

# Avon Maitland District School Board



Avon Maitland District School Board  
Engage, Inspire, Innovate... Always Learning

Board Meeting Highlights – June 23, 2020

Note: Due to the COVID-19 pandemic response, this meeting was hosted online using Microsoft Teams.

## Good News

### Virtual Grads across AMDSB

Schools throughout our District have adapted their way of celebrating grade 6 and 8 graduates. A variety of 'virtual' celebrations have been hosted and Trustee Schenk acknowledged the staff of the schools for shifting to this new way of celebrating. Grade 12 celebrations have been deferred to the fall. Congratulations to all graduates!!

### Significant Student Award Winners



This June, our schools are celebrating all of our graduating students. Many of them are receiving scholarships and awards for their post-secondary pursuits. We have a few students who have been awarded \$25,000 or more and we wanted to publicly acknowledge this success. Student Trustee Emma Badley from Mitchell District High School was awarded the Guelph President's Scholarship, the Claire E. Elliott Entrance Scholarship and an Entrance Scholarship. Three students from Huron County were awarded the McCall Huron County award (Hannah Wheeler and Breelle Shaw from FE

Madill and Emma Regier from South Huron District High School). Goderich District Collegiate Institute student Emma Davison was awarded a Schulich Leader Scholarship in STEM. Congratulations and we wish you all the best!

### New! Equity and Diversity Committee

Staff from AMDSB have been invited to join a newly formed Equity and Diversity Committee. They will begin their work next school year and focus on anti-oppression and anti-racism initiatives.

## Stratford Transformation Update

The Stratford Transformation Committee (STC) met online on June 4. They finalized their recommendations to senior staff for the colours, logos and team names, which were subsequently approved. [Highlights from that meeting can be found by clicking here](#). A public release of this information was issued on June 9. The STC's next meeting is scheduled for July 9 where they will be discussing plans for memorabilia and celebrations to acknowledge the history of Stratford Central and Northwestern. Updates from the Stratford Transformation Working Committees were also provided and it was noted that construction projects at both sites are progressing as expected.

Chair Geddes extended her thanks to everyone involved for all of their work on this project.

## Chair's Update

Chair Geddes reported that the Grants for Student Needs (GSNs) were released last week and that she participated in a teleconference with Minister of Education Lecce. She also reported that a survey was sent to families to collect feedback to help planning for September.

## Senior Staff Updates

### Update on AMDSB "Learn at Home"

A video was shared with the Trustees that highlights how the "learn at home" system looks among secondary schools in AMDSB.

### Preliminary Accommodation Analysis Report

Staff provided the annual Preliminary Accommodation Analysis Report for the 2019/2020 year to Trustees. The report includes the latest long-term enrolment projections, building capacity figures and details pertaining to the Accommodation Planning Areas. The report noted that the Ministry of Education continues to ask boards to not enter into pupil accommodation reviews until the updated Pupil Accommodation Review Guideline (PARG) is released, and as such, staff recommended and Trustees agreed that an Accommodation Review process is not appropriate at this time. Superintendent Carter did discuss one planning area of the Board, the North Perth region, that staff might consider undertaking a formal boundary review in the future to address the enrolment growth in this region.

## Summer Mental Health Support for Students

The Board has received additional funding for the provision of mental health supports to students over the summer. Staff members from the Mental Health and Well-being team will be available by phone.

## IT Update

Devices that were deployed to students over the last 3 months will not be collected over the summer. This will enable students to participate in online learning should the need be to return to this format in September.

## Summer Learning Programs for Students and Staff

The Program and Learning Services teams have been working together to develop an online program for over 50 students in grades 3/4 and 9/10. The modules include Parent involvement, math and literacy instruction and includes support from Special Education Resource Teachers.

Staff are also being offered Additional Qualifications in Math and Indigenous Studies.

## Summer Support for Students with Special Education Needs

Summer Skills Development Program for students with Autism is being offered this summer, along with the Lexia online reading program. There will be Special Education support for elementary and secondary summer school with continued support from Special Education Resource Teachers and Educational Assistants.

## Student Trustee Update



Student Senators are recruiting more student followers for their social media accounts. They are offering Air Pods and gift cards as prizes. They are also sending out words of encouragement in a video campaign called "You Matter". A video will be released soon.

Our Student Trustees (Emma Badley and Kristin Vleeming) are graduating this year. Trustee Badley will be attending the University of Guelph and has been awarded 3 scholarships totaling over \$45,000. Trustee Vleeming will be attending Conestoga College in Kitchener.

The Board thanked them for their dedication and leadership and wished them all the best!

Next year's Student Trustees will be Elizabeth Benoit (South Huron District High School) and Makenzie Hallam (Listowel District Secondary School). The Board wishes all of the Student Senators a happy and restful summer!

This year is the last year that Mr Burt will supervise the Student Senators. He has led this group for the last 5 years and the Board and senior staff thanked him for his strong leadership and guidance.

## Future Board Meetings

(Due to the COVID-19 pandemic response, meetings will be hosted online until further notice. A link to join the meetings will be posted [on the Board website](#) on the day of the meeting).

- Tuesday, August 25, 2020 (Special Board Meeting)

## Future Meetings/Events with Trustee Representation

- Special Education Advisory Committee – Wednesday, June 24, 2020
- Huron Perth Student Transportation Services – Tuesday, June 30, 2020
- Special Education Advisory Committee – Monday, August 24, 2020
- Finance Committee – Tuesday, August 25, 2020