



Board Bulletin

May 8, 2009

Board Bulletin provides an update on news and information gathered from meetings of the Thames Valley Board of Trustees.

Regular Board met in Public Session on Tuesday, April 28, 2009 at 7:00 p.m. in the Thames Valley Education Centre Board Room.

The meeting began with a special musical presentation by D.M. Sutherland Public School's Grade 4-7 Choir from Woodstock conducted by music teacher Samantha Mosher.

Trustees then recognized the efforts of Grade 7 student James Brooks, from London's Kensal Park French Immersion Public School, to save gorillas in Africa through a project called 1,000 Classrooms. James started the project when he was 11 years old in cooperation with the Canadian Ape Alliance. He hopes to get 1,000 Western classrooms to each donate \$3 to buy a dozen eggs for children at a school in the African country of Congo. The eggs are sold by widows of park rangers who were slain or died while protecting the endangered Eastern Lowland Gorilla living on the nearby national park. His 1,000 Classrooms project has been featured on a TV show and in newspaper reports. More information about the project can be found at www.apeaware.org and www.1000classrooms.org.

Paulina Amaral, Supervisor, Community Use of School Facilities, reported to Trustees on the progress her staff has made in centralizing administration of school facility rentals as mandated by the Ministry. She explained that the initiative is aimed at making schools across Ontario "community hubs" where people can stay active and gather to learn. In support of this initiative, the Province subsidizes indoor and outdoor space rentals by not-for profit groups.

She told Trustees the Ontario government has invested \$33 million in the initiative during the 2008/2009 school year and TVDSB has received \$1,096,421. Supervisor Amaral indicated that significant progress has been achieved in implementing the Community Use of School Facilities initiative across Thames Valley. She emphasized the following areas:

- Adoption of electronic payments and applications
- Centralized administration of contracts
- Controls over insurance requirements, signatures, fee collection and journal entries
- Improvements in handling customer traffic and phone inquiries

Among the several reports from Administration, Executive Superintendent Brian Greene introduced the 2009-10 budget issues to Trustees. Review of these issues is part of the 2009-10 Preliminary Budget process. He advised that information about all of the issues will be updated on the TVDSB website along with minutes from Budget Advisory Committee.

For more information contact:

Kate Young, Manager - Public Affairs & Community Relations
519-452-2000 ext. 20209 or kate.young@tvdsb.on.ca