

**THAMES VALLEY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD  
PLANNING AND PRIORITIES ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**October 8, 2024  
6:19 p.m. to 8:55 p.m.  
London Room**

**TRUSTEES**

D. Cripps (+6:25)  
L. Hopkins  
M. Larsen  
B. Mai (+6 :42)  
S. Moore  
A. Morell  
L. Osbourne (+6:48)  
L. Pizzolato (Chair)  
S. Polhill (+6:24)  
M. Ruddock (-7:00)  
C. Sachs  
B. Smith  
E. Park  
L. Westlake  
S. Vimal

**ADMINISTRATION AND OTHERS**

B. Tucker, Interim Director of Education (+6:27)  
K. Wilkinson, Associate Director  
K. Auckland, Superintendent  
S. Builder, Superintendent  
A. Canham, Superintendent  
L. Griffith-Jones, Superintendent  
C. Lynd, Superintendent  
P. Sydor, Superintendent  
G. Vogt, Superintendent  
S. Macey, Manager, Financial Services (-7:04)  
B. Puzanov, Manager (-7:41)  
E. Miles, Planner (-7:11)  
C. Harms, Planner (-7:14)  
K. Rea, Communications  
S. Hickson, Board Services

**1. Call to Order and Approval of Agenda**

Chair Pizzolato called the meeting to order at 6:19 p.m. The agenda was approved as printed.

**2. Conflicts of Interest**

None declared.

**3. Minutes of the Previous Meeting**

The minutes of the September 10, 2024 meeting were approved, as printed.

**4. Unfinished Business**

None.

**5. Breakout Group Discussion**

The committee was asked to share ideas for future Breakout Group Discussion topics.

**6. Workplan Update**

Chair Pizzolato provided an update on the Planning and Priorities Advisory (PAPA) Committee Workplan.

## **7. Finance (Standing Item)**

### **a. Preliminary August 31, 2024 Interim Financial Reporting**

Manager Macey and Superintendent Lynd presented the Preliminary August 31, 2024 Interim Financial Report for information.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding the past and future enrolment projections, the impact of staff overage resulting from reduced enrolment, ways to utilize staff overages to improve Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) results, the revenue shortfall related to Bill 124 remedy payments, an update on a response from the Ministry of Education regarding the Thames Valley District School Board's (TVDSB) plan to reduce the deficit, and an update on the Canada Pension Plan and Employment Insurance funding.

Administration committed to providing the Education Funding Consultation Guide to Trustees.

### **b. Senior Planning Day Costs**

Superintendent Lynd presented the Senior Planning Day Costs report for information.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding the memo sent to staff to action the June 2024 Board Motion pertaining to professional development opportunities and cost effectiveness, the fiscal year's budget the expense was budgeted for, and the fiscal period in which the TVDSB faced an \$18 million dollar deficit.

### **c. Preliminary Budget and Other Financial Information Timing**

Superintendent Lynd and Manager Macey presented the Preliminary Budget and Other Financial Information Timing report for information. The timelines for budget reports are based on previously expected announcement timelines of the Core Education Funding (Core Ed) and release of the EFIS (Ministry of Education financial reporting tool) package.

There was no discussion or questions of clarification.

### **d. 2025-26 Budget Assumptions and Guiding Principles**

Superintendent Lynd presented the 2025-26 Budget Assumptions and Guiding Principles for feedback.

Discussion took place regarding the difference between guiding principles and budget assumptions.

Trustees provided feedback to Administration on budget assumptions and guiding principles for the 2025-2026 budget.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding a report on the International Student Program, accounting for inflation when determining school funding, incorporating new proposed budget initiatives into budget assumptions, examples of how budget assumptions and principles are used in the reports provided to Trustees, and evaluating the effectiveness of the assumptions and guiding principles.

Administration committed to providing a report on the International Student Program to the Trustees and more information on Budget Assumptions and Guiding Principles to a future PAPA meeting.

Feedback was captured by S. Macey.

## **8. Facility Services and Capital Planning (Standing Item)**

### **a. Initial Attendance Area Review Report Southeast London Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review**

Manager Puzanov presented the Initial Attendance Area Review (AAR) Report Southeast London Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review for approval.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding updates to the Attendance Areas for Students Policy (4012) and related procedures, the members of the public who are involved in the AAR process, how AAR committee meeting locations are determined, and sharing feedback from the AAR Committee with Trustees.

The following recommendation was moved and CARRIED:

**THAT Administration proceed with the Southeast London Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review and establish an Attendance Area Review Committee for the purpose of obtaining public feedback regarding the accommodation options included in the Initial Attendance Area Review Report.**

**b. Initial Attendance Area Review Report Adelaide Metcalfe and Strathroy-Caradoc Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review**

Manager Puzanov presented the Initial Attendance Area Review Report Adelaide Metcalfe and Strathroy-Caradoc Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review for approval.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding guidelines pertaining to which secondary school students will attend and if the closest secondary school can accommodate the students.

The following recommendation was moved and **CARRIED**:

**THAT Administration proceed with the Adelaide Metcalfe and Strathroy-Caradoc Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review and establish an Attendance Area Review Committee for the purpose of obtaining public feedback regarding the accommodation options included in the Initial Attendance Area Review Report.**

**9. Student Transportation (Standing Items)**

**a. Report on Transportation for Tech Emphasis and French Immersion Programs**

Superintendent Sydor shared the Report on Transportation for Tech Emphasis and French Immersion Programs for information.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding definitions of terms used in the report, the number of students who are enrolled in in-area tech emphasis schools and the related cost to the TVDSB, advantages and risks of allowing students to attend a tech emphasis school starting in grades 9 or 10 before they start the tech emphasis courses, and if home schools are concerned with possible declining enrolment if students choose to attend a tech emphasis school due to availability of transportation.

A recommendation was moved and subsequently severed.

The committee stood at ease.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding the recommendation's necessity given existing TVDSB policy, if an amendment to the Attendance Area for Students Policy (4012) or Procedure (4012a) would accomplish the intent of the recommendation, the difference between the tech emphasis program and the Specialist

High Skills Major (SHSM) program, and the correlation between tech emphasis and French Immersion transportation and schooling options.

Trustees in favour of the recommendation argued that the Ontario Secondary School Diploma requires that all students must take a tech course, that it would promote equity in the student body, and that it would mitigate enrolment issues due to the current practice allowing for grade 9 entry to a tech emphasis school.

Trustees against the recommendation argued that changing schools to take tech emphasis courses could affect a student's social life and mental health.

The committee stood at ease.

Discussion occurred regarding the need for clarity on the problem that is to be solved and if the item is best handled by the Policy Working Committee as an amendment to an existing policy.

The following recommendation was moved and WITHDRAWN:

Implement a strict policy that ensures students do not attend a Tech Emphasis school in advance of Grade 11. As there are currently students in Tech Emphasis schools in Grade 9 and Grade 10, this policy would begin for Grade 9 students entering in the 2025 – 2026 school year.

Discussion occurred regarding consistency with the French Immersion and arts programs, the potential cost savings, and the potential to lose students to co-terminus boards.

Trustees in favour of the recommendation argued that it would help with the loss of enrolment in smaller county high schools whose students are using tech emphasis to attend another high school, and that tech emphasis schools are over-crowded.

Trustees against the recommendation argued that this should be committed to the Policy Working Committee, that the impact of the recommendation would be minimal and/or not actually solve the problem, that additional TVDSB-sourced data is needed to make an informed vote, and that student groups should be consulted regarding the social impact for students.

A point of order was not well taken by the Chair that the committee is debating the merits of the recommendation and not debating if the committee should move

the recommendation to the board, which is what the focus of the debate should be.

The following recommendation was moved and DEFEATED:

THAT TVDSB ensures that entry into Tech Emphasis programs in secondary schools become an option in Grade 11. This would be implemented for grade 9 students entering in the 2025-2026 school year.

The following amendment was moved without objection:

TO substitute the first sentence in the recommendation with "THAT TVDSB ensures that entry into Tech Emphasis programs in secondary schools becomes an option in Grade 11."

Trustees in favour of the recommendation argued that it is asking Administration to uphold a current TVDSB policy.

Trustees against the recommendation argued that the TVDSB already has a policy in place to address the issues outlined in the recommendation, that the issue is more about the implementation of the policy, and that the Policy Working Committee should review the policy for potential updates.

It was decided that the issue would be brought to the next PAPA Committee meeting with timelines from Administration regarding when the policy can be updated and when Administration can start documenting, monitoring, and managing the status of students in specialized programs.

The following recommendation was moved and WITHDRAWN:

THAT Administration implement a strict policy of loss of transportation upon program withdrawal, and loss of registration at the next semester break.

**10. Feasibility Report on the Impact of Banning the Sale and Purchase of Single-Use Water Bottles on All Thames Valley District School Board Properties**

Superintendent Sydor presented the Feasibility Report on the Impact of Banning the Sale and Purchase of Single-Use Water Bottles on All Thames Valley District School Board Properties for information.

Discussion included the need to ensure that all students have access to fresh water at school, if more information is needed to make an informed decision, and consideration of exceptions to the rules to provide reusable water bottles.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding the implications of enforcing a ban on the use of single-use water bottles brought from home, the potential impact on indigenous communities especially those under a boil water advisory, referencing previous similar motions on single-use water bottles passed by the Board of Trustees, the impact on staff workload if the ban were to be implemented as of January 6, 2025 as opposed to delaying until September of 2025, enforcement options for staff, if the TVDSB has schools without safe drinking water in their filling stations, if the ban could eventually apply to soft drinks, and the effect on current contracts with vending machine suppliers.

Trustees in favour of the recommendation argued that Trustees have the information needed to make an informed decision.

Trustees against the recommendation argued opposition to the use of the word "ban," favouring the language "purchase and sale" of single-use water bottles.

The following recommendation was moved and CARRIED:

THAT a phased process to end the purchase and sale of single-use water bottles on all TVDSB properties begin on \_\_\_\_\_ with clear and consistent communication and education about single-use plastic bottles be prioritized.

The following amendment was moved and CARRIED:

**TO strike** "a phased process to ban the use" and **insert** "THAT a phased process to end the purchase and sale" AND to **strike** "6 January 2025" and **insert** a blank line AND to **strike** "the ban" following the words "education about" and **insert** "single use plastic bottles."

#### **11. Community Engagement as it Relates to the Multi-Year Strategic Plan**

Interim Director Tucker spoke to Community Engagement as it Relates to the Multi-Year Strategic Plan and requested that it be a standing item for future PAPA agendas. It was noted that the Special Education public consultation is taking place on October 9, 2024.

Discussion included the Bill 98's community engagement requirements.

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding if there was discussion during the summer on community engagement sessions and Ministry parameters as to when community engagement can take place.

It was noted that Bill 98 timelines will be discussed at a future Administrative Council meeting and that the discussion regarding the TVDSB's community engagement plan as it relates to the MYSP will return to the next PAPA meeting as Unfinished Business.

**12. Human Resources (Standing Item)**

None.

**13. Questions and Comments by Members (Standing Item)**

Questions of clarification were addressed by Administration regarding an update on the construction project at West Elgin Secondary School and how Administration is supporting students so they can attend classes safely.

**14. Next Meeting Dates**

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, November 12, 2024.

**15. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

**Recommendations:**

**THAT Administration proceed with the Southeast London Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review and establish an Attendance Area Review Committee for the purpose of obtaining public feedback regarding the accommodation options included in the Initial Attendance Area Review Report.**

**THAT Administration proceed with the Adelaide Metcalfe and Strathroy-Caradoc Elementary Panel Attendance Area Review and establish an Attendance Area Review Committee for the purpose of obtaining public feedback regarding the accommodation options included in the Initial Attendance Area Review Report.**

**THAT a phased process to end the purchase and sale of single-use water bottles on all TVDSB properties begin on \_\_\_\_\_ with clear and consistent communication and education about single-use plastic bottles be prioritized.**

**Lori-Ann Pizzolato**  
Committee Chair