



**MUNICIPALITY OF NORTH MIDDLESEX  
LOCAL SCHOOLS ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
Thursday, June 13, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.**

**PRESENT**

Councillor Bill Irwin – Chair  
Deputy Mayor Paul Hodgins  
Tonya Nichol - absent  
Tammy Maguire  
Marie Walker  
Casandra Shackleton - regrets  
Katie Katelaars – regrets  
Jessica Rombouts  
Carolyn Tripp – CAO/Staff Member  
Brian Ropp, Mayor (ex-officio) – voting member for purpose of quorum. - regrets  
Arlene Morell - regrets  
Donna VanHooydonk, Recording Secretary  
Brandon Drew, Director of Community Services

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Irwin called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. with a quorum present in the Council Chambers.

**INTRODUCTIONS**

Sadie Townsend has resigned from the committee, and Marie Walker has offered to be a voice for McGillivray Central School. The members of the committee introduced themselves.

**REVIEW OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES**

Motion by: P. Hodgins  
Seconded by: T. Maguire  
That the minutes from the February 8, 2024, Meeting be approved as amended.  
**CARRIED**

## **PROVISION FOR PECUNIARY INTEREST**

None.

## **PREVIOUS BUSINESS**

Chair Irwin updated the Group on the presentation that was made to the Thames Valley District School Board. Bill advised that the Mayor and CAO will be taking this to AMO in August, asking for delegation to the Minister, proposing that School Boards consider Plans of Subdivisions as part of their formula. It was questioned what the current formula is, which is a Provincial Funding Formula-1988. It was suggested and agreed that the presentation be shared with the Separate School Board.

- a) Update from School Board Trustee – Arlene Morrell had a prior commitment and was unable to attend.
- b) Thames Valley District School Board Agreement (Brandon Drew, Director of Community Services) – The Director of Community Services spoke to the committee regarding a reciprocal agreement with the local school boards for shared facility usage. The director outlined the reason for the agreement which was to improve the booking process specifically with regards to insurance certificates. The members of the committee asked that local home and school associations as well as parent executive groups be added into the agreement as third parties for the school and ask that the third parties for the municipality be left broader than only specifying the YMCA for the inclusion of other groups that run through the municipality. The Director will follow up with the school board to see about the potential changes within the current agreement and bring the necessary changes back to a future Council meeting for approval. Chair Irwin indicated that there is no motion required from the committee, that we are just looking for input on this.
- c) Renewed Membership of the Committee – It was agreed that the committee is taking on a new direction. Originally, the committee was formed with respect to school closure(s), encouraging and advocating that the feeder schools in North Middlesex attend North Middlesex District High School. It was noted that neighboring schools are no longer accepting students, and the mandate of the committee has changed. One of the committee members advised that it was their understanding that one of the neighbouring secondary schools is not turning students away. Chair Irwin indicated that he would follow up with the Board on this matter. It was felt that October would be an opportune time to refresh the committee, as the new school season is underway, and parent/student councils have been established. Chair Irwin encouraged members to look for interested persons for the committee over the summer. Chair Irwin will also contact the

principal of the high school to determine how they want to determine the student representative(s).

- d) Creation of Survey – the committee again had a discussion on the goal of this committee and are the goals aligning with the actual needs. Chair Irwin will poll Council at the next regular Council Meeting including questions that the municipality would like to include. As an example, more community involvement would be beneficial. Local businesses could participate with respect to careers in the community, partnering with the Horticultural Society, input from the community on better use of parks etc.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

The Director of Community Services updated the committee on an initiative that came because of the approved Recreation Master Plan (2023). To better serve the community and gather the appropriate feedback, it was recommended to establish a Youth Advisory Committee to empower youth and give them a voice in the decision-making process. With staff support for coordination, the Youth Advisory Committee should be responsible for consulting with the broader youth population (including engaging students within schools); identifying trends, issues and programs that matter to them; and identifying how parks, recreation and culture opportunities can be improved and more youth friendly. The Director further explained that a Youth Advisory Committee within a municipality is essential for fostering civic engagement and ensuring that the perspectives of young residents are included in local governance. These committees provide a platform for youth to voice their opinions on issues affecting their community, thereby promoted inclusivity and democratic participation. By involving your people in decision-making processes, municipalities can address the unique needs and concerns of younger generations, which might otherwise be overlooked. Further, youth advisory committees help in developing leadership skills and civic responsibility among participants, preparing them for future roles in public service and community leadership. They can bring fresh ideas and innovative solutions to longstanding problems, contributing to more dynamic and responsive local governments. Ultimately, youth advisory committees play a crucial role in shaping policies that are more reflective of the entire population, promoting a more equitable and forward-looking approach to municipal governance.

The composition of the committee would be one council representative, a maximum of 8 young people between the ages of 9 and 17 and two staff liaisons.

The Director will be taking a report to Council, presenting the Terms of Reference for this committee and once approved, he will circulate. The term is one year, the hope is to have a September start date.

The committee members were very excited about this initiative.

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None

**NEXT MEETING**

Thursday, September 12, 2024 @ 6:00 p.m.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Motion by: T. Maguire  
Seconded by: J. Rombouts  
That the meeting be adjourned at 7:16 p.m.

**CARRIED**

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**Chair**

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**Recording Secretary**