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**Members present:** S. Binder, E. Charlton, K. Hambly, K. Kramp, S. Lewis, S. Maracle, E. Parsons, R. Prinzen, A. Robertson,

**Absent:** R. Speck

**Resource:** K. Donnell, K. MacIver,

**Minutes:** D. Lucas, Executive Assistant

**1. Call to Order**

Vice-chair Prinzen called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

**2. Acknowledgement of Traditional Lands – Trustee Robertson**

**3. Roll Call**

Vice-chair Prinzen did a roll call of Board members, all members present, with the exception of Trustee Speck.

**4. Approval of agenda**

**Moved:** K. Hambly

**Seconded:** K. Kramp

That the agenda for the Special Public Committee of the Whole on October 24, 2023 be approved.

**Carried**

**5. Declaration of Conflict of Interest - nil**

**6. Report 6(a) Governance and the Role of Trustee:**

Chair Binder noted that as Chair of the Board, this would be a great opportunity to reflect on professional learning and ensure the governance model and role of Trustee is aligned with legislation and policy. Several items were presented for discussion as follows:

- **Board of Trustees communication and the use of social media**

Chair Binder suggested that the Board of Trustees communicate with and seek feedback from stakeholders through the communication platforms, tools and activities that are approved by the Board of Trustees and managed through the Director by the Communications Department of HPEDSB. Chair Binder suggested this topic be brought forward for an open discussion amongst the Trustees. Trustees offered their opinion on the use of social media, with mixed views on the use of social media. Student trustees noted that they have student trustee social media accounts for the purpose of staying connected and communicating with student voice. Director MacIver noted that student trustee social media accounts would remain because they are used solely for the purpose of staying connected with student voice. Chair Binder suggested the following motion:

**Recommendation**

**Moved by:** S. Binder  
**Seconded by:** S. Maracle

**That the Hastings Prince Edward District School Board of Trustees do not have individual Trustee social media accounts.**

**Carried**

- **Board of Trustees work publicly at meetings of the Board through motions**

Chair Binder noted that an understanding and renewed commitment that governance topics for Board discussion be submitted as per the By-laws by motion or the topic will be raised to the Chair of the Board/Committee and Director. Communicating through board email cannot be used to explain, convince, change, or do Board of Trustee business; all items must come to the table through agendas or motions. Chair Binder suggested this topic be brought forward for discussion amongst the Trustees. Trustee Parsons made the following motion:

**Recommendation**

**Moved by:** E. Parsons  
**Seconded by:** K. Hambly

**That the HPEDSB By-laws be amended to permit individual Trustees to give a notice of motion at Public Board meetings.**

**Carried**

- **Preparation for meetings**

Chair Binder noted that agenda packages are sent out in advance of a meeting for Trustees to review and make notes for speaking points as each member has limited time to speak. If a Trustee feels that an amendment to minutes or a recommendation is required, write out the amendment for accuracy and advise the Chair of the Committee in advance of the meeting that an amendment will be forthcoming. All motions on topics not on an agenda are to be submitted in writing with a seconder and submitted to the Governance and Policy Committee for referral to a committee for discussion.

- **Role and responsibility of Chair of the Board and Committee Chairs**

Chair Binder noted that the Chair of the Board is responsible for Code of Conduct concerns, resolving concerns at the lowest level. Attempts have been made to resolve matters with the least intervention and impact to the entire Board of Trustees; having matters addressed promptly. The Chair represents “the Board” which is 10 members; one member cannot speak individually about governance matters but can report on Board discussions and decisions.

- **Trustees’ authority through the Board table and not as an individual**

Chair Binder noted that as per By-law section 2.1.1, individual trustees do not have the authority and cannot provide direction to staff; only the Board can give direction and only to the Director of Education. Trustees cannot attempt to direct staff through conversation or email nor give the impression to staff through those means that a trustee influences the direction or decision. Emails sent directly to board staff (including principals, superintendents, managers, etc., are inappropriate. Taking a position on an operational issue is inappropriate. Items for feedback will be decided by the Board of Trustees and feedback will be facilitated by Board system communications.

Chair Binder thanked everyone for their time and noted these conversations provide a better understanding on good governance and use of policy to pave the path forward to three more years of productive Board work focused on legislative responsibilities. Confidence and trust in the Board of

Trustees is built through positive communication and actions of the Board as a collective. The operational side of HPEDSB is best supported by the Board of Trustees when communication and decision making are grounded in good governance practice.

**7. Motion to Rise and Report to the Board of Trustees - nil**

**8. Adjourned** – meeting adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

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**Chair**

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**Secretary**