

Oxford County Council Update – Oxford Public School Board Trustees

Aug 13, 2025

Agenda

- Update from Ministry of Education and Assumed Impacts to Oxford County
- Availability of Information
- Public School Board Trustee Continued Advocacy
- Request to Oxford County Council to Adopt Trustees to Facilitate Representation and Advocacy on behalf of Oxford County Residents

Ministry of Education - Update

- July 21, 2025 correspondence sent to TVDSB trustees: Trustee Roles, Responsibilities & Access to School Board Resources Protocol for School Boards Under Supervision
 - No access to any board resources: including email accounts, board issued communication devices or access to board offices
 - No correspondence has been received since July 22 from any representative of the TVDSB to Oxford County Trustees
 - Oxford Trustees have been forwarding any information/requests from the public to the Director of Education/Superintendents responsible for schools in Oxford County
 - Budget information received only via access to TVDSB website

Impacts

- Oxford County residents have restricted access and may have restricted responses to queries and difficulties they are experiencing with TVDSB
 - Children from the same family being directed to different schools while realignment occurs for Turtle Island Public School.
 - Registration queries may not be addressed.
 - Transportation issues (safety/routing) in September may not be addressed.
 - Advocacy and Collaboration with Oxford municipalities, as well as associated communication related to facilities use, new school builds and municipal/school board joint ventures/initiatives have been degraded.
 - Staff access to MPP Hardemans office for advocacy has ended (ie working with the Ministry of Environment to facilitate permits required for septic system in Hickson)

Availability of Information

- Public correspondence is only available through board website to general public:
 - [Capital Projects – TVDSB](#) (Turtle Island & New Thamesford Public School)
 - [Budget and Financial Reports – TVDSB](#)
- While the 2025 budget statement reaffirms TVDSB commitment to follow the strategic plan pillars:
 - Support Student Achievement
 - Create Safe Spaces for All
 - Become the Best Place to Work, Learn and Grow
 - Work Together With Communities
- Correspondence from Municipal officials has gone unanswered, residents have been disappointed in the loss of communication facilitated by Oxford County Public School Board Trustees

Commitment to Continued Advocacy by Oxford County Trustees

- LeeAnne and Dave remain committed to the county, families and education.
- We recognize that years of erosion of surplus and now deficit spending in the face of a singular funder of public education has positioned the organization out of line with the Education Act. We support the supervisor and senior administration in the effort to restore a balanced budget and a surplus.
- Despite media rhetoric, the elimination of honorarium and expenses and access to resources Oxford County Public School Board Trustees can remain viable assets to our community, municipalities and Board staff.
- We invite open communication, collaboration and transfer of information from the public and Municipal officials to the Director of Education, Oxford Superintendents and TVDSB planning staff.

Request of County Council

- In support of the Director of Education and Provincially appointed Supervisor, Oxford County Council “adopt” the two elected public school board trustees until supervision is concluded or the next municipal election.
- Possible Council Direction
 - Direct adopted trustees to meet with Director of Education on a monthly basis and report back to County council on activities impacting Oxford County.
 - If possible provide trustees with a professional communication mechanism to receive public feedback, input and requests for escalations within the TVDSB – and direct trustees to review with Director of Education on Monthly basis.
 - Work with trustees to evaluate proof of concepts in alternate governance approach for school boards in Ontario
 - Direct trustees to support local councils in presentations to the Ministry of Education and MPP Hardemans office as warranted
 - Attend county events, and TVDSB events as directed by County Council