

# AVON MAITLAND DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

*Engage, Inspire, Innovate ... Always Learning*

## MINUTES

### INAUGURAL BOARD MEETING

Tuesday, December 4, 2018

7:00 p.m.

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

#### PRESENT:

**Trustees:** Laura Bisutti, Colin Carmichael, Lynette Geddes, Robert Hunking, Herb Klassen, Julie Moore, Nancy Rothwell, Colleen Schenk, Al Sygrove

**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 Staff:** Dani Rathwell  
**Recording Secretary:** Barb Crawford

#### CALL TO ORDER

The Secretary of the Board, Lisa Walsh, called the Inaugural meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Director Walsh extended a welcome to the trustees and guests to the Inaugural Meeting of the Avon Maitland District School Board. The Secretary called the roll. Nine trustees were present in the room.

#### DECLARATION OF OFFICE/OATH OF ALLEGIANCE

Trustees, in unison, declared Oath of Allegiance and Declaration. Director Walsh asked the trustees to sign their copy of the Declaration and Oath of Allegiance.

#### REVIEW OF ELECTION PROCEDURE BY SECRETARY

In accordance with the governance by-laws, Director Walsh explained the election procedures for the positions of Chair, Vice Chair and the Ontario Public School Boards' Delegate and Alternate Delegate. There will be no declaration of the count of ballots. Director Walsh explained, in accordance with Board Policy #9 section 1.3.6, the procedure related to a tie breaker in the event of a three-way tie. Director Walsh called for a motion naming two scrutineers for the election.

#### MOTION 2018-12-04-01

(L. Geddes – R. Hunking)

**RESOLVED THAT** the two scrutineers for the election be Superintendent Paul Langis and Associate Superintendent Cheri Carter.

**CARRIED**

#### ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND OPSBA DELEGATE

##### Election of Chair of the Board

The Secretary called for a nominating ballot for the office of the Chair of the Board.

The Director reported that the following trustees had been nominated:

Trustees Geddes, Hunking, Rothwell, and Schenk

In accordance with the Board Governance Bylaws, the nominated trustees were asked if they would allow their names to stand for election. Trustees Geddes, Hunking, and Schenk agreed to stand for election. Trustee Rothwell declined. Trustees were given an opportunity to address the Board.

Ballots were distributed for voting.

The first ballot resulted in Trustee Schenk as Chair of the Avon Maitland District School Board for 2019.

Trustee Schenk assumed the Chair and presided for the remainder of the meeting.

#### Election of the Vice-Chair of the Board

The Chair called for a nominating ballot for Vice-Chair.

The Chair reported that the following trustees had been nominated:

Trustees Geddes, Hunking, Rothwell, and Sygrove

In accordance with the Board Governance Bylaws, the nominated trustees were asked if they would allow their names to stand for election. Trustees Geddes, Rothwell, and Sygrove declined. Trustee Hunking agreed to stand.

Trustee Hunking assumed the Vice-Chair's seat.

#### Election of the Board's Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association

The Chair called for a nominating ballot for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association delegate for the Board.

The Chair reported that the following trustees had been nominated:

Trustees Geddes, Klassen, and Rothwell

In accordance with the Board Governance Bylaws, the nominated trustees were asked if they would allow their names to stand for election. Trustee Geddes declined. Trustees Klassen and Rothwell agreed to stand for election. Trustees were given an opportunity to address the Board.

The first ballot resulted in the election of Trustee Klassen as the Board's Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association for 2019.

#### Election of the Board's Alternate Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association

The Chair called for a nominating ballot for the Ontario Public School Boards' Association alternate delegate for the Board.

The scrutineers reported that the following trustees had been nominated:

Trustees Geddes and Rothwell

In accordance with the Board Governance Bylaws, the nominated trustees were asked if they would allow their name to stand for election. Trustee Geddes declined, and Trustee Rothwell agreed to stand.

Trustee Rothwell is the Board's Alternate Delegate to the Ontario Public School Boards' Association for 2019.

**DESTRUCTION OF BALLOTS****MOTION 2018-12-04-02****(L. Geddes – N. Rothwell)**

**RESOLVED THAT** the ballots from the elections for Board Chair, Vice-Chair, OPSBA Delegate and OPSBA alternate be destroyed.

**CARRIED****REMARKS FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD**Chair Schenk's Inaugural Address to the Board

There is an old adage that says:

*"If you want one year of prosperity grow grain, If you want ten years of prosperity grow trees, if you want hundreds of years of prosperity.....grow children!"*

Never a truer word was spoken.

As school board trustees, we are indeed in the position to influence and contribute to this growth. Almost 7 years ago, our tagline: *Engage, Inspire, Innovate... Always Learning* was developed through extensive consultations and the message that it delivers is still very pertinent today. It helps to keep us focused on building and delivering the best education possible for our students.

Do you realize that in 2019, it will be over 170 years since the first school board was established in Ontario. It is amazing to think of all the changes that have happened since then, and all of the progress that has been made because of dedicated individuals, really volunteers who tirelessly work to make the education system very best for our students.

Think of all the progress in technology that has been made. I am sure that Egerton Ryerson never dreamed where and how technology would evolve to support learning. Speaking of Ryerson, he said and I quote: *"on the importance of education generally we may remark it as a necessary as the light, it should be as common as water and free as air. Education among the people is the best security of a good government and constitutional liberty; it yields a steady, unbending support to the former and effectively protects the latter"*.

We are very fortunate to have an education system that is free and available to all ages. We are very fortunate to have an inclusive education system that provides learning for all. We are very fortunate to have well rounded, enthusiastic staff at all levels throughout our entire system, and this speaks highly of the value and insight of our strategic plans.

We are a board that is known for being a proactive and ahead of the curve in many areas. Many of you may not be aware that we were one of, if not the first board in Ontario to have student trustees, to give students a voice at the board table and to listen and encourage them to bring current issues to our attention. Our son Todd was a student trustee, and I have always felt that by encouraging students to become involved in the board we were training them for future involvement in world affairs.

We have a good and proven foundation in our board, and I firmly believe that we can improve even further as we continue to serve. I also firmly believe as I mentioned earlier, that the chair is not a lone position. Yes, the chair is spokesperson for the board; however, if the chair is to be effective, he or she must listen, learn, consult and ask for help and advice when needed.

I ask you to partner with me, to collaborate, to suggest changes if you believe that they would benefit our board and our system, and to begin this year with renewed energy for those returning trustees and with enthusiasm for our new board members as we move forward.

Thank you once again to all of our staff and you, our trustees. You really help grow our students. I sincerely thank you for support. I will do my best to lead with your help, advice and partnership.

There is much talk to peace and joy at this time of the year. There is true joy in celebrating the gift of education. Whatever you are celebrating; be it Christmas, Hanukah or another holiday may it be full of special times with family and friends. May 2019 bring you peace, good health and happiness

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

- Tuesday, January 22, 2019 – 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 Board Session

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

- HPSTS: Tuesday, December 11<sup>th</sup> at 4:00 p.m. teleconference
- SAL: Monday, December 17, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.
- Trustee Orientation Session: Tuesday, January 15, 2019 – 5:00 p.m., Festival Room, Seaforth Education Centre
- OPSBA Public Education Symposium: Thursday, January 24 – 26, 2019

**ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION 2018-12-04-03**

**(H. Klassen – N. Rothwell)**

**RESOLVED THAT** this Inaugural meeting be adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

**CARRIED**

Approved at Seaforth, Ontario  
January 29, 2019

Colleen Schenk  
Chair of the Board

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