MINUTES OF THE PUBLIC MEETING OF THE GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD HELD ON TUESDAY, 2015-11-17 IN THE BOARD ROOM, 451 PARK STREET WEST, WINDSOR, ONTARIO.

PRESENT: TRUSTEES:
G. Simko-Hatfield (Chairperson) A. Halberstadt (Vice-Chairperson)
C. Buckler J. Burgess
T. Kilpatrick R. Le Clair
C. Lovell K. McKinley
J. Sartori D. Taves

STUDENT TRUSTEES:
A. Jain
C. Pena Vallecillo

ADMINISTRATION:
E. Kelly (Director of Education)
P. Antaya T. Awender
D. Fister C. Howitt
J. Howitt C. Lynd
V. Houston L. McLaughlin
S. Pyke

RECODER: M. LeBoeuf

A. **CALL TO ORDER**
Chairperson Simko-Hatfield called the meeting to order at 5:46 p.m.

B. **ATTENDANCE**
Chairperson Simko-Hatfield noted that all trustees were present.

C. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**
C.1 Approval of Agenda
Add agenda item M.5 Annual Report to the Board of Trustees and Forwarded to the Ministry of Education for the Year Ended August 31, 2015. Chair’s Report becomes agenda item M.6.

Moved by Trustee Buckler
Seconded by Trustee Le Clair

**THAT THE AGENDA BE APPROVED AS AMENDED.**
The vote was called and it CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

D. **CONVENE TO PRIVATE SESSION**
Moved by Trustee Lovell
Seconded by Trustee McKinley

**TO MOVE INTO PRIVATE SESSION.**
The vote was called and it CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
Special Order of the Day
“I am Canadian” Tribute to our veterans.

E. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

DECLARATION: Trustee Buckler declared conflict of interest for agenda items F.3 pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, 1990. Trustee Buckler disclosed her interest in the matter and stated that her daughter is a member of OSSTF/ESS and did not vote on that item.

DECLARATION: Trustee Simko-Hatfield declared conflict of interest for agenda items F.3 pursuant to the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, 1990. Trustee Simko-Hatfield disclosed her interest in the matter and stated that she has a relative that is employed by the board and did not vote on that item.

F. ACTIONS OF COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE PRIVATE SESSION

Moved by Trustee Halberstadt
Seconded by Trustee Taves

F.1 That agenda item F.1 Personnel from the November 17th, 2015 Private Session meeting be approved.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

Moved by Lovell
Seconded by Kilpatrick

F.2 That agenda item F.2 Property from the November 17th, 2015 Private Session meeting be approved.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

Moved by Le Clair
Seconded by Buckler

F.3 That agenda item F.3 Negotiations from the November 17th, 2015 Private Session meeting be approved.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

G. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Moved by Trustee Taves
Seconded by Trustee Buckler

G.1 THAT THE MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2015 PUBLIC BOARD MEETING BE APPROVED AS PRESENTED.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

H. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Nil.
I. PRESENTATIONS

I.1 Student of the Month
Student Trustee Jain noted that the November Student of the Month is Jingting Liu, a Grade 12 student at Vincent Massey Secondary School. Jingting arrived in Windsor last year from China.

Although she did not know English, Jingting did not hesitate to involve herself in the school community and quickly became a leader in Massey's Enriched Program while learning the English language.

Last year, she raised more money for Massey's Care for Kids fundraiser than her entire home room class, just by going door-to-door. She currently serves as a co-chair of one of Massey's largest events of the year, the Multicultural Dinner, and is on the executive planning committee for the Children's Christmas Party.

Jingting has quickly established herself as a true leader at Vincent Massey.

J. DELEGATIONS
Nil.

K. SPEAKER’S LIST
Nil.

L. NEW BUSINESS

L.1 Draft Audited Financial Statements for the Year Ended August 31, 2015

Moved by Trustee Kilpatrick
Seconded by Trustee Taves

THAT THE ATTACHED AUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF THE GREATER ESSEX COUNTY DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD FOR THE YEAR ENDED AUGUST 31, 2015 BE APPROVED.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

L.2 Policy and Regulation: Homework

Moved by Trustee Lovell
Seconded by Trustee Sartori

THAT THE BOARD APPROVE THE REVISED HOMEWORK POLICY AND REGULATION AS PRESENTED.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

L.3 Notice of Motion – Trustee Taves

Moved by Trustee Taves
Seconded by Trustee Buckler

THAT THE GECDSB CREATE A STUDENT RECRUITMENT AND RETENTION COMMITTEE. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP SHALL INCLUDE BUT NOT LIMITED TO A MINIMUM OF 2 TRUSTEES, SENIOR ADMINISTRATION AND SCHOOL STAFF.
 It was questioned what source of information the committee would be using for their discussion. The Director noted that that would be something the committee would determine.
 It was noted that the committee needs some time to figure out what would best serve the needs of the committee. The membership could expand as the committee determines.
 It was noted that trustee membership on the committee will be determined by the Striking Committee.
 A friendly amendment to the motion was made to include ‘a minimum of 2’.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

M. REPORTS (TO BE RECEIVED)

M.1 Report of the Director of Education
The Director presented a power point which highlighted a number of students, staff, school and community events over the past month.

The Director thanked the board’s leadership team for their work over the past year. The always questioning and keenly interested Alan Halberstadt’s work as Vice-Chair is appreciated. He has demonstrated a sincere interest in Greater Essex and public education and also aptly fulfilled the role of chair during a few months of the year.
To Gale Simko-Hatfield our Chair of the Board for this past year, thank you for your skillful chairing, for your knowledge and expertise with respect to the board’s history and for your sage advice on a number of occasions.

M.2 Report of the OPSBA Delegate
Trustee Lovell made reference to her report.

M.3 Report of the Student Trustee
Student Trustee Pena Vallecillo noted that the Student Senate met once again on Tuesday, November 10, 2015. This meeting was special because we took Safe Talk suicide alert training.

The training helped us learn how to identify someone at risk and link them to life-saving resources. This training took place from 4:30 – 7:30 and senate members found it very beneficial and are grateful be able to make a difference in their school and community. The Safe Talk training is something I would highly recommend for anyone who has not done so yet.

In addition to the training, Student Senate selected a Student of the month, discussed Random Act of Kindness Day, the Student Leadership Conference, and the next meeting’s activity leader.

For Student Senate’s Random Act of Kindness, we are going to volunteer at the Downtown Mission preparing and serving meals. We hope to show that random acts of kindness should be performed every day and not just on one specific day of the year.

Next, we briefly touched upon the topic of the student leadership conference. Positive feedback was received and many schools shared that they learned a lot from the conference. A special moment of the conference, worthy of being noted, was during the school cheer presentations where every school had the opportunity to show off a
school cheer. Kingsville and Harrow joined together to perform a joint school cheer together, calling themselves the “Hawkaliers”. This was very warming for me as it showed that the students of both schools are optimistic about their future together. This also shows how capable students are at adapting to new environments.

As the year is coming to an end, Student Senate is only getting started and we are really excited about making differences in our school communities.

M.4 Preliminary Enrolment Report
Superintendent J. Howitt noted that our elementary enrolment is 65 students greater than projected. We do continue to be a declining enrolment board. Based on the birth rate we did realize our market share of early years students. There is a regular ebb and flow between boards. We do net 100 students in our favour which speaks to the great programs in our board. Our preliminary elementary enrolment is 23,563. 2,833 are new students with the majority being early years, however we did have nearly 500 new students from outside of the region. We do have an area of concern with respect to students attending private school and home schooling in some municipalities, due to the new Health and Physical Education Curriculum.

Superintendent Houston noted that in the secondary panel we are down 4 students from projections. We know that we have a net gain of 167 students from those that left us. Our preliminary enrolment in secondary is 11,542.

- It was questioned if the new policy of accepting non-catholics at the coterminous board has had an impact. Superintendent J. Howitt noted that we did lose some students to the coterminous board, but we did end up on the positive side. There are a number of reasons why people chose a board.

M.5 Annual Report to the Board of Trustees and Forwarded to the Ministry of Education for the Year Ended August 31, 2015
Superintendent Lynd noted that we ended the year with approximately a $500,000 deficit. Our accumulated surplus is $14.6 million which is offset by our accumulated deficit of $14.4 million. We are in the acceptable range and we are in compliance.

M.6 Chair’s Report
Chairperson Simko-Hatfield noted that since the last regular board meeting she had attended the dinner and open house at Westview Freedom Academy on November 4th. Coming up on November 24th there will be a tour of Herman, the Unemployed Help Centre Community Kitchen and Riverside Secondary School. The focus will be the technology/trade programs offered at these sites.

Chairperson Simko-Hatfield noted that this is the last regular meeting of the Board and noted a few things that need to be considered moving forward to the New Year.

- Consideration to approve the practice of ‘Trustee of the Month’. This has worked well this past year allowing for a smooth transition when the need was presented, and if Trustees agree to continue this practice it would become the responsibility of the Striking Committee to propose the appointments for “Trustee of the Month”.

Moved by Trustee Le Clair
Seconded by Trustee Buckler
THAT THE BOARD CONTINUE THE PRACTICE OF ‘TRUSTEE OF THE MONTH’ AND THAT THE STRIKING COMMITTEE DETERMINES APPOINTMENTS.

- It was suggested that a clause be included in the bylaws noting that the Vice-Chairs of both standing committees fill the absence of the Chair.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

- When you receive the list of Committees to indicate your preferences, the new Student Discipline Committee will be added as a choice. This committee requires 3 Trustees and 2 Alternates.
- At last year’s Organizational Meeting there was a suggestion to add an additional alternate to SAL (1 city alternate, 1 county alternate). There was consensus to leave it status quo.
- There is a need to extend Trustee Committee appointments until the successors are elected or appointed either through the Organizational Meeting or the Striking Committee. Technically these appointments end November 30th each year but many times there are committee meetings from that time until the Organizational Meeting or the Striking Committee report is received. We do have in our by-laws section 5:05 Continuity of Officers that would need to be expanded to include committee appointments.

Moved by Trustee Buckler
Seconded by Trustee Taves

THAT COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS BE EXTENDED UNTIL THE SUCCESSORS ARE NAMED AND THE COMMITTEES ARE INFORMED.

The vote was called and it CARRIED.

Chairperson Simko-Hatfield noted that this was the last regular board meeting that she would sit as Chair. The year has gone by quickly and it certainly had its ups and downs. This year saw great challenges as well as opportunities for innovation and celebration. We are a strong board serving our students with dedication and pride. This is evident every day in our classrooms and work sites. I am proud to have been able to serve as Chair and I would like to extend gratitude and appreciation to every trustees, employee and volunteer who commits to supporting the work of the GECDSB.

N. TRUSTEE QUESTION PERIOD

Trustee Kilpatrick requested an update on the progress of the IB program and International Students. Superintendent Houston noted that we do have plans to move forward with IB. The next step was to go to schools to see if there was interest with staff. This was not able to happen due to work sanctions. We are now looking forward to moving ahead. We currently have 35 international students from 5 different countries. We continue to recruit students and agents. Superintendent Houston noted that she would highlight this topic in her operational report to the board.

Trustee Lovell noted that several school boards are using drones and questioned if any of our schools are using them. Superintendent C. Howitt noted that we have had schools starting to
dabble with the use of drones. We are working with our Health and Safety Officer and the tech department. There is no endorsement at this time. Superintendent J. Howitt noted that we do have some of our schools in the flight zone of Windsor airport and are therefore in restricted air space. Superintendent C. Howitt noted that this will be discussed at Director’s Council.

Trustee Halberstadt requested a presentation at an upcoming Education Committee meeting regarding the programs at Western and the new model at Westview. Superintendent L. McLaughlin noted that she would have a presentation ready for the next Education Committee meeting.

O. NOTICES OF MOTION
There were no notices of motion.

P. ANNOUNCEMENTS
Trustee Buckler noted that she attended The Earnest Bagel Company where Julia Lane, a culinary student at Westview Freedom Academy along with her teacher Cassie McNiece demonstrated the mixture and the method of making their pretzel.

Trustee Halberstadt noted that he attend the Remembrance Day Ceremony at the Cenotaph and at General Brock. The message was very powerful and moving.

Trustee Halberstadt noted that the Ministry of Education website lists 1150 registered private schools in Ontario. We have in the Windsor-Essex County area 16 (9 in the City of Windsor, and 7 in the county).

Trustee McKinley noted that six schools are participating in the cereal box challenge this year (Talbot Trail, Bellewood, Glenwood, Central, Southwood and McWilliam)

Trustee Lovell noted that she attended the Remembrance Day Ceremony at Princess Elizabeth. The ceremony was very impactful. She thanked all of our staff in all of our schools with the work they did in regards to Remembrance Day.

Q. ADJOURNMENT
There being no further business before the Board, Chairperson Simko-Hatfield adjourned the meeting at 8:18 p.m.

G. SIMKO-HATFIELD CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD

E. KELLY DIRECTOR OF EDUCATION