



**Minutes**

**Municipality of Thames Centre  
Local School Advisory Committee**

**June 19, 2024, 3:00 P.M.  
Municipal Office - Council Chambers  
4305 Hamilton Road, Dorchester, ON**

Members Present: M. Smibert, Chair/Council Representative  
S. McMillan, Vice-Chair/Council Representative  
G. Armstrong, Community Representative  
S. Taylor, Community Representative  
K. Empey, Community Representative  
N. Delorey, Community Representative (*arrived at 3:02 p.m.*)

Members Absent: K. Hallman, Community Representative  
K. Brown, Community Representative

Staff Present: Sara Henshaw, Deputy Clerk  
E. Schinbein, Director of Financial Services/Treasurer  
J. Craven, Director of Public Works

Others Present: A. Morell, Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB)  
Trustee, Middlesex County

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**1. Call To Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m.

**2. Approve Agenda**

**Resolution # LSAC-003-2024**

**Moved by:** K. Empey

**Seconded by:** S. Taylor

**THAT** the June 19, 2024 Regular Meeting Agenda of the Local School Advisory Committee **BE APPROVED** as circulated.

**Carried.**

**3. Disclosure Of Pecuniary Interest**

No disclosures of pecuniary interest.

#### 4. Previous Minutes

##### 4.1 March 20, 2024 - Regular Meeting

###### Resolution # LSAC-004-2024

Moved by: S. McMillan

Seconded by: G. Armstrong

**THAT** the minutes of the Local School Advisory Committee regular meeting held on March 20, 2024 **BE RECEIVED**.

**Carried.**

#### 5. Presentations/Delegations

##### 5.1 Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB) - Updates

Ms. Morell noted that she is not speaking on behalf of, nor does she represent, the Thames Valley District School Board (TVDSB). Her opinions are her own as an elected Trustee in Middlesex County, and not necessarily that of the Board.

Ms. Morell provided an overview of TVDSB and information about its 2024-2025 budget, including a handout for committee members (which is appended to the minutes).

Ms. Morell discussed various budget pressures affecting TVDSB, including unfunded statutory benefit increases (\$13.7 million), unfunded casual absences for teachers (\$18 million) and a shortfall in Special Education funding (\$3.3 million).

There was discussion regarding Bill 124 and its impact on the budget, including the unfunded additional staff time to process retroactive pay.

The Committee discussed the minimal amount of budget cuts being taken at the higher levels, including administration costs.

The Committee discussed the benefits of reverting back to smaller-sized school boards.

The Committee inquired if Trustees have any influence over senior-level compensation. Ms. Morell advised there is an Executive Compensation Framework Regulation in place, meaning Trustees are prohibited from providing raises to senior management. Senior management members are on a salary grid that is determined by compensation framework.

The Committee inquired if TVDSB's senior management has concerns about the sustainability of this budget. Ms. Morell discussed the concerns regarding financial planning, funding cuts and presenting a balanced budget.

The Committee inquired if the approach is zero-based budgeting, to which Ms. Morell confirmed it is.

The Committee inquired about errors in the prediction of student enrollment. Ms. Morell advised that when forecasting student enrollment, it has typically been approached conservatively. Ms. Morell discussed the benefits and risks of predicting not enough students, as well as when predicting too many students.

The Committee discussed the timing for voting on the budget. Ms. Morell advised that it would place at the meeting scheduled on Tuesday, June 25, 2024 at 7:00 p.m. which will also be livestreamed.

The Committee discussed how reducing resources and support for TVDSB employees can impact the number of casual absences.

Ms. Morell announced that she was pleased to tour with Rob Flack for "Take Your Trustees to School Day", where they toured Lord Dorchester Secondary School together and discussed funding, investments and local programming.

**6. Reports of Staff**

No items.

**7. Committee Business**

No items.

**8. Correspondence**

**8.1 Thames Centre Council Resolution - Stop Arm Cameras on School Buses**

Chair Smibert and Member McMillan provided background to the Committee regarding Correspondence Item 8.a.

**Resolution # LSAC-005-24**

**Moved by:** K. Empey

**Seconded by:** N. Delorey

**THAT** Correspondence Item 8.a. regarding "Thames Centre Council Resolution - Stop Arm Cameras on School Buses" **BE RECEIVED** and **BE SUPPORTED** by the Local School Advisory Committee.

**Carried.**

**9. Unfinished Business**

No items.

**10. New Business**

No items.

**11. Scheduling of Meetings**

Wednesday, September 18, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

Wednesday, December 18, 2024 at 3:00 p.m.

**12. Adjournment**

There being no further business to discuss it was:

**Resolution # LSAC-006-2024**

**Moved by:** S. McMillan

**Seconded by:** S. Taylor

**RESOLVED THAT** the meeting adjourn at 3:56 p.m.

**Carried.**