at the

provincial level, winning the Florine Dépres Plaque and Award. The choir from Hamlet placed second and the Boys Choir placed third. The Avon Ensemble went on to represent Ontario at the Federation of Canadian Music Festivals national competition in Sackville, New Brunswick, where they placed 3rd. In the past 4 years Avon has had two firsts and two seconds at provincials and a second and a third at nationals in the same time frame. We know that it takes many hours of dedicated rehearsal to prepare for musical performances and we will keep our fingers crossed for another opportunity for our students and their conductor to earn that elusive national title.

Trustee Rothwell referenced the copy of the Rural Route that was a handout for trustees. The magazine features a story by JD Kipfer who highlights the work with Riverside Rural Learning 'The Travelling Teacher'.

Superintendent Morris announced this past summer 303 summer learning credits were granted to secondary students across the district.

Superintendent Baker announced there are 203 international students from numerous countries enrolled in Avon Maitland schools for Semester I.

Associate Superintendent Carter reminded trustees that the online student registration module was released this summer to any new-incoming students to district to register. Since the release there have been 117 registrations with 71 completed just over July and August.

Trustee Pratley announced on August 29th he visited Listowel District Secondary School where the grade 9 orientation was taking place. The orientation is a great opportunity for students entering grade 9. Trustee Pratley also noted the entire day was organized by the students.

Chair Wagler welcomed Student Trustee Kristen Vleeming and Natalie Moore. Student Trustee Moore noted the first senator's meeting is scheduled for September 25th and they will be discussing their focus for the 2018/2019 school year.

Student / Staff Presentation

There were no presentations.

Public Delegations

There were no delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

CHAIRS REPORT:

OPSBA Membership Fee

Chair Wagler presented the report which included the invoice for 2018/2019. Also attached to the report was the OPSBA's letter outlining the benefits of membership in OSPBA.

INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS

Tenders Over the Summer

Superintendent Baird-Jackson commented that the report is a wrap-up to the June report where it was flagged what may occur over the summer in relation to tenders and projects. In the June report it was suggested that there may be a project for the Early Years addition at Exeter Elementary School, however this has been deferred to later this fall before the tender will be closed. There were no other facility projects over the summer. On July 31st Superintendent Baird-Jackson had communication with trustees confirming a renewal purchase over \$100,000 for Microsoft software licensing. In the past IT would purchase licensing for various pieces that relate to the infrastructure. This year there was a change and IT was able to bundle a large range of software services.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented for information:

Retirements and Resignations

Shelia Kennedy	Brookside PS	Secretary	October 31, 2018
Jane Elizabeth Gregg	Downie Central PS	Teacher	October 31, 2018
Sue Hicks	Education Centre	Exec. Assistant	October 5, 2018
Nicole Noble	Education Centre	Receptionist	July 3, 2018
Nancy Aitchison	FE Madill SS	Student Services Sec.	August 27, 2018
Donna Pollard	FE Madill SS	Teacher	June 30, 2018
Brenda Dineen	Listowel Eastdale PS	Educational Assistant	July 26, 2018
Tiffany Seip	Maitland River ES	DECE	July 7, 2018
Greg Ament	North Perth Westfield ES	Custodian	August 10, 2018
Eric Stam	St. Marys DCVI	Teacher	August 27, 2018
Kevin Boyce	South Huron DHS	Custodian	August 24, 2018
Jan Beitans	Stratford Northwestern SS	Teacher	July 31, 2018
Derek Farr	Stratford Northwestern SS	Educational Assistant	August 31, 2018
Lori Ann Shurgold	Stratford Northwestern SS	Teacher	June 30, 2018
Christina Stacey	Upper Thames ES	DECE	July 24, 2018

New Hires

Name	Location	Position	Effective
Sarah Rose	Anne Hathaway PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Jolene Thomas	Anne Hathaway (CTCC)	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Nadine Hanna	Avon PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Kirsten Scott	Bedford PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Emma Young	Bedford PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Chris Norton	Central Huron SS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Stephanie Church	Central Perth ES	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Natalie Haccius	Clinton PS (CTCC)	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Toni Gale	Clinton PS/Stephen CPS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Jacqueline Carter	Downie Central PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Diana Sotelo Gonzalez	Downie Central PS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Sommer Scott	Elma Township PS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Elizabeth Hunninck	Exeter ES	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Alyssa Wilson	Exeter ES	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Alyssa Zehr	FE Madill SS 7-8	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Cody Bromley	FE Madill SS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Brennan Greidanus	FE Madill SS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Cherida McCullagh	FE Madill SS	Student Services	August 27 2018
Cody McGriskin	FE Madill SS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Shelley McLennan	FE Madill SS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Jade Hamilton	Goderich District CI 7-8	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Stacey Johnston	Goderich PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Amanda Moody	Goderich PS	Office Assistant	September 4, 2018
Erin Henderson	Hamlet PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Nicole Montgomery	Hamlet PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Nancy Broege	Howick Central PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Carrie Fortune	Howick Central PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Nicole Vincent	Howick Central PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Cara Meulensteen	Listowel District SS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Aaron Neeb	Listowel District SS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Stacey Anderson	Listowel Eastdale PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Joanne Peterson	Listowel Eastdale PS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Taylor Stone	Little Falls PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018

Mary-Frances Lambert-Hill	Milverton PS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Jenna Beck	Mitchell District HS 7-8	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Melinda Brace	North Easthope PS	Secretary	August 27, 2018
Michael Town	North Easthope PS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Kyle Hollinger	North Perth Westfield PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Heather McDonald	North Woods ES/ Elma TPS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Tabitha McDougall	North Woods ES	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Laura VanCamp	North Woods ES	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Jane Zorgdrager	North Woods ES	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Kellie Parker	Romeo PS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Lynn Koot	Shakespeare PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Alana McKillop-Godin	Shakespeare PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Jane Bedford	South Huron DHS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Rebecca Reid	South Huron DHS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Yvonne Wilts	South Huron DHS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Janice Larder	Sprucedale PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Valerie Ward	Sprucedale PS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Jenna Cook	Stephen Central PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Hannah Gingerich	Stephen Central PS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Melanie Jeffrey	Stephen Central PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Amber Lee Overholt	Stephen Central PS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Roddy Pennycook	Stratford Central SS 7-8	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Frank Etwell	Stratford Central SS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Kimberley Slimming	Stratford Central SS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Jon Hansford	Stratford Northwestern 7-8	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Michelle Vanderwal	Stratford Northwestern 7-8	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Leah Armes	Stratford Northwestern SS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Katie Adams	Stratford Northwestern SS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Danielle Christmas	Stratford Northwestern SS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Julie Dasti	Stratford Northwestern SS/ Listowel District SS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Jemica Hallberg Brick	Stratford Northwestern SS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Amanda Hartley	Stratford Northwestern SS	Teacher	September 1, 2018
Susan Hodson	Stratford Northwestern SS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Jeffrey LeBlanc	Stratford Northwestern SS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Naomi Near	Stratford Northwestern SS	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Carlin Sparks	Stratford Northwestern ES	Educational Assistant	September 4, 2018
Brent Windsor	Stratford Northwestern SS	Teacher	September 1, 2018

OPSBA Update

Vice-Chair Hunking attended Executive Council on August 27th. The Executive Council discussed strategies on proper use of advocating and promoting public education. The next board of directors' meeting is scheduled for September 28th and 29th.

Vice-Chair Hunking noted this year OSPBA is hosting the Canadian School Board Association annual general meeting the first weekend in July in Toronto. There was a call for any trustees interested in sitting on the Planning Committee for either the OSPBA PES or AGM to let Vice-Chair Hunking know as soon as possible.

Board Committee Minutes

There were no minutes for information.

Chair's Activity Update:

On August 27th Chair Wagler extended greetings to the District Leaders' Day in Stratford. Also in attendance were Trustees Kent, Geddes and Rothwell. Dr. Jean Clinton was the keynote speaker.

Senior Staff Update:

Superintendent Baird-Jackson announced there were 71 projects over summer both construction and maintenance. There are a number of projects that are carrying on and will be completed in the near future. Superintendent Baird-Jackson expressed appreciation to the custodial staffs who worked diligently throughout the summer and the September Labour Day weekend to ready the schools for September 4th.

Chair Wagler also extended appreciation to the facilities team and to the custodial staff for the extra work that takes place over the summer.

Associate Superintendent Carter announced the preliminary look at opening day enrolment as compared to June estimates. At elementary level there is an increase by approximately 100 students. Secondary is too early to speak to enrolment but it's holding. Staff will continue to monitor daily and there will be a full report in November with more details.

Correspondence:Letter from Simcoe County District School Board

Trustee Pratley inquired if there is action that the Board can take in support of the Simcoe County DSB letter to Minister of Education Lisa Thompson regarding the cancellation of the specific curriculum writing sessions including the focus on Truth and Reconciliation and Indigenous Languages in kindergarten.

Superintendent Black advised that the Board's Indigenous Education Advisory Committee, which includes Trustee Schenk, will raise this at their Advisory meeting on September 19th and will report to the Board on September 25th.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice-Chair Hunking asked if it was the will of the board to write a letter to the Ministry of Education opposing the government's freeze of executive compensation. Trustees agreed to ask AMDSB's OSPBA director or vice-president to bring the concern forward to OSPBA for their comment.

Director Walsh announced a meeting has been scheduled for trustees for Monday, September 17th at 4:00 p.m. @ the Seaforth Education Centre to provide an update on Stratford Central and Stratford Northwestern Secondary Schools.

ANNOUNCEMENTS**Future Board Meetings** (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- September 25, 2018 – 6:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 7:00 p.m. Student Advisory Committee, 7:30 p.m. Regular Session
- October 9, 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)

- School Year Calendar – September 13, 2018 at 11:00 a.m.
- SEAC – September 12, 2018 at 4:00 p.m.
- Indigenous Education Advisory Committee – September 19, 2018 – 5:30 – 7:00 p.m.
- Audit Committee – September 25, 2018 at 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2018-09-11-463

(C. Schenk – N. Rothwell)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:37 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
Date Approved

Randy Wagler
Chair of the Board

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