



Thames Valley
District School Board

**GOVERNING
BYLAWS
of the
Thames Valley District
School Board**

Approved by Board Motion the 26th day of September 2024.

SIGNED:



Beth Mai, Chair of the Board



Bill Tucker, Interim Director of Education

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Article 1 – Name

The name of this organization is the Thames Valley District School Board, hereinafter referred to as TVDSB.

Article 2 – Purpose

The Board of Trustees is the collective governing body of the TVDSB. The Board of Trustees also referred to as, “The Board”, are responsible for maintaining focus on student achievement and well-being, effective stewardship of resources as outlined in 169.1 of the Education Act, and being accountable to local public school supporters. The Board of Trustees is guided and informed through its committees, Bylaws, and policies, makes decisions as a collective body, and articulates those decisions with one voice. As the governance decision making body of the TVDSB, the Board utilizes all information required/requested to ensure due diligence and informed decisions.

These Bylaws govern all TVDSB Trustees, including Student Trustees. The Bylaws outline the Trustees’ role and broad duties to provide governance oversight of the TVDSB.

These Bylaws indicate to the school supporters what to expect from and of their Board of Trustees and each member of the Board.

These Bylaws apply to all Board meetings, committees of the Board, and committee members. Where applicable, the TVDSB utilizes Robert’s Rules of Order Newly Revised (12th ed.) as the parliamentary authority.

Each Board committee will have a Terms of Reference as its primary governing document.

Article 3 – Board of Trustees

3.1 Elected Trustees

Trustees shall be elected at a regular municipal election as per the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996* and the *Education Act*.

3.2 First Nations Trustee

The Board of Trustees appoints a First Nations Trustee as per O. Reg. 462/97 under the *Education Act*.

3.3 Student Trustee

Student Trustee(s) are elected by the student body as per the TVDSB Student Trustees on the Board Policy and Procedure and further governed by *O. Reg. 7/07* under the *Education Act*.

3.4 Indigenous Student Trustee

The Indigenous Student Trustee is elected by the student body as per *O. Reg. 7/07* under the *Education Act*.

3.5 Filling Board Vacancies

3.5.1 Elected Trustee vacancies shall be filled as per TVDSB Board Policy and Procedure, the *Education Act*, and the *Municipal Elections Act*.

3.5.2 First Nations Trustee vacancies shall be filled as per *O. Reg. 462/97* under the *Education Act*.

3.5.3 Student Trustee vacancies shall be filled as per TVDSB Board Policy and Procedure and *Reg. 7/07, s 7* under the *Education Act*.

3.5.4 Indigenous Student Trustee vacancies shall be filled as per TVDSB Board Policy and Procedure.

3.6 Self-Assessment. The Board of Trustees will conduct an annual self-assessment.

Article 4 – Executive

4.1 The Executive Members of the Board

The Executive members of the Board of Trustees shall be the Chair and Vice Chair.

4.2 Duties of the Trustees

Adhere to the duties of the Trustees as outlined in the *Education Act*. Sec. 169, 170, 218.1.

4.3 Term of Office

The Executive members shall serve for a term of one year or until their successors are elected as per the *Education Act*. In a municipal election year, the end of the term shall be in accordance with the *Education Act* and the *Municipal Elections Act, 1996, S.O., c.32*, hereinafter referred to as the *Municipal Elections Act*.

4.4 Duties of the Executive Members

4.4.1 Duties of the Chair. The Chair shall perform the duties prescribed in the Education Act, these bylaws, and any other governing documents the Board may adopt or is bound by.

In addition to the responsibilities under the Education Act, the following shall be the duties of the Chair:

- a. Action and follow up on Board direction given to the Chair.
- b. Have signing authority of Board-approved contracts.
- c. Make copies of all Board correspondence received and sent to the Chair, on behalf of the Board, available to all Trustees.
- d. Shall be ex-officio member of all committees of the Board.
- e. Meet regularly with the Director of Education, hereinafter referred to as the Director, and Vice Chair as needed to fulfil the role of Chair effectively.
- f. Preside over the Chair's Committee.
- g. Participate on the interview committee for supervisory officer hires
- h. Act as the spokesperson of the TVDSB unless otherwise determined by the Board.
- i. Advise the Board on matters that have a high potential of reputational risk to the Board.

4.4.2 Duties of the Vice Chair. The Vice Chair shall:

- a. Preside in the absence of the Chair.
- b. Preside over the Committee of the Whole and Policy Working Committees as Chair.
- c. Meet regularly with the Chair and Director.
- d. Endeavour to assist the Chair in performing the Chair's duties.
- e. Assume all duties and responsibilities of the Chair, where appropriate, in the absence of the Chair.
- f. Participate on the interview committee for supervisory officer hires

4.4.3 Absence of Chair and Vice Chair. If both the Chair and Vice Chair are absent, the Director or designate shall call the meeting to order and preside until the immediate election of a Chair as per pro tempore by majority vote of members present at the meeting.

Article 5 – Election of Executive Members

- 5.1** The Chair and Vice Chair shall be elected at the annual Organizational Meeting, held prior to the Inaugural Meeting. (See Inaugural Meetings)
- 5.2** The committee Chair (and Vice Chair if applicable) shall be elected at the first committee meeting following the organizational meeting.
- 5.3 Election of Chair.** The Director or designate shall conduct the election of the Chair as follows:
- a. The Director or designate shall call the meeting to order, preside, and assume the chair until the election of the Chair.
 - b. The scrutineer(s) will count and record the secret/confidential ballots. Two scrutineers are designated for Board elections and one for committee elections.
 - c. Call for nominations for the office of Chair:
 1. Members may self-nominate.
 2. Written nomination may be sent to the Director or designate by email before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the election.
 3. No seconds shall be required.
 4. The Director or designate shall announce any nominations received by email before the required deadline.
 5. The Director or designate will call for nominations from the floor.
 6. Each nominee shall indicate whether the nomination is accepted.
 7. If a nominee is absent, they shall have indicated to the Director or designate their willingness to stand for election in writing before 12:00 p.m. on the day of the election, and the Director or designate shall announce this has occurred.
 8. A Trustee/member may request for nominations to be completed by secret/confidential ballot by motion.
 - d. Only the names of those accepting the nomination shall be allowed on the secret/confidential ballot.
 - e. If only one Trustee accepts the nomination, declare that the Trustee was elected by acclamation.
 - f. Offer the nominees the opportunity to speak for up to three (3) minutes to their nomination.
 - g. Conduct the vote by secret/confidential ballot. A member may vote through a scrutineer, who will ensure the vote remains confidential (see Appendix B: Special Rules of Order).
 - h. Any nominee may voluntarily withdraw their name before the next vote.

- i. Declare the nominee receiving a majority of votes cast as elected without declaring the count.
- j. Should no Member receive a majority of the votes cast, the Director or designate shall announce the names of the Members remaining on the secret/confidential ballot with the name of the Member receiving the fewest number of votes being removed.
- k. If there is a tie vote for the nominee with the fewest number of votes, all nominees tied with the fewest votes will be removed from the ballot.
- l. If removing all the tied nominees with the fewest votes would result in only one name remaining on the ballot, dice will be drawn by each nominee, and the nominee with the highest draw will remain on the ballot.
- m. The process shall continue until either a nominee receives a majority of votes cast or a tie occurs with the remaining Trustees on the secret/confidential ballot.
- n. If there is a tie vote with the remaining nominees on the secret/confidential ballot, the drawing of cubes process shall be used to determine the successful candidate.
- o. Drawing of cubes process: Each candidate shall draw a number, be noted by the scrutineer, and the number returned to the box. The candidate drawing the highest-ranking number shall be declared the successful nominee. Should the nominees draw the same number, the process will be repeated.
- p. The successful candidate shall assume the chair.
- q. By motion, the ballots shall be destroyed.
- r. The newly elected Chair shall assume the chair and conduct the election for Vice Chair and Chairs of the Program and School Services Advisory Committee and Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee using the same process as the Chair election.

5.4 Vacancies in the Position of Chair or Vice Chair.

If the office of the Chair or Vice Chair becomes vacant, a new Chair or Vice Chair, as required, shall be elected at the first meeting after a vacancy occurs as prescribed in the *Education Act*. A Special Board Meeting may be called for this purpose by the Director or designate.

Article 6 – Meetings

A Meeting is a single official gathering of the members of an organization in one room, with a quorum present to transact business. Education/professional development sessions, information sessions, training, and conferences are not considered meetings of the Board/committee and therefore are not open to the public and do not require a formal agenda or minutes.

6.1 Regular Meetings

- 6.1.1 The Board will meet regularly from September to June on the fourth Tuesday of each month in public session at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room of the Thames Valley District School Board Education Centre or equivalent, if the board room is unavailable/inaccessible, unless otherwise approved by motion at a previous meeting.
- 6.1.2 In a non-election year, the outgoing Chair may, at the Regular Meeting that immediately precedes the Organizational Meeting to elect the Chair for the ensuing year, present a valedictory address in celebration of achievements over the past year.
- 6.1.3 The Board shall not remain in session later than 11:00 p.m. unless the meeting is extended to or for a specified time by a two-thirds vote. A second extension may be allowed by a two-thirds vote. The Chair has the responsibility to inform the Board of any time sensitive items or any crucial announcements prior to taking a vote on an extension or declaring the meeting adjourned.
- 6.1.4 Members of the public may have an opportunity to present input to the Board and/or its committees at a Board or committee meeting, regarding Board policies, practices, issues, and its overall education system, with approval from the Chair's Committee (see Appendix G Delegations to the Board).

6.2 Organizational Meetings.

- 6.2.1 An Organizational Meeting shall be held before the Inaugural Meeting to elect the Chair and Vice Chair as outlined in Article 5 – Election of Executive Members and to appoint the signing officers of the Board who shall be the Board Chair and Vice Chair; Director of Education; and Associate Director, Organizational Support Services; and Treasurer.

This meeting shall be considered the first meeting as required under the *Education Act* and shall be held no later than seven days after the start of the term of the Board.

6.2.2 Declaration and Oath of Office:

In the year of a municipal election, Trustees shall take and subscribe the declaration and the oath or affirmation of allegiance before the Director or before any person authorized to administer an oath or affirmation of allegiance as prescribed in *Education Act*, before assuming office.

Exemptions may be made for Indigenous Trustees from taking the oath or affirmation as per the *Education Act*.

Trustees who are appointed or elected by virtue of a by-election in a non-election year must take and subscribe to the declaration and the oath or affirmation of allegiance before the Director or before any person authorized to administer an oath or affirmation as prescribed in the *Education Act*, before assuming their office.

6.2.3 Conflict of Interest

All Trustees are expected to comply with the provisions of the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act*, R.S.O. 1990, c. M.50, hereinafter referred to as the Municipal Conflict of Interest Act, which requires that Trustees declare and disclose the general nature of the interest for all direct and indirect pecuniary conflicts of interest and abstain from discussing, voting, or influencing the voting on these matters for all Board and committee meetings. Once a conflict has been declared, a written statement shall be filed with Board Services at the meeting or as soon as possible. This requirement is for all Board meetings (regular/special) and committee meetings.

6.3 Inaugural Meetings in a Municipal Election Year

6.3.1 The Inaugural Meeting shall be held in a municipal election year in the Board Room of the Thames Valley District School Board Education Centre or equivalent, if the board room is unavailable/inaccessible, at 7:00 p.m. within 14 days of the Organizational Meeting.

6.4 Inaugural Meetings

6.4.1 The Inaugural Meeting will be incorporated into the next Regular Board meeting following the Organizational Meeting

6.4.2 The newly elected Chair shall deliver an inaugural address.

6.5 Special Meetings

6.5.1 Special meetings of the Board may be held at the call of the Chair in consultation with the Director or designate or on the written request of the majority of the Trustees of the Board made to the Chair and/or Director or designate and copied to the Supervisor, Board Services. The meeting will be held in the board room of the Thames Valley District School Board, Education Centre or equivalent, if the board room is unavailable/inaccessible.

6.6 Committee of the Whole In-camera Session

6.6.1 As per the *Education Act*, a meeting of the Board or committee of the Board will be closed to the public when the subject matter under consideration involves:

6.6.1.1 The security of the property of the Board;

6.6.1.2 The disclosure of intimate, as personal, or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the Board or student or their parent or guardian;

6.6.1.3 The acquisition or disposal of a school site;

6.6.1.4 Decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the Board;

6.6.1.5 Litigation affecting the Board; or

6.6.1.6 Consideration of an ongoing investigation under the Ombudsman Act respecting the Board

6.6.2 When a special in-camera meeting is held, the in-camera report shall be presented in Public Session at the next Regular Board meeting, or when necessary to approve Board business at a Special Board meeting.

Regular Committee of the Whole In-camera sessions shall not remain in session later than 6:00 p.m. With a two-thirds vote, the meeting may be extended until 6:20 p.m. The Chair is responsible for informing the

committee of any time-sensitive items or any crucial announcements before taking a vote on an extension or declaring the meeting adjourned.

- 6.6.3** In the absence of the Vice Chair, the Chair of the Board shall preside. If neither the Chair nor Vice Chair are present, the Board shall appoint a Chair pro tempore to chair the meeting.
- 6.6.4** Trustees shall ensure that all in-camera materials in their possession are stored in a secure, confidential location on site, at the Education Centre or shredded/deleted following the meeting.
- 6.6.5** In the absence of the official Recording Secretary during the closed session for any committee, the presiding officer may appoint a qualified person to act as the Recording Secretary for that meeting as per the *Education Act*.
- 6.6.6** In the event the Director is asked by the Chair and/or Board of Trustees to be excused from the meeting, a qualified person shall act as the Director's designate.
- 6.6.7** Trustees attending the meeting via electronic means shall have the same rights and responsibilities as if the Trustee was in physical attendance.

6.7 Notice, Agenda, and Supporting Materials

6.7.1 Notice of Regular, Inaugural, and Organizational Meetings

Notice of the agenda and supporting materials shall be provided to members no later than 72 hours before the meeting. If additional supporting materials become available, they may be provided to members in advance of the meeting. Notwithstanding the above, Committee of the Whole In-camera materials, if extremely sensitive and confidential, may be provided at the meeting or available for viewing in a secured space.

6.7.2 Notice of Special Meetings

The agenda and supporting materials shall be provided to Trustees no later than 48 hours before the meeting. Only the matter(s) for which the special meeting was called may be addressed and no other business shall be considered unless all the Members of the Board qualified to vote on the matter are present. Notwithstanding the above, Committee of the Whole In-camera supporting materials, if extremely sensitive and confidential, may be provided at the meeting or available for viewing in a secured space.

6.7.3 Notice of Emergency Meeting

In the event of a catastrophic emergency, in which it is imperative to call a Board meeting as quickly as possible, Trustees will be notified of the time and place of a Board meeting by any means possible, including but not limited to text message, email, phone call and/or as personal delivery. Board Services will give Trustees as much notice of the meeting as circumstances allow. If a quorum can be achieved, an emergency meeting can be held.

6.8 Additions to the Agenda

6.8.1 The Chair will create the Board agenda in consultation with the Director or designate and with opportunity for input from other Members of the Board. The Board may add an item to a regular Board agenda by a two-thirds vote of the entire constituted Board during the approval of the agenda or by providing a Notice of Motion at the previous meeting.

6.8.2 Notice of Motion

Notices of Motion on new matters must be submitted electronically to Board Services and to the Chair of the Board six (6) business days before the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Board by 9 a.m. for inclusion in the Board agenda package. In this way, Trustees and the public benefit from having the Notice of Motion entered on the agenda for the next meeting.

6.8.3 Motions Related to an Existing Agenda Item

Motions related to an existing agenda item require a second and a majority vote to be put on the floor. Such a request to add the motion shall not be debatable. If the motion is approved to come forward, regular rules of order apply.

6.8.4 Notwithstanding 6.8.2, a Trustee may provide a notice of motion, which will be considered at the next regular meeting if it receives a second. The Notice of Motion must be received by Board Services by 9:00 a.m. on the Thursday before the meeting.

6.9 Quorum and Cancellations

6.9.1 Quorum for Board meetings shall be a majority of all Trustees constituting the Board. Student Trustees do not impact quorum.

- 6.9.2** Quorum for Board committees shall be a majority of all voting members unless stated otherwise in the committee's Terms of Reference.
- 6.9.3** The Board Chair, in consultation with the Director or designate, may reschedule a Board meeting if it is determined quorum will not be achieved.
- 6.9.4** Board Services shall advise the appropriate committee Chair before the meeting where notified absences make it possible that a quorum may not be achieved.
- 6.9.5** A Committee Chair may cancel and reschedule a committee meeting if quorum cannot be achieved.
- 6.9.6** If a meeting is inquorate at the start of the meeting or becomes inquorate during a meeting, those members in attendance may do the following:
- a. Fix the time to which to adjourn
 - b. Adjourn
 - c. Recess
 - d. Take Measures to achieve quorum

A recess may be called for no more than 20 minutes and if a quorum is not achieved within that time period, the meeting will adjourn.

When a meeting becomes inquorate the minutes will state that the meeting was inquorate or the time when it was noticed that the meeting became inquorate.

- 6.9.7** In the absence of a quorum, an informal conversation may be held but no action may be taken. No minutes will be captured, and no report must be presented to the Board.
- 6.9.8** The Chair, as ex-officio, may be counted towards quorum if required, at committee.

6.10 Attendance

- 6.10.1** Attendance of Trustees/members shall be recorded in the minutes of all Board and committee meetings. It shall be the responsibility of Trustees/members to notify Board Services of expected absences prior to the time of the meeting. If notice of absence is provided, the Trustee/member will be recorded as absent with regret. If notice is not provided, the Trustee/member will be recorded as absent. The times of

arrival and departure of Trustees/members not present for the entire duration of the meeting shall be recorded in the minutes. Trustees shall adhere to the attendance requirements under the *Education Act*.

- 6.10.2** A Board member may apply for a leave of absence as outlined in Board Policy and Procedure and the *Education Act*. Such a request shall be approved by Board motion.

6.11 Voting

- 6.11.1** Voting shall normally be by show of hands or using one of the available features of the electronic voting platforms.
- 6.11.2** Elections shall be by secret/confidential ballot.

Article 7 – Committees

7.1 Types of Committees

The Board shall establish statutory committees and may establish non-statutory standing and ad hoc committees.

7.1.1 Statutory Committees

Statutory committees will operate in accordance with the legislation or regulation by which they were established. In all cases where these Bylaws conflict with the legislative or regulatory provisions governing statutory committees, the legislative or regulatory provisions shall prevail.

The following are legislated Statutory Committees of the Board which operate in accordance with the legislature or regulation by which they were established:

- a. Audit Committee
- b. Director's Performance Appraisal Committee (DPA)
- c. Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC)
- d. Student Discipline (Suspensions & Expulsions)
- e. Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL)
- f. Thames Valley Parent Involvement Committee (TVPIC)

7.1.2 Non-Statutory Committees

The following Non-statutory Committees are established to address ongoing matters specific to their mandates.

- a. Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee
- b. Chair's Committee
- c. First Nations Advisory Committee (FNAC)
- d. Planning and Priorities Advisory Committee (PAPA)
- e. Policy Working Committee (PWC)
- f. Program and School Services Advisory Committee (PASSA)

Following the establishment or disbanding of a Board Committee by motion, the bylaws will be updated in alignment, as housekeeping.

7.1.3 Administrative Committees

Administrative Committees are established by the Board's Senior Administration to address operation/system needs or initiatives.

7.1.4 External Board or Agency Representation

An external Board/agency, etc., that has allocated a seat(s) for a TVDSB Trustee(s). The Trustee's appointment to that seat(s) must be approved by Board motion.

7.1.5 Ad Hoc Committee (interim committees)

The Board may establish, by resolution, Ad Hoc Committees to respond to specific matters within the Board's jurisdiction under the *Education Act*. The committee will have a defined task and timeline for completion. The committee will regularly report back to the Board. If necessary, the Board may commit the details for establishing the committee to the Chair's Committee, which will report its recommendation to the Board for approval.

7.1.6 Sub-committees/ Working Groups

Sub-Committees or Working Groups may be established by Board committees (except Committee of the Whole), which shall report back to the striking committee. The members must consist of members of the establishing committee.

7.2 Committees of the Board

7.2.1 Committee meetings shall be open to the public except as outlined in the *Education Act*.

7.2.2 Committee members shall be responsible for contacting Board Services to confirm their attendance at meetings indicating in-person or virtual attendance, or regrets.

- 7.2.3** Committees of the Board shall operate under these bylaws, Robert's Rules of Order for small boards as the parliamentary authority, the committee's Terms of Reference, and any special rules of order or other governing documents which may be applicable.
- 7.2.4** The action of any committee shall not be binding until formally approved by the Board unless the Board gives the committee the power to act with reference to a particular matter or matters.
- 7.2.5** Following every meeting a written report will be provided to the Board of Trustees at the next regular Board meeting.
- 7.2.6** Board members may be appointed to sit on administrative and external committees where the committee has allocated a seat(s). Trustees that sit on administrative or external committees shall provide a written report to the Board as appropriate at the next Regular Board Meeting.
- 7.2.7** Each Board committee shall have a mandate and Terms of Reference that the Board has approved.
- 7.2.8** The Director of Education or Designate shall call the committee's first meeting to order and shall preside over the election of the Committee Chair with the exception of sections 4.4.1(f) and 4.4.2(b). A member may request the election be by secret/confidential ballot.

7.3 Committee Attendance.

- 7.3.1** A record of Trustee/member attendance at committee meetings for committees to which they are appointed will be kept. On the absence from three sequential committee meetings without the approval of the Board, the Trustee/Member shall be withdrawn from that committee. The Chair of the Board shall be notified when a Trustee/member is removed from a committee. The Trustee/member may request to be reinstated. The request will be considered at the next Board meeting.
- 7.3.2** The Board shall approve committee membership.

Article 8 – Parliamentary Authority

- 8.1** The rules contained in the most current edition of Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised (RONR) shall govern the TVDSB Board of Trustees and its committees in all cases to which they are applicable and in which the RONR are consistent with these Bylaws, Special Rules of Order, or other governing documents the TVDSB

may adopt or is bound by. RONR shall be used when the TVDB Bylaws or Special Rules or Order cannot address the situation.

- 8.2** Matters, at a meeting of the Board of Trustees, not explicitly described in these Bylaws, Special Rules of Order, Robert's Rules of Order Newly Revised, or the *Education Act* shall be conducted in a manner established by the Chair. If there is an objection, a majority vote of members present shall confirm the decision.

Article 9 – Amending Bylaws

- 9.1** This Bylaw may be amended at any Regular or Special meetings of the Board by a two-thirds vote provided notice, and the specific proposed amendment(s) have been submitted in writing at the previous regular meeting of the Board. This bylaw shall come into force at the conclusion of the Board meeting at which it is amended.
- 9.2** If a bylaw amendment or revision is initiated by direction of the Board to the Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee, such direction shall be considered notice.
- 9.3** The approved bylaw shall be signed by the Chair of the Board and counter-signed by the Director of Education or designate.
- 9.4** Notwithstanding 9.1, the Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee shall initiate a Bylaw review in the third year of each term.
- 9.5** All officers and persons acting under any bylaws so repealed, shall continue to act as if appointed under the provisions of these bylaws, and all resolutions, with continuing effect of the Board, or committees of the Board, passed under any such repealed bylaws, shall continue to be good and valid except to the extent they are inconsistent with these bylaws, and until amended or repealed.

Article 10 – Amending or Suspending Appendices to the Bylaws

10.1 Amending Appendices

- 10.1.1** Appendices to these Bylaws, under the control of the Board of Trustees, excluding Special Rules of Order, may be amended at any Regular meeting of the Board by a majority vote of members of the Board, provided notice and the specific proposed amendment has been submitted, in writing, at the previous Regular Meeting of the Board. If an amendment to an appendix is initiated by direction of the Board to the Board Governance and Bylaw Review Committee, such direction shall be considered notice.

10.1.2 Special Rules of Order may be amended at any Regular Meeting of the Board by a two-thirds vote provided notice, and the specific proposed amendment have been submitted in writing at the previous Regular Meeting of the Board.

10.2 Suspending Appendices

10.2.1 The Rules of Order may be suspended by a two-thirds vote with such suspension in effect only for the intended purpose specified and only for that meeting.

10.2.2 Any time the Rules of Order are suspended, the Board Governance and Bylaws Review Committee shall conduct a review of that rule. A recommendation will be provided to the Board within 60 days.

Appendix A

Definitions

“Ad hoc committee” means a committee established as the need arises to carry out a specified task and automatically ceases to exist upon presenting its final report to the assembly, also referred to as a special committee.

“Board” as it pertains to these bylaws means the Board of Trustees of the Thames Valley District School Board.

“Board meeting” means an official, regularly scheduled, or special Board meeting as defined in the *Education Act*.

“Chair” means the Chair of the Board unless otherwise indicated as a chair of a committee.

“Chair pro tempore” means a chairperson elected to preside for the current session only.

“Committee” means a body of one or more persons, elected or appointed by (or by the direction of) an assembly to consider, investigate, or take action on certain matters or subjects or to do all of these things.

“Confidential ballot” means a vote taken by instruments such as slips of paper or electronic devices by which members can indicate their choices without revealing how individual members have voted.

“Designate” means an individual chosen by the Director to be present in their absence.

“Direct conflict” means one that expressly or unequivocally has an impact on the individual’s personal finances, economic prospects or property value.

“Director of Education” means the Secretary of the Board, Chief Executive Officer, and Chief Education Officer.

“Ex-Officio” means “by virtue of office or position.” For TVDSB, the Chair is ex-officio a member of all committees.

“Housekeeping” changes refer to revisions to a document which do not have the effect of altering any substantive provision, term, intent or right contained within the document.

“Indirect conflict” Is where

a) Board member:

(i) is a shareholder, director or senior officer of a private corporation;

- (ii) has a controlling interest in or is a director or senior officer of a public corporation; or
 - (iii) is a member of another body, that has a pecuniary interest in a matter which is before the Board; or
- b) where a Board member's partner or employer has a pecuniary interest in a matter which is before the Board.

“Inquorate” means a properly called meeting where quorum is not achieved or maintained.

“Majority vote” means more than half of votes cast by persons entitled to vote, excluding blanks and abstentions, at a properly called meeting.

“Member” means a Trustee of the Board pursuant to the *Education Act*, unless otherwise indicated as a member of a committee who may or may not be a Trustee.

“Non-statutory Committee” means a committee established by the Board but not legislated.

“Past Chair” means the most recent previous Chair who completed their term as Chair and is currently elected to the Board.

“Quorum” means the minimum number of members who must be present to validly transact business.

“Run-off ballot” means a ballot used to determine the outcome of an election that has not resulted in a decision.

“Secret ballot” means a vote taken by instruments such as slips of paper or electronic devices by which members can indicate their choices without revealing how individual members have voted. Members may vote through the scrutineer if they would like to attend the meeting virtually, and the vote is confidential.

“Special Meeting” is a separate session of the Board held at a time different from the regularly scheduled meeting, and convened only to consider one or more items of business that are specified in the call of the meeting.

“Standing Committee” means a committee that is constituted to perform a continuing function. TVDSB has both statutory and non-statutory standing committees.

“Statutory Committee” means a committee established by the Board as required by provincial legislation.

“Striking Committee” refers to a committee that has created a working group.

“Terms of Reference” are the primary governing guidelines for each committee. The guidelines specify the boundaries and objectives of a committee and identify guiding principles specific to that committee that differ from the bylaws. Committee Terms of Reference must be approved by the Board of Trustees.

“Time-sensitive” means the item cannot wait until the next regular meeting or for the scheduling of a special meeting before being considered.

“Trustee” means an elected member of the Board of Trustee, a member appointed to fill a vacancy, an appointed First Nations Trustee, the Student Trustee, or Indigenous Student Trustee.

“Vice Chair” means the Vice Chair of the Board unless otherwise indicated as a vice chair of a committee.

“Working Group” refers to an assembly of committee members formed by the “striking” committee to complete one-off items as needed, outside of the work of the striking committee. The working group may not represent a quorum of the striking committee as it cannot advance Board/committee business. The nature of the work must be of a governance nature and does not include staff resources.

Appendix B

Special Rules of Order

Special rules of order are written rules of parliamentary procedure formally adopted by an organization that supersede any rules in the adopted parliamentary authority. Special rules of order modify, or supplement rules contained in the parliamentary authority. An adopted Order of Business becomes a special rule.

1.0 Electronic Meeting Participation

- 1.1 The Board and its committees shall be authorized and given the opportunity, in part or in whole, to meet by telephone conference or through other electronic means so long as all members can simultaneously communicate in accordance with Board Policy and Procedure. A Trustee shall be deemed to be present as prescribed by the *Education Act* and *O. Reg. 483/97*.
- 1.2 It is the responsibility of the Trustee and committee members to ensure their electronic equipment is up to date and working properly. Any technical difficulties during the meeting shall not invalidate any decisions made so long as quorum is maintained.
- 1.3 Notwithstanding 6.10.2, if a member has technical issues and is unable to communicate effectively, the Chair shall instruct the appropriate individual to assist and shall have the Board stand at ease while attempts are made to fix the technical issue. If the technical issues cannot be remedied promptly, as determined by the Chair, so long as quorum is maintained, the meeting will continue.
- 1.4 Secret ballots can be used by a member participating virtually to cast a ballot through the scrutineer who can then cast a confidential vote on behalf of the member.

2.0 Committee Meeting Attendance

Any Trustee may attend meetings of a committee and may participate in the discussion, but only appointed members of the committee may vote, propose motions and recommendations for Board consideration, and attend any closed session portions of the meeting.

3.0 Motions

3.1 Debate (speaking time)

Each Trustee may speak twice up to five minutes each time on each debatable motion. Extra time may not be carried over if the full five minutes is not used.

3.2 Reconsider

A motion to reconsider must be made during the same meeting at which the vote to be reconsidered was taken and may be moved by any member who is going to change their vote based new and relevant information.

Debate on the motion to reconsider is restricted to reasons for reconsidering.

A motion to reconsider requires a second, debate is restricted, cannot be amended, can have motions to limit debate and close debate applied to it and requires a majority vote.

The chair can rule a motion to reconsider out of order if they find it to be dilatory or no new information has come to light that would necessitate reconsideration. If members disagree with the chair's ruling, the decision can be appealed, and the final decision will rest with the Board. Proposal of the motion to reconsider the vote suspends any action provided for in the motion targeted to be reconsidered until the motion to reconsider is decided.

3.3 Motions that bring a previous question to the Board of Trustees

3.3.1 Reconsider a Motion Previously Defeated

Following the defeat of a motion, the motion may not be reconsidered during the current Board term or within a period of 12 months, whichever is the lesser.

3.3.2 Amend a Motion Previously Adopted

Following the adoption of a motion, the motion may not be amended during the current Board term or within a period of 12 months, whichever is the lesser.

3.3.3 Rescind a Motion Previously Adopted

Following the adoption of a motion, the motion may not be rescinded during the current Board term or within a period of 12 months, whichever is the lesser

4.0 Request for information and Questions of Clarification

- 4.1 A Trustee may ask one question, request one supplementary question, on the same topic, and may then return to the speakers' list.
- 4.2 A request for information does not count as debate time unless the trustee both debates and asks a question.
- 4.3 If such request for information would require significant time commitment by Administration, it must be formulated into a motion and receive Board approval prior to the task being undertaken.

5.0 Substitution

- 5.1 A main motion may be amended by substitution. The substitution must be germane to the main motion and is subject only to a secondary amendment.

1. Main Motion
2. Amendment by Substitution
3. Amendment to the Substitution

Note that an Amendment to a Substitution cannot be amended.

- 5.2 Process for substitution:

- a. A main motion is pending.
- b. A member moves to amend the main motion by substituting another motion in its place.
- c. Another member seconds the motion to substitute.
- d. Chair states the motion
- e. Debate specific to the substitute amendment.
 - i. Substitute motion may be amended, but such amendment cannot also be amended.
- f. Majority vote on whether to substitute.
 - i. If approved the new main motion is the substituted motion and is voted on.
 - ii. If defeated, the original main motion is debated and follows the usual process for main motions.

6.0 Voting on a Motion

- 6.1 Show of hands: Unless a recorded vote is requested, all votes at meetings shall be taken by a show of hands.

6.2 Recorded vote: If a motion for a recorded vote is carried, a recorded vote shall require all members including the Chair to participate in the vote indicating a yea, nay, or abstention.

6.3 Student Trustees may request a recorded vote, without motion, as per the Education Act. The request must be made before the motion is called to question by the Chair.

7.0 Distribution of Meeting Materials

7.1 All Meeting materials will be distributed electronically unless a medical accommodation is requested.

7.2 Meeting materials will be printed for Committee Chairs upon request.

Appendix C

TRUSTEE CODE OF CONDUCT

1. Purpose

- 1.1 This Code of Conduct is intended to contribute to confidence in public education and respect for the integrity of Trustees of the Board and is intended to promote acceptable and respectful behaviours.

2. Application

- 2.1 This Code of Conduct and the Enforcement Procedures contained herein shall apply to all Trustees.
- 2.2 Every Trustee shall uphold the letter and spirit of this Code of Conduct.

3. Compliance

- 3.1 A Trustee of the Board shall discharge his or her duties in accordance with the *Education Act* and comply with any other relevant legislation.
- 3.2 Each Trustee shall comply with Board policies, procedures, Bylaws, and Rules of Order.

4. Code of Conduct

Integrity and Dignity of Office

- 4.1 Trustees of the Board shall discharge their duties loyally, faithfully, impartially and in a manner that will inspire public confidence in the abilities and integrity of the Board.
- 4.2 **Trustees of the Board shall make decisions in a manner which is open, accessible and equitable.**

Trustees of the Board shall recognize that the expenditure of school board funds is a public trust and endeavour to see that the funds are expended efficiently, in the best interests of the students.

Avoidance of Personal Advantage and Conflict of Interest

- 4.3 No Trustee shall accept a gift from any person or entity that has dealings with the Board if a reasonable person might conclude that the gift could influence the Trustee when performing his or her duties to the Board. If Trustees are unsure about the appropriateness of a gift, they may consult with the Board Chair for further guidance.
- 4.4 **Trustees shall ensure that their public office is not used for personal gain as in accordance with the *Municipal Conflict of Interest Act (RSO 1990)*.**
- 4.5 No Trustee shall use his or her office to obtain or maintain employment with the Board for the Trustee or a family member.

Civil Behaviour

- 4.6 No Trustee shall engage in conduct during meetings of the Board and at all other times that would discredit or compromise the integrity of the Board.
- 4.7 A Trustee of the Board shall not advance allegations of misconduct that are frivolous, vexatious, or vindictive in nature against another Trustee of the Board.
- 4.8 Trustees shall respect the differing points of view of other Trustees on the Board, staff, students and the public.

Respect for Confidentiality

- 4.9 Every Trustee shall keep confidential any information disclosed or discussed at a meeting of the Board or part of a meeting of the Board that was closed to the public or should otherwise be kept confidential, unless required to divulge such information by law or authorized by the Board to do so.
- 4.10 No Trustee shall use confidential information for either personal gain or to the detriment of the Board.

Upholding Decisions

- 4.11 All Trustees of the Board shall accept that authority rests with the Board, and that a Trustee has no individual authority other than that delegated by the Board.
- 4.12 Each Trustee shall uphold the implementation of any Board resolution after it is passed by the Board.

- 4.13 A Trustee should be able to explain the rationale for a resolution passed by the Board. A Trustee may respectfully state his or her position on a resolution provided it does not in any way undermine the implementation of the resolution.
- 4.14 The Chair of the Board is the spokesperson to the public on behalf of the Board, unless otherwise determined by the Board. No other Trustee shall speak on behalf of the Board unless expressly authorized by the Chair of the Board or Board to do so. When individual Trustees express their opinions in public, they must make it clear that they are not speaking on behalf of the Board.

Trustee Communication

- 4.15 All Trustees of the Board shall follow the *Guidelines for Trustee Communications* (Appendix E) established for ensuring communication is consistent and appropriate between Trustees and constituents, stakeholders, and the general public.

5. Enforcement of Code of Conduct

Informal Complaint Procedure

- 5.1 The Chair of the Board on his/her own initiative, or at the request of a Trustee of the Board (without the necessity of providing a formal written complaint) who alleges a breach of the Code has occurred, may meet informally with a Trustee of the Board who is alleged to have breached the Code to discuss the breach. The purpose of the meeting is to bring the allegation of the breach to the attention of the Trustee and to discuss options to correct the offending behavior. The Informal Complaint Procedure is conducted in private.
- 5.2 If the Chair of the Board and the Trustee alleged to have breached this Code cannot agree on a remedy, then a formal complaint may be brought against the Trustee alleged to have breached this Code and that complaint will be dealt with in accordance with the formal, complaint procedure.

Formal Complaints

- 5.3 A Trustee who has reasonable grounds to believe that another Trustee of the Board has breached the Board's Code of Conduct may bring the breach to the attention of the Board by first providing

to the Board Chair, a written, signed complaint setting out the following:

- the name of the Trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code;
- the alleged breach or breaches of the Code;
- information as to when the breach came to the Trustee's attention;
- the grounds for the belief by the Trustee that a breach of the Code has occurred; and
- the names and contact information of any witnesses to the breach or any other persons who have relevant information regarding the alleged breach.

- 5.4 If a written complaint is filed with the Chair of the Board, the Chair shall decide, in consultation with the Vice-Chair, if a formal inquiry shall be undertaken. If a formal inquiry is to proceed, the Chair shall confidentially provide each Trustee with a copy of the written complaint.

Refusal to Conduct Formal Inquiry

- 5.5 If the Board Chair and Vice-Chair are of the opinion that the complaint is out of time, trivial, frivolous, vexatious or not made in good faith, or that there are no grounds or insufficient grounds for a formal inquiry, a formal inquiry shall not be conducted and a confidential report stating the reasons for not doing so shall be provided to all Trustees of the Board including the original, written complaint. The matter shall be discussed at the next in-camera Committee of the Whole meeting.

Initiating a Formal Inquiry

- 5.6 If a formal inquiry of an allegation of a breach of the Code of Conduct is undertaken, it shall be done by a Committee of the Board (the "Inquiry Committee") which shall be comprised of three Trustees as designated by the Chair's Committee. No Trustee of the Board may sit on the Inquiry Committee if they are a witness in the formal inquiry.

Formal Inquiry Procedure

- 5.7 Procedural fairness and the rules of natural justice shall govern the formal inquiry. The formal inquiry will be conducted in private.
- 5.8 The Inquiry Committee shall obtain written statements and documents from the complainant and any witnesses. This

documentation will be provided to the Trustee alleged to have breached the Code who will then have 30 days to provide a written statement and any documentation.

- 5.9 Both the complainants and the Trustee alleged to have breached the Code, shall receive copies of all written statements and documentation at least 30 days prior to the hearing.
- 5.10 The formal inquiry may involve both written and oral statements by any witnesses, the Trustee bringing the complaint and the Trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct and the Trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct shall have an opportunity to respond to all allegations. Timeframes may be extended with the consent of the Inquiry Committee. Such consent shall not be unreasonably withheld.
- 5.11 If the Inquiry Committee, when conducting the formal inquiry, discovers that the subject-matter of the formal inquiry is being investigated by police, that a charge has been laid, or is being dealt with in accordance with a procedure established under another Act, the formal inquiry may be suspended until the police investigation, charge or matter under another Act has been finally disposed of. This shall be reported to the Board.
- 5.12 If the Trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct refuses to participate in the formal inquiry, the formal inquiry will continue in his/her absence.

Decision/Determination

- 5.13 Once the formal inquiry is complete, the Inquiry Committee shall provide a confidential final report outlining the finding of facts and a recommendation to the Board as to whether the Code of Conduct has been breached including recommended sanctions if any. This will be considered by the Committee of the Whole in camera.
- 5.14 A decision by the Board as to whether or not the Code of Conduct has been breached and the sanction, if any, for the breach shall be made as soon as practical after receipt of the final report by the Board.
- 5.15 Trustees shall consider only the findings in the final report when voting on the decision and sanction. No Trustee shall undertake his/her own investigation of the matter.

- 5.16 **The determination of a breach of the Code of Conduct and the imposition of a sanction** with respect to a complaint investigated in accordance with the Formal Complaint Procedure **must be done by resolution of the Board at a meeting of the Board, and the vote on the resolution shall be open to the public. The resolutions shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.** The reasons for the decision shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting. Both resolutions shall be decided by a vote of at least 2/3 of the Trustees of the Board present and voting.
- 5.17 **Despite s. 207 (1) of the *Education Act*, the part of the meeting of the Board during which a breach or alleged breach of the Board's Code of Conduct is considered may be closed to the public when the breach or alleged breach involves any of the matters described in clauses 207(2) (a) to (e) being:**
- a. **the security of the property of the board;**
 - b. **the disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the Board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;**
 - c. **the acquisition or disposal of a school site;**
 - d. **decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board; or**
 - e. **litigation affecting the board.**
- 5.18 **The Trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct shall not vote on a resolution to determine whether or not there is a breach or the imposition of a sanction.** The Trustee who brought the complaint to the attention of the Board may vote on those resolutions.
- 5.19 The Trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct may be present during the deliberations regarding the above but shall not participate in the deliberations, and shall not be required to answer any questions at that meeting.
- 5.20 The Trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct shall not in any way, after the final report is completed, influence the vote on the decision of breach or sanction, except as permitted below after these decisions have been made.
- 5.21 If the Board determines that a Trustee has breached the Board's Code of Conduct the Board shall:

- a. give the Trustee written notice of the determination, the reasons for the decision and any sanction imposed by the Board;
 - b. the notice shall inform the Trustee that he or she may make written submissions to the Board in respect of the determination or sanction by the date specified in the notice that is at least 14 days after the notice is received by the Trustee; and
 - c. consider any submissions made by the Trustee and shall confirm or revoke the determination or sanction within 14 days after the submissions are received.
- 5.22 If the Board revokes a determination, any sanction imposed by the Board is revoked.
- 5.23 If the Board confirms a determination, the Board shall, within the 14 days above, confirm, vary or revoke the sanction.
- 5.24 If a sanction is varied or revoked, the variation or revocation shall be deemed to be effective as of the date the original determination was made.
- 5.25 The Board decisions to confirm or revoke a determination or confirm, vary or revoke a sanction shall be done by resolution at a meeting of the Board and the vote on the resolution shall be open to the public. Both resolutions shall be decided by a vote of at least two-thirds of the Trustees present and voting. The resolutions shall be recorded in the minutes of the meeting together with the reasons for confirming or revoking a determination. The Board shall provide to the Trustee alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct written notice of the decision to confirm or revoke the determination together with reasons for the decision and written notice of any decision to confirm, vary or revoke a sanction. The Trustee alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct shall not vote on those resolutions. The Trustee who brought the complaint may vote.
- 5.26 The Trustee who is alleged to have breached the Code of Conduct may be present during the deliberations regarding the above but may not participate in the Board's deliberations and shall not be required to answer any questions at that meeting.
- 5.27 If appropriate, the original sanction may be stayed pending the reconsideration by the Board of the determination or sanction.

Sanctions

- 5.28 **If the Board determines that the Trustee has breached the Board's Code of Conduct, the Board may impose one or more of the following sanctions:**
- a. **Censure of the Trustee;**
 - b. **Barring the Trustee from attending all or part of a meeting of the Board or a meeting of a committee of the Board;**
 - c. **Barring the member from sitting on one or more committees of the Board, for the period of time specified by the Board; and/or**
 - d. Other sanctions as determined by the Board.
- 5.29 In respect of a Trustee's failure to comply with the duty of confidentiality as stated in 4.9 and 4.10 the following additional sanctions may be pursued by the Board:
- a. The Board may seek an injunction against a Trustee who fails or refuses to maintain confidentiality. The terms of such injunction may prescribe that the Trustee be excluded from confidential meetings, be refused access to confidential reports, and/or be required to undertake in writing to observe the duty to maintain confidentiality in future before being allowed back into such meetings.
 - b. An action for damages may be brought against any Trustee who fails to maintain confidentiality, and the Board will not compensate the Trustee for legal costs incurred in defending such an action (unless directed by the court).
- 5.30 The Board shall not impose a sanction which is more onerous than the above but may impose one that is less onerous such as a warning or a requirement that the Trustee successfully complete specified professional development courses at the expense of the Board. The Board has no power to declare the Trustee's seat vacant.
- 5.31 **A Trustee who is barred from attending all or part of a meeting of the Board or a meeting of a committee of the Board is not entitled to receive any materials that relate to that meeting or that part of the meeting and that are not available to members of the public.**
- 5.32 **The imposition of a sanction barring a Trustee from attending all or part of a meeting of the Board shall be deemed to be authorization for the Trustee to be absent from the meeting and therefore, not in violation of the *Education Act* regarding absences from meetings.**



6 Statutory Powers Procedure Act

The *Statutory Powers Procedure Act* does not apply to anything done regarding the enforcement of this Code of Conduct

Appendix D

Petitions and Communications

Preparing a Petition

A petition is a request for the Thames Valley District School Board to take some specific action (or refrain from taking some action).

The action requested must be related to the education system within the Thames Valley District and the request must be clear, temperate, proper, and respectful. Petitions containing obscene or defamatory language will not be accepted.

The request must appear at the top of every page of signatures submitted with the petition.

Signatures on a Petition

Petitioners must be a resident of the Thames Valley District and/or a student or parent/guardian of a student attending a Thames Valley District School Board school.

A petition must contain original signatures only.

Each person must print their name and address and sign their name under the text of the petition.

Submitting a Petition

A petition must be addressed to the Thames Valley District School Board of Trustees and submitted to the Supervisor-Board Services. Petitions addressed otherwise or to a particular Trustee will not be accepted.

Petitions must be written, typewritten, or printed. Emailed, faxed or photocopied petitions are not admissible and will not be accepted.

Communication and Follow Up

Petitions received in accordance with these procedures shall be noted on the next regular Board meeting agenda under Communications and shall be made available to all Trustees by the Supervisor-Board Services.

No action may be taken at the Board meeting where the petition is noted on the agenda; however, a motion may be brought to the next regular Board meeting under Unfinished Business or to a subsequent Board meeting for consideration providing a Notice of Motion has been served.

Petitions and communications on any subject within the purview of a committee may be referred by the Chair to the proper committee without motion.

Appendix E

Guidelines for Trustee Communications

1.0 Purpose

The Thames Valley District School Board recognizes that communications are an integral part of the role of its elected Trustees. Effective communications enhance the ability of Trustees to represent their constituency, encourage public participation, build understanding and consensus in the community, to relay information, and to promote student achievement and well-being. The intent of this guideline is to promote innovative, consistent, and appropriate communications between Trustees and their constituents. This guideline addresses written communication, verbal communication, communication tools and resources, appropriate communication protocol, and inappropriate communications.

2.0 Trustee Communications – Written

Trustee written communications may take place in a variety of forms including, but not limited to, trustee newsletters, mailed letters, email, and social media.

2.1 Trustee Newsletters

Trustee Newsletter can be an effective tool for sharing information with constituents regarding the role of Trustees, Board policies, decisions made by the Board, Ministry of Education initiatives, Board events, recognition of student achievement, and resources that are beneficial to student well-being. Newsletters shall promote the vision and mission of the Thames Valley District School Board and should never reflect negatively on the Board, its staff, schools, or other Trustees. The communication must be presented as reflecting only the personal opinion of the individual Trustee and not an official Board document.

The content of newsletters are to be subject to editorial review by the Chair's committee prior to distribution and any expense associated with the newsletter is the responsibility of the Trustee and ineligible for reimbursement. Once approved for distribution, a copy of the newsletter shall be provided as information to the rest of the Trustees, the Director of Education, the Communications Department, relevant superintendents, and relevant principals.

2.2 Letters

From time-to-time a letter may be deemed an appropriate form of communication with constituents. Trustees may use Board letterhead to send congratulations, to provide special recognition of student achievement, or to thank a community member for a significant contribution that directly benefits student achievement and well-being. Any correspondence produced by a

Trustee on Board-issued letterhead must be approved by the Chair of the Board prior to distribution.

2.3 Email

Email is the preferred form of communication with constituents, staff, and trustees. Expected procedures to be followed by a Trustee receiving a communication via email or by some other electronic means are:

- When an email is addressed to all Trustees, the Chair of the Board shall address the matter, and a courtesy copy (cc) of the response shall be provided to the other Trustees.
- When an email has been addressed to a member of staff, and copied to one or more Trustees, staff shall respond to the email and provide a courtesy copy (cc) of the response to each Trustee copied in the correspondence.
- Trustees should not respond to email correspondence on which they have been copied (cc'd) and should only respond to email correspondence sent directly to their attention. It is up to the trustee to touch base with the trustee secretary to ensure the email is directed to them.
- If an email comes to a Trustee from a constituent not from their area, then it is to be forwarded to the Trustee(s) representing that area.
- Recognizing that email is not a secure vehicle of communication, Trustees shall never use email to communicate sensitive or confidential information.
- If a different form of contact other than email was used to communicate with a Trustee, then it is appropriate for the Trustee to correspond with that means of communication while also relaying information via email to fellow Trustees and the appropriate Board Administrators

2.4 Social Media

Social media refers to online technology tools that enable people and organizations to communicate, collaborate, and share information and resources over the internet. Examples include, but are not limited to, Facebook, X, YouTube, Snapchat, Instagram, blogs, and websites.

- Board authorization is not required for a Trustee to open a personal or professional social media account.
- Trustees should use social media with the same level of professionalism and responsibility as they would when officially representing the Board.
- Online postings should remain positive - do not engage in negative or critical conversations online.

- Retweets, likes, and favourites could be perceived as endorsements - always check before sharing.
- Search hashtags (#) before using them to ensure they are appropriate and positive.
- Photos are a great way to highlight what is happening at the Board, but identifiable photos should only be used if those students in the photograph, or parents of those students, have given informed written consent.
- Accounts should be updated and monitored regularly, and offensive material must be removed within 24 hours of notice.
- Be mindful of the TVDSB policy on equity and inclusive education and the Ontario Human Rights Code when posting content and all Board policies and other regulations.
- Gathering information for social media use should not be disruptive in any public meeting or event.
- In accordance with the Municipal Freedom of Information and Protection of Privacy Act, Trustees shall not divulge personal information related to the Board's students or staff.

3.0 Trustee Communication – Verbal

Trustee verbal communications may take place in a variety of forms including, but not limited to, individual communications and public speaking, video messaging, and media relations.

3.1 Individual Communications and Public Speaking

Trustees will communicate in one-on-one conversations with individual constituents, through interviews with the media, and to public gatherings at school and community events. These communications can be an effective way to promote the Thames Valley District School Board mission and vision to others and to promote student achievement and well-being. Requests for official communications should come through the Chair.

- When speaking, Trustees should communicate as clearly, and as accurately as possible.
- As a general rule, the Chair of the Board, will speak for the Board unless delegated by the Chair to a fellow Trustee.
- Consistent with the *Education Act*, individual trustees shall uphold decisions of the Board even if they personally disagree and must be able to explain the rationale for the decision.
- When conveying a personal statement, the Trustee must identify it as a personal opinion and not the opinion of the Board.
- Trustees shall not communicate as individuals about student or staff discipline or matters of negotiation unless designated by the Chair to do so.

- In accordance with the *Municipal Freedom of Information* and the protection of *Privacy Act*, Trustees shall not divulge personal information related to the Board's students or staff.
- Any public statement should aim to promote student achievement and well-being in the Board. Public statements should avoid criticism of the intentions or actions of other Trustees, staff, parents, or students. Public statements should be consistent with the Board's mission and vision.

3.2 Video Messages

A Trustee video message can be an effective tool for sharing information with constituents regarding the role of Trustees, Board policies, decisions made by the Board, Ministry of Education initiatives, Board events, recognition of student achievement, and resources that are beneficial to student well-being. The video message shall promote the vision and mission of the Thames Valley District School Board and should never reflect negatively on the Board, its staff, schools, the Ministry of Education, or other Trustees. The communication must be presented as reflecting only the personal opinion of the individual Trustee.

The content of a video message is subject to editorial review by the Chair's committee prior to distribution. The expense is the responsibility of the Trustee making the video message and is ineligible for reimbursement. Once approved, a copy of the video message shall be provided as information to Trustees, the Director of Education, the Communications Department, superintendents, and principals, as appropriate.

3.3 Media Relations

Trustees may be contacted by media officials. The following should be kept in mind when responding to media requests:

- Only the Chair of the Board or their designate will act as the official spokesperson for the Board although this does not bar Trustees from speaking to the media.
- When speaking or corresponding with the media, individual Trustees shall not present an opinion as the position of the Board, unless they have been authorized to speak on the subject by the Chair of the Board.
- When speaking or corresponding with the media, individual Trustees shall uphold the decision of the Board and the implementation of any Board resolution once it has been passed.
- When speaking with the media, individual Trustees should clearly identify as personal opinions any statement or positions that are not necessarily those of the Board.

- At a minimum, a Trustee contacted by the media should inform the Chair, the Trustee Secretary, and Director's Secretary, of an interview, if the Trustee will be commenting on system-wide issues.

4.0 Communication Tools and Resources

Recognizing that communication is an essential component of a Trustee's role and responsibilities Board-issued letterhead, and business cards will be made available to each Trustee to assist them in this regard.

4.1 Board-Issued Letterhead

Upon request, each Trustee will be provided with Board-issued letterhead.

4.2 Board-Issued Business Cards

A supply of business cards will be issued to each Trustee. Board-issued business cards are to be used for the purpose of identifying the individual Trustee as a member of the Board, and as such, any contact information identified on the business card shall be consistent with the Trustee's Board contact information and should not correspond with a Trustee's business contact information.

5.0 Appropriate Communication Protocol

Trustees are often contacted by parents with concerns about their child's education. Trustees must always encourage parents to follow the appropriate communication protocol. Refer to the Public Concerns Policy and Resolving Public Concerns Procedure.

6.0 Inappropriate Communications

Inappropriate communications or social media posts will be subject to review by the Chair's Committee. Trustees may be subject to feedback, warning, or discipline, as recommended by the Chair's Committee to the Board under the current Trustee Code of Conduct procedures found in the Bylaws.

Appendix F

Electronic Voting Guidelines

An electronic vote (e-vote) may be used if it is determined by the Chair, Vice-Chair or Director/designate that an urgent question/matter of an in-camera nature requires a decision before the next meeting and generally is used when debate is not anticipated.

Bylaw 6.5 provides a means by which the Board may meet to deliberate a question of significance and/or allow debate.

Despite the above, any member may call for the debate of a question put forward electronically (See Calling for Debate) or may request additional information (See Request for Additional Information).

1.1 The call for an e-vote is sent to all voting members via e-mail by the Supervisor-Board Services or designate.

1.1.1 The Chair, or their designate, shall develop the time frame for the e-vote.

1.1.2 Each motion must be made in a separate email. The subject line must include the word "Motion".

1.1.3 Notice includes:

- the name of the mover and seconder of the motion;
- the motion;
- any supporting documentation for the e-vote; and
- the time frame for the e-vote

1.2 Votes of 'yea', 'nay', or 'abstain' are returned to and recorded by the Supervisor-Board Services or designate.

1.2.1 Trustees not responding to the call for an e-vote are recorded as "no response."

1.2.2 Where the number of "no responses" precludes the ability to decide on the vote, the Chair may extend the time frame by twenty-four (24) hours for the vote. The time frame may only be extended once. A second call for an e-vote is sent.

1.3 The motion is passed by a majority vote of the membership.

- 1.4 The result of the e-vote is communicated to all members by the Supervisor-Board Services or designate, including the number of e-votes cast for and against the motion.
- 1.5 The Supervisor-Board Services or designate shall prepare a report to be entered into the minutes of the next regular meeting (whether in public or in camera as appropriate) under Chair's Announcements.

Calling for Debate

- 2.0 A member may call for a debate on the question by using the "Reply All" to the e-mail and asking for an opportunity to debate the question.

The call for debate must be within the time frame stipulated for the e-vote.

2.1 Once a call for a debate has been received, all e-voting is suspended.

2.2 In consultation with the Chair (or designate), the Supervisor-Board Services or designate will schedule a special meeting for a set time.

2.2.1 The Chair (or designate) will call for a vote on the question once debate has concluded.

2.3 In consideration of the debate:

2.3.1 Any member may withdraw a vote if made previous to the special meeting. The withdrawal and revised vote must be within the time frame stipulated for the e-vote.

2.3.2 In the event that a special meeting cannot be held within the time frame, the vote will be withdrawn. The item may be prioritized as unfinished business at the next scheduled meeting.

Requests for Additional Information

- 3.0 A member may request additional information on the question by using the "Reply All" to the e-email and stating their query.

The request for additional information must be within the time frame stipulated for the e-vote.

- 2.1 The Chair (or their designate) shall respond to the request for additional information.
 - 2.1.1 Depending on the query, the Chair may call for a teleconference. Section 2.2 applies.
- 2.2 In consideration of the additional information:
 - 2.2.1 Any Trustee may withdraw a vote if made previous to the receipt of the additional information. The withdrawal and revised vote must be within the time frame stipulated for the e-vote.
 - 2.2.2 Any Trustee may call for a debate on the question. Section 2.0 applies.

Appendix G

Delegations to the Board

PUBLIC INPUT

The Board welcomes and values public input from students, parents, and members of the community about Board policies, practices, issues, and its overall education system.

1. Substance of Presentation

- 1.1. Members of the public may wish to provide input on issues of concern to the education system. It is not intended--nor is it appropriate--for such input to address confidential personal, property, legal or negotiation matters. Concerns of this nature should be addressed through the Public Concerns and Complaints Policy/Procedure
- 1.2. Parents and students are encouraged to address local school-based issues through the appropriate principal, superintendent, Trustee and/or through their School Council.
- 1.3. Individuals or groups will be limited to one presentation on a given topic in a school year.
- 1.4. To appear before the Board/committee of the Board, a presenters' application outlining the key points to be presented must be completed and forwarded to the Supervisor-Board Services or designate before the request is considered. The application is available through the TVDSB website. Applications must be received by Board Services eight (8) working days before the Board meeting by 9:00 a.m. Late applications may be considered for the following meeting.

2. Delegation Request Review

- 2.1. If not otherwise defined in the alternative process, applications for public input must be submitted to the Supervisor-Board Services or designate no later than eight (8) working days before the meeting scheduled for public input.
- 2.2. The Chair's Committee will review all requests to provide input to ensure that the material to be covered complies with the requirements and will determine the order and number of presentations at a given meeting. The Committee will determine the suitability of materials for distribution per applicable legislation.
- 2.3. All delegations wishing to address a matter under consideration shall be directed to the appropriate committee. When a delegation is presented to committee, the committee Chair will include a brief summary as part of the

committee report to the Board. By motion, the Board may invite the delegate to present delegations at a meeting of the Board.

3. Notification

- 3.1. Presenters will receive notice of the Committee's decision regarding the request for public input.
- 3.2. The Supervisor-Board Services or designate shall inform the individual or group making a presentation of the meeting date and the approximate time when the presentation will be heard.
- 3.3. The public input schedule will be provided to the Board/committee before the meeting.

4. Oral Presentation Procedure

- 4.1. Oral presentations will be a maximum of 10 minutes for an approved delegation representing a School Council or a Home and School Association in good standing and 5 minutes for individuals or representatives of any other organization/group.
- 4.2. Oral presentations should address the concerns identified in the presenter's application. If the materials presented differ substantially from the written submission, the Chair has the right to rule the presentation out of order.

5. Questions of Clarification from Trustees

- 5.1. At the conclusion of each public presentation, Trustees may ask questions of clarification. No action may be taken at the meeting of the presentation. A motion may be brought to a subsequent Board meeting for consideration providing a Notice of Motion has been served.

6. Request Input on Specific Issues

- 6.1. Public input may be solicited on specific issues to be debated by the Board such as an accommodation review, budget development, or other matters. In these cases, an alternate process to receive input will be established.