

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

5:30 p.m.

Tuesday, November 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, Colleen Schenk, Al Sygrove, Randy Wagler

Senior Staff: Director Dr. Lisa Walsh, Superintendents Janet Baird-Jackson, Jodie Baker, Kim Black, Paul Langis, and Associate Superintendent Cheri Carter

Student Trustee: Natalie Moore and Kristin Vleeming

Resource: Dani Rathwell, Communications Manager

Recording Secretary: Barb Crawford

CALL TO ORDER

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, CLOSED SESSION

MOTION 2018-11-13-489

(D. Pratley – L. Geddes)

RESOLVED THAT this Board convene into Committee of the Whole, Closed Session at 5:30 p.m.

CARRIED

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

COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE, OPEN SESSION – 6:57 p.m

The following items/revisions were added to the Committee of the Whole, Open Session agenda:
3.2.2 – Social Media Direction

MOTION 2018-11-13-490

(A. Sygrove – R. Hunking)

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

CARRIED

Identity-Based Data Collection – Pilot Project

Superintendent Black announced that Avon Maitland is participating in this pilot project initiated through the Ministry of Education's Equity Secretariat. The purpose of the project is to support equity and student achievement through evidence-informed decision making.

Project Coordinator Laura Scott presented The Survey will be open from December 3rd to 7th and will be administered on-line during class time for students in grades 7 to 12. Parents/guardians of students in K to 6 will be asked to complete the on-line survey.

Data will be collected on a voluntary basis and will include subjects ie race and ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation and gender identity (K to 6 students will not answer questions related to sexual orientation).

Social Media Direction

Communications Manager Dani Rathwell advised trustees on an updated communication strategy to promote Avon Maitland's profile and to also highlight what Avon Maitland is doing to promote and celebrate student achievement.

Board-Self Evaluation Review

Chair Wagler presented the document for further discussion. Trustees provided additional comments which will be included in a revised document. Trustees will receive an updated copy.

RECONVENE IN REGULAR SESSION**MOTION 2018-11-13-491****(N. Rothwell – C. Schenk)**

RESOLVED THAT this Board reconvene into Regular Session at 7:27 p.m.

CARRIED

Chair Wagler called a brief recess. Chair Wagler called the meeting to order at 7:42 p.m.

Chair Wagler recited the Opening Statement:

"We acknowledge that we are on the traditional land of the Anishinaabe 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:
Item 6.5 a) was removed from the Consent Items.

MOTION 2018-11-13-492**(C. Schenk – J. Moore)**

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

The following amendments were made to the minutes:

In the Director's Work Plan presentation from Director Walsh the date is 2016-2020. In Good News items, Vice-Chair Hunking announced the publication 'A Story of the Three Sister', remove the second 'by'.

MOTION 2018-11-13-493**(A. Sygrove – L. Geddes)**

RESOLVED THAT the Minutes of the Avon Maitland District School Board meeting held Tuesday, October 23, 2018 be approved as amended.

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
Director of Education's Employment Agreement

MOTION 2018-11-13-494

(R. Hunking – C. Schenk)

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the updated Employment Agreement for Director Lisa Walsh.

CARRIED

Trustee Reflection – Trustee Doug Pratley

"I have spent almost 5 decades involved in formal education so as I exit or graduate, I thought it fitting to make my reflection an open letter to fellow graduates of AMDSB.

Hey,

I am one of the hundreds of folks responsible for your education. As you set out into the next phase of your life, I'd like to offer some observations and suggestions that all of us might make.

Your "education" had a great many pieces. We used to think that education was the acquiring of knowledge. We hope that you did acquire some knowledge but we hope that you got more than a "Google" education.

We hope that you have the ability to assess facts, apply them creatively, to problem solve. We hope that you can work with and trust others and communicate effectively, not just through social media. Knowledge changes and evolves, you have been given the skills to change and grow with it. The world is always changing, don't even try to resist it, and instead work to change for the better. Remember "always learning".

We hope that you developed a set of character traits that prepare you for being a good person. No matter their race, origin, sexual orientation, exceptionality, belief or any other traits, all humans are worthy and deserve respect. There is far more that we have in common than what separates us. People matter more than anything else. Love does conquer hate despite what you might see or hear. We wish you success. It is easy to take. The hard part is that you will face failures and disappointments. These you must learn from these, accept with grace, and move forward. Also remember to forgive yourself and others, no one is perfect.

Speaking of failures, we have an embarrassing plethora. We hand you a world divided. Even in peace we are at war. We have not found solutions to poverty and injustice. We are giving you a world poisoned by our selfish excesses. Our hope is that your knowledge, skills, creativity and courage to help you to collectively solve these ills or at least make progress where we have not. In part that means balancing personal desires against societal goals. You are humanity's future.

Stay informed and vote, but try to avoid political extremes either left or right.

Be intellectually flexible; listen to others; prepare to be enlightened. Everyone you encounter no matter what their station in life has something to teach you. Be ready.

Respect your elders, even if they still have land lines and drive too slowly.

Every so often lift your eyes from your devices – you are missing a lot.

Many of you will become parents. Wait until the right time. Educating and guiding your kids is the most important and responsible job you will ever have; it is a job for life. Your children will bring you great joy and teach you the meaning of unconditional love.

We are blessed to have a beautiful world to share with you. Always look on the bright side of life and finally be happy."

Good News

Trustee Kent announced the Foundation Gala held on November 10th was another successful fundraising event held at the Revival House in Stratford. The Gala raised in excess of \$26,000. Trustees Pratley, Rothwell, Schenk and Vice-Chair Hunking were in attendance, as well as Director Walsh and Superintendent Baird-Jackson.

Trustee Rothwell announced the release of the final version of a public service announcement (PSA) for student transportation. The new video is called 'Stop Means Stop'. Superintendent Baird-Jackson noted the PSAs will be changed to be seasonal.

Trustee Rothwell reported the new large gym at Listowel District Secondary School is completed and expressed appreciation to facilities staff for their ongoing efforts for all schools. The community is looking forward to resuming their programs.

Trustee Pratley attended Choosin' Inclusion on October 26th at the Stratford Rotary Complex. This year's focus was on secondary schools and guest speaker Shelley Moore presented. Trustee Pratley expressed appreciation to the Learning Services department for arranging this opportunity to staff and students. Trustees were encouraged to check Shelley Moore's blog at www.blogsomemoore.com

Vice-Chair Hunking attended November 1st and 2nd sessions with Will Richardson as keynote speaker. His message was for change in schools and classrooms which is necessary to provide diverse learning opportunities for students

On October 26th and 30th students in the grades 7 to 10 SOAR program participated in a day of accessibility understanding and learning at the Cowbell Brewing Company. Students participated in the accessibility learning module at the Cowbell facility. Grades 4 to 6 students in the SOAR program will be participating in 'Taking Over the Huron County Museum' on November 17th from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. and demonstrating what life was like in the 'olden times'.

Trustee Sygrove recognized students from Goderich District Collegiate Institute and their staff advisor Brenda McEwin who recently held their Country Christmas Craft Show in support of Ontario Students Against Impaired Driving (OSAID). This year marked the 16th year for the event which offered 120 vendors and welcomed approximately 2200 visitors.

Trustee Moore announced on October 25th she and Trustee Rothwell attended an Open House at Mornington Central for the Riverside Rural Learning Portable. The program offers independent or small group learning with teacher support to students who otherwise may not access our classroom programs.

Trustee Rothwell acknowledged efforts of staff and students for the Remembrance Day services that were held through Avon Maitland schools.

Student Trustee

Student Trustees Moore and Vleeming attended the OSTA-AECO and participated in various working groups and workshops.

Student / Staff Presentation

There were no presentations.

Public Delegations

There were no delegations.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR IMMEDIATE ACTION

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

Consolidated Financial Statements for September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018

Associate Superintendent Carter advised that the Audit Committee had met earlier in the evening and are recommending that the Board approve the Statements.

MOTION 2018-11-13-495**(A. Sygrove – L. Geddes)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the draft Consolidated Financial Statements for the period September 1, 2017 to August 31, 2018, as presented.

CARRIED

On behalf of the Board, Chair Wagler thanked the Audit Committee for their work, and to staff who ensure the finances are managed accordingly.

DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:Approval of Board Policies #11 re Board Representatives and #12 re Policy Making

Director Walsh presented the final versions of Policies #11 and 12. Minor edits were noted and revised.

MOTION 2018-11-13-496**(D. Pratley – C. Schenk)**

RESOLVED THAT the Avon Maitland District School Board approve the revisions to Policy #11 re *Board Representatives* and #12 re *Policy Making*.

CARRIED**INFORMATION AND PROGRESS REPORTS****DIRECTOR'S REPORTS:**Notice of Motion for Board Policy #8 re *Role of the Board Vice-Chair*, and #9 re *Board Governance By-Laws*

Director Walsh advised the notice of motion comes forward after review of the policies at the October 23rd Open Session. Additional revisions were noted and the policies were revised. The policies will be brought to the November 27th board meeting for approval.

Trustee Honoraria – Annual Calculation

Associate Superintendent Cater gave background on the method for calculation which is laid out from Ministry, and noted that there has been recent communication from the Ministry that effectively freezes the face value of trustee honorarium. There is a change in CRA rules in terms of what is taxable and what is not taxable and 100% of the trustee honoraria is now taxable.

Trustee Computers and Training for Trustees

Director Walsh welcomed Administrator of Information Technology Services Jason Hillier to present the information for trustee devices and training. In 2010 trustees receive Lenova ThinkPads and in 2014 some trustees moved to using iPads. Staff have researched a variety of devices based on four key deliverables ie video conferencing Skype for Businesses, a device to support all functions including Adobe Portfolio, Active Directory authentication, etc. After review of all the factors it was recommended that the Dell Laptop be purchased for trustees. Administrator of IT Services Jason Hillier also noted staff are looking into a new software product called eScribe for preparing and receiving meeting agenda and minutes. Trustees will receive the necessary training once the Laptops are received.

Staff Adjustments

Superintendent Langis presented the staff adjustments for information:

Retirements and Resignations:

Name	Location	Position	Effective
Chris Jenkins	Listowel District SS	Custodian	November 13, 2018

New Hires

Name	Location	Position	Effective
Laura Morrison	Bedford PS/SNSS	Custodian	October 22, 2018
Kelsey Fisher	Education Centre	Purchasing Associate	November 1, 2018
Myrofora Reinink	Education Centre	Reception	October 29, 2018
Lucy Langis	FE Madill SS	Teacher	November 5, 2018
Ryan Vallee	FE Madill SS	Teacher	October 23, 2018
Allissa Wettlaufer	FE Madill SS	Teacher	February 1, 2019
John Feeney	Listowel District SS	Custodian	October 22, 2018
William Rogers	Listowel District SS	Educational Assistant	November 5, 2018
Chris Strasser	Little Falls/SMDCVI	Custodian	October 22, 2018
Ashleigh Hodgkinson	Maitland River ES	Educational Assistant	November 1, 2018
Jesse Dalrymple-Sprung	North Perth Westfield ES	Custodian	November 12, 2018
Deanna Smith	North Woods ES	Educational Assistant	November 12, 2018
Tonya Hummel	Seaforth PS	Educational Assistant	November 5, 2018
Meaghan O'Rourke-Copp	South Huron DHS	Teacher	November 1, 2018
Susan Rowcliffe	South Huron DHS	Educational Assistant	November 5, 2018
Brittany Ostertag	St. Marys DCVI	Educational Assistant	November 5, 2018
Stephanie Miller	Upper Thames ES	Educational Assistant	November 19, 2018

OPSBA Update

Trustee Schenk advised the first meeting in December is scheduled for December 7th and 8th. New members will be need on Policy and Program and there will be three positions open for election at PES in January.

Vice-Chair Hunking commented that an OPSBA Ad Hoc Committee is looking at how to work better with the OSTA student voice. Also if any trustee is interested in serving as a representative for the Western Region to please advise him by the end of the week.

Board Committee MinutesSEAC – October 3, 2018

Trustee Pratley advised that SEAC dissolves every fourth year when elections are held. SEAC has invited organizations to put forward members and one of the things that had to be decided by SEAC was how many members-at-large they would accept. SEAC will ask that the Board approve two members-at-large. SEAC will recommend to the board and bring this forward to January meeting. SEAC's final meeting will be held by teleconference on November 26th at 4:00 p.m.

Senior Staff Update

Superintendent Baker announced Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week is November 18th to 24th. Schools throughout the district will be encouraging students, staff and parents to be more aware of bullying. On November 14th grade 9 students will have the opportunity to participate in Take Our Kids to Work Day. Pathways Night will be held on December 5th at the Stratford Rotary Complex. This will be an opportunity to students to explore various workplaces, apprenticeships, colleges and universities.

Superintendent Baird-Jackson gave an update on the Stratford project and noted that *thoughtexchange* is now closed although people can continue to log in and review the top topics and thoughts from the data. The Company is now analyzing the input and when finished this will be shared and communicated by School Messenger and posted on the Board website. *Thoughtexchange* is going to be guiding a website with their analysis and it is planned to be released next week.

Correspondence:

- a) Letter dated October 22, 2018 from Huron County Health Unit
- b) Letter dated November 2, 2018 from Toronto District School Board re Student Voice
- c) Letter dated November 2, 2018 from Toronto District School Board re Indigenous Writing Sessions

NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business presented.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Future Board Meetings (at Education Centre unless otherwise noted)

- November 27, 2018 – 4:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Closed Session, 5:30 p.m. Committee of the Whole, Open Session, 7:30 Regular Session
- December 4, 2018 – 7:00 p.m. Inaugural Board Meeting

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

- Indigenous Education Advisory Committee: – November 22nd at 5:00 p.m.
- SEAC: Monday, November 26th at 4:00 p.m. teleconference
- Joint Health & Safety Committee: Thursday, November 29th at 1:30 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION 2018-11-13-497

(L. Geddes – C. Schenk)

RESOLVED THAT this meeting be adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

CARRIED

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario
November 27, 2018

Randy Wagler
Chair of the Board

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