



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together

THE MINUTES OF THE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

October 12, 2010

6:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (Private Session)

7:30 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Liz Fulford (Chair), Gary Atamanyk, Lora Campbell, Lynn Campbell (Vice-Chair), Gregg Dame, Marcy Heit, Larry Lemelin, Don Love, Kevin Maves

Student Trustees: James Gillespie, Clive Velkers (present for Public Session)

Regrets: Dalton Clark, Barbara Ness

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Carol Germyn, Sue Greer, Cam Hathaway, Marilyn Hyatt, Linda Kartasinski, Sue Mark, Jim Morgan, Jane Roth, John Stainsby, Peter Doan, Kim Yielding, Marian Lamb, Karen Bellamy

Recording Secretary: Irene Foster

Technical Support: Linda Gonschior

A. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Liz Fulford called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:30 p.m.

B. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

C. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Gregg Dame

“That the Board do now enter Committee of the Whole (Private Session).”

CARRIED

Moved by Kevin Maves

“That the Board do now return to open meeting.”

CARRIED

D. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood and sang “O Canada” accompanied on audiotape by the Alexandra Public School choir.

E. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Student Trustee James Gillespie opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

F. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Lynn Campbell
Seconded by Larry Lemelin

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

G. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Don Love
Seconded by Kevin Maves

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated September 28, 2010, be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

H. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

In response to Trustee Heit's question at the September 28, 2010, Board meeting regarding the status of the elementary school athletic convenor, Superintendent Carol Germyn reported that the 2009-2010 elementary school athletic convenor has informed staff that he will continue in that role.

I. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Lynn Campbell
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the business conducted in Committee of the Whole (Private Session) be now ratified by the Board.”

CARRIED

J. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**DSBN/CIS Vietnam – Partnership and School Opening**

Superintendent Linda Kartasinski provided background information on the Board's partnership with CIS (Canadian International School), Vietnam. Superintendent Kartasinski explained that the Board's relationship with the Canadian International School (CIS) began in April 2009 when the Board entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with the owners of the school to provide consultative services. Carol Maingot, as part of her position in International Education, is the Board's liaison person with CIS. She also facilitates the interview process for teachers and administrators and forwards recommendations for hire to CIS. The Board has also advised CIS on the design of the school building, location and layout of classrooms and office space, and layout of the library, and has provided CIS with information on Ontario curriculum, class size, criteria for the selection of students, and student database systems. A retired Superintendent of Education was also contracted to ensure that the quality of education provided at CIS meets Ontario standards, with all travel expenses, accommodations and meals being covered by CIS. Superintendent Kartasinski pointed out that, as a Consultant to this project, the Board received almost \$200,000 in revenue in 2009. The Board has also agreed to provide a Grade 12 graduation year program for students coming from CIS. These students will be international fee paying students within our schools, which will also add revenue to the Board.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**DSBN/CIS Vietnam – Partnership and School Opening**

Superintendent Kartasinski also reported that the Board was invited by CIS to send a delegation to Vietnam to participate in the September 18, 2010, official opening of the new school. Chair Liz Fulford, Trustees Kevin Maves and Marcy Heit (Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board in 2009), Director Hoshizaki and Superintendent Kartasinski represented the Board at the official opening.

Chair Fulford, Trustee Heit, and Trustee Maves shared their experiences during their recent visit to represent the Board at the official opening of the new Canadian International School in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The Trustees expressed their appreciation and pride for the honour and opportunity to represent the District School Board of Niagara. The ceremony was well attended by dignitaries from across Vietnam. During the ribbon cutting ceremony Director Hoshizaki brought greetings from the Board by speaking a few sentences in Vietnamese, and he also greeted the Deputy Prime Minister of Vietnam and the Head of International Development. On behalf of the Board, the school was presented with a painting which is now located in the Board room of the school. Following the ceremony, the Trustees met with school staff who were interviewed and recommended by the DSBN. Trustee Heit added that the students at the Canadian International School understand their responsibilities to education and their educational opportunities are not taken for granted. Director Hoshizaki noted that enrolment at CIS is currently 460 and it is anticipated that by December, enrolment may reach 700 students.

During the visit to Vietnam, the delegation from the Board also had an opportunity to meet with the Consul General for Canada and other dignitaries in Ho Chi Minh City, including the Minister of Education. The Minister of Education described the challenges facing the education system in Vietnam, including the challenges created by increasing enrolment. The Minister of Education expressed an interest in working with Canada to strengthen their education system and develop long term partnerships to meet the educational needs of students in Vietnam. The Minister of Education also expressed his appreciation for our Board's partnership and involvement.

Chair Fulford described the delegation's visit to two public schools (one secondary and one elementary). Chair Fulford noted that the class sizes in the public schools are significantly higher than the Canadian International School and that many educational issues and challenges are similar across the world. Trustee Heit noted that currently education in Vietnam is government funded until Grade 5 and parents/students must pay a fee thereafter.

Trustee Lynn Campbell commended the Board for its participation in this international project and on behalf of the Board she extended appreciation to the delegation for being ambassadors on behalf of the Board.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Early Learning Program**

Superintendent Carol Germyn introduced the presentation which showcased the implementation of the Ministry's new Early Learning Program (ELP). Superintendent Germyn explained that each of the Board's 27 ELP classrooms is supported by a Teacher and an Early Childhood Educator. Students in the ELP Program with special education needs will also be supported with Educational Assistants.

Jennifer McDowell, Student Achievement Leader, introduced the ELP Central Team (Bev Brooks, Wendy Faragalli, Sarah Thomas, and Nancy Theal) as well as the school based team from Ontario Public School (Teacher Laurie Carter and Early Childhood Educator Dayna Sherry).

Jennifer McDowell explained that the full day Early Learning Program provides a child centered, developmentally appropriate approach to build a strong foundation for learning in the early years. The safe and caring environment provides structured play-based learning opportunities to promote important skills such as numeracy, literacy, critical thinking and communication. The program also invites and encourages active parent involvement.

Teacher Laurie Carter and Early Childhood Educator Dayna Sherry shared their experiences with the implementation of the program at Ontario Public School. Dayna Sherry explained that the ECE staff in the two classrooms at Ontario Public School are adapting to a more structured curriculum than there is in a day care setting and they are becoming familiar with educational terms and acronyms. The teaching and ECE staff in the two ELP classrooms at Ontario Public School are working towards formalizing the responsibilities of each staff member, and they are sharing information and resources between the two classes. Dayna Sherry described a number of play-based learning activities that the students participate in.

Teacher Laurie Carter added that engaging students in small group settings provides opportunities to develop and reinforce skills for student growth and future successful learning. Teacher Laurie Carter thanked the Trustees for supporting the program at Ontario Public School and throughout the Board.

The Board viewed a slide show of students engaged in a variety of activities which demonstrate integrated literacy, integrated mathematics, purposeful play, technology, and classroom partnerships.

Trustees expressed their appreciation to staff for their role in making the program successful for early learning. Trustees agreed that the program has value for promoting early learning and building skills for future success.

K. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

L. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board Recess.

M. OLD BUSINESS**1. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE**

**Moved by Larry Lemelin
Seconded by Marcy Heit**

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated September 29, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustees James Gillespie and Clive Velkers provided highlights of the report as follows:

- The first meeting of the school year was well attended with good representation from across the region.
- Discussion took place on suggested fundraising activities, including the “Make the Change” initiative.
- Planning took place for the upcoming October 27th retreat to be held at the Education Centre. A former Student Trustee will be the guest speaker on the issues of student leadership and inspiring others to make change.
- School representatives reported on the events in their schools.
- Schools are looking forward to participating in the Terry Fox Run.
- There is good interest for the position of EFN (Education Foundation of Niagara) Representative. A vote will take place at the October 27th retreat.

Trustee Marcy Heit acknowledged the students for their good attendance. Chair Fulford commended the students on their numerous charitable initiatives.

2. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING FOR EXCUSED PUPILS (SALEP) COMMITTEE

**Moved by Larry Lemelin
Seconded by Gregg Dame**

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP) Committee dated October 4, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Larry Lemelin reported that opportunities were developed to address the needs of the students.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING FOR EXCUSED PUPILS (SALEP) COMMITTEE**

Superintendent John Stainsby clarified for Trustee Heit that the new Regulation “*Supervised Alternative Learning and Other Excusals from Attendance at School*,” which comes into effect on February 1, 2011, reflects the Ministry’s focus on addressing the learning needs of students in Supervised Alternative Learning.

3. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Moved by Marcy Heit
Seconded by Don Love**

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated October 5, 2010, be received and the recommendations adopted.”

DSBNi 2011-2012 Vietnam Proposal

“That the Program and Planning Committee approve the continuation of Habitat for Humanity – Global Village partnership as a viable Cooperative Education program – DSBNi, for July 2011 and March 2012 home build projects.”

Educational Research Committee

“That the Program and Planning Committee approve the recommendations outlined in the report of the Educational Research Committee of September 27, 2010.”

Project Connect

“That the Program and Planning Committee continue to support the concept in principle as presented in this report and direct staff to continue their investigation, including the hiring of a Project Coordinator as part of Special Initiatives Program.”

Boundary Change Report

“That the Program and Planning Committee approve the recommendations as outlined in the Boundary Change Report – Implementation of School Locator Module.”

“That the Program and Planning Committee approve the recommendations as outlined in the Boundary Change Report – Welland-Central Village and South Village.”

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

“That the Program and Planning Committee approve the recommendations as outlined in the Boundary Change Report – Lakeport Secondary School.”

CARRIED

Trustee Marcy Heit provided highlights of the report as follows:

- The DSBNi 2011-2012, Vietnam Proposal was presented by Kevin Graham, Technological Consultant. The builds which are scheduled for July 2011 and March 2012 will provide opportunities for students to learn and develop skills and to be ambassadors for the Board. The Vietnam Proposal is at no cost to the Board and fundraising is well under way. Vietnam was chosen again as the build site because the need is there, it fits with the Board's CIS partnership, and the site is also supported by Habitat for Humanity.

Trustee Gary Atamanyk questioned the costs to the Board attributed to the Board delegation's recent travel to Vietnam for the opening of the Canadian International School. Director Hoshizaki commented that the Canadian International School partnership is a revenue generating initiative for the Board and the travel costs to Vietnam to represent the Board at the opening of the new school were paid from that revenue. Chair Fulford clarified that the Canadian International School is not affiliated with the proposed DSBNi Habitat for Humanity build in Vietnam.

- The Program and Planning Committee reviewed the recommendations of the Educational Research Committee. Trustee Heit noted that the Board's participation in Proposal 5, The Design and Development of an Early Language and Literacy Screening Test; and Proposal 6, The 2011 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey, will benefit students within the Board.
- The Program and Planning Committee reviewed a report on Project Connect. This unique project will focus on removing the barriers of low socio-economic factors and on providing opportunities to help students access post secondary learning. Trustee Heit explained that the recommended motion is part of the Special Initiatives Program.

Trustee Gary Atamanyk asked if the cost of a Project Coordinator is included in the \$40,000 previously approved by the Budget for this project or will the Board be required to commit additional funds. Director Hoshizaki replied that Trustees are not being requested to include additional funds in the Budget for this project, rather, monies will be allocated from a variety of existing budgets, including the \$40,000 previously allocated for the project, monies from the Superintendents' and Director's budget, and the Special Initiatives budget.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

- The Committee reviewed the Boundary Change Report. Trustee Heit explained that following an update of boundaries to be included in the School Locator Module a number of discrepancies of a housekeeping nature were identified that require clarification. There is no immediate impact on any of the schools as a result of the proposed remedies. The recommended remedies will provide more clarity for schools when using the School Locator software.

Trustee Lemelin questioned whether the recommended changes in Welland (Central Village and South Village) will be impacted by future development being considered by the City of Welland in those areas. Chair Fulford indicated that future development will not affect the Board's responsibility to provide transportation to students in those areas.

Trustee Gary Atamanyk asked if consideration was given to boundary changes with respect to housing that is being developed in Thorold. Chair Fulford explained that, at this time, the recommended motions only deal with identified school boundary discrepancies in developed areas.

4. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

**Moved by Gregg Dame
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated October 6, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Gregg Dame provided highlights of the reports as follows:

- The Committee met at A.K. Wigg Public School where the members were welcomed by Principal Todd Acaster and provided with a tour and historical background of the school.
- The new member from Plymouth Public School was welcomed.
- Discussion focused on the final planning for the November 3rd conference. Registration is now at 145 participants. Kim Yielding, Manager of Communications and Public Relations, will continue to promote the conference to increase participation.
- Committee members shared events that are taking place in their schools.

Trustee Marcy Heit suggested that targeting particular areas for registration at the conference may provide more balanced representation from across the region. Superintendent Sue Mark added that part of the Committee's mandate this year is to broaden representation on the Committee from across the region.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Lynn Campbell

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated October 12, 2010, be received and the recommendation adopted.”

Trustee Election – Compliance Audit Committee

“That Allan Andrews, John Bald, David Barrett, John Bice, Robert Hildebrandt, Margo Pinder and Alexander Sutic be appointed as the District School Board of Niagara’s committee members on the Niagara Compliance Audit Committee.”

CARRIED

Trustee Lora Campbell reported that the Finance Committee reviewed the report on the Compliance Audit Committee for the upcoming Trustee elections. Trustee Lora Campbell explained that all School Boards are required to appoint a Compliance Audit Committee to hear and decide applications for compliance audits regarding a candidate’s campaign expenses. Trustee Lora Campbell reminded the Trustees that on April 27, 2010, the Board approved participation in the Niagara Compliance Audit Committee.

Superintendent Jane Roth explained for Trustee Kevin Maves that the municipalities advertised for individuals interested in sitting on the Committee and the Board was not involved in that process.

N. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

No questions were asked.

O. NEW BUSINESS**1. ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS’ ASSOCIATION (OPSBA)**

There was no report.

P. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**1. Trustee Information Session**

There was no Trustee Information Session.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**2. Staff Reports****(a) Director's Report**

Director Hoshizaki highlighted the following from the Director's Report:

- Teacher Bryce Honsinger has been selected by the Deputy Minister of Education as the Canadian representative to attend an upcoming conference in Jerusalem, Israel. In 2009-2010 Bryce Honsinger was a recipient of the Premier's Award for Teaching Excellence, and in September 2010 he was recognized by Brock University with a Faculty of Education Distinguished Alumni Award. While in Israel Bryce Honsinger will keep in touch with his students through webcasting.
- Four students from Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School recently visited CBC Television with teacher Lisa Pomeroy. The students had an opportunity to oversee a live broadcast of The National from the control room and to meet Peter Mansbridge and ask him questions about working in broadcasting.
- On Friday, October 8, 2010, football teams from South Lincoln High School and West Park Secondary School had an opportunity to play their football game at Ivor Wyne Stadium in Hamilton. This opportunity was facilitated by school staff, the Education Foundation of Niagara, and the Hamilton Ti-Cats organization. Following their game, the South Lincoln students also participated in ceremonies for the Hamilton Ticat -Edmonton Eskimo game the same evening.

Director Hoshizaki also reported that:

- During a recent meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education, the Deputy Minister expressed interest in the Board's partnership with the Vietnam project. He encouraged the Board to continue its involvement in the project and asked that he be kept informed.
- Discussion took place with the Deputy Minister of Education on Project Connect. The Deputy Minister of Education expressed an interest in supporting the Board in this project, as well as the possibility of expanding this program provincially. The Deputy Minister will be kept informed on the Board's progress.

Trustee Marcy Heit asked how Kevin Graham's current role of Technological Consultant will be filled during the period of his half-time secondment to support the Woodend Outdoor Education Project. Superintendent Carol Germyn replied that a number of options that are the least disruptive to schools are being reviewed and that a report will be brought back to the Board in the near future.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**2. Staff Reports****(b) Staff Report on Primary Class Sizes**

Superintendent Jim Morgan stated that the implementation of Primary Class Size is a key initiative of the Ministry of Education. Superintendent Morgan reported that as of the count date of September 27, 2010, the Board is in full compliance with the Ministry's expectations that:

- At least 90% of the JK-3 primary classes have 20 or fewer students;
- 100% of the JK-3 primary classes have 23 or fewer students;
- 100% of the combined Grades 3 and 4 classes have 23 or fewer students;
- Average class size in Grades 4 to 8 be reduced by 0.1 from the 2008/2009 average.

3. Trustee Communications

- (a) Chair Liz Fulford presented Student Trustees James Gillespie and Clive Velkers with DSBN lapel pins.
- (b) Trustee Marcy Heit suggested that the letter from E.I. McCulley Public School's School Council regarding the shortfall in Special Education funding, be shared with other School Councils as a model and template as it clearly expresses to the Ministry of Education a parent's perspective on the issue.

A brief discussion followed and it was agreed that the Director's office will ensure that a package of information will be provided to School Councils to assist them in addressing the issue of Special Education funding with the Ministry of Education.

- (c) Trustee Gary Atamanyk expressed his concerns that the Board's values of respect, responsibility and relationships, as outlined in the Board's Strategic Plan, were not reflected at a recent Committee meeting when he was told by Committee members and the Administrator present that the issue he raised would not be discussed. Trustee Atamanyk suggested that more effort should be made to foster a working environment that respects the values of respect, responsibility and relationships in order to best serve students.

Chair Fulford clarified that the issue Trustee Atamanyk raised had been discussed at a previous meeting of the Committee and further discussion was not allowed so that other issues on the agenda could be addressed.

- (d) Trustee Lynn Campbell reported that she recently attended two events which recognized student success – the Honour Roll Breakfast at Laura Secord Secondary School, and the Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School graduation ceremonies.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**Trustee Communications**

- (e) Trustee Gregg Dame reported that he recently attended Port Colborne High School's Honour Roll Banquet where students were recognized for their achievements, including Grade 8 graduates who are currently in Grade 9 at PCHS. Margerat Huber, a Port Colborne High School Alumna, and Canadian Ambassador to Jordan and Iraq, delivered the keynote address on international affairs.

4. Correspondence and Communications

There was no correspondence and communications.

Q. FUTURE MEETINGS

The Revised Schedule of Meetings for October 2010 was provided to include the October 27, 2010, Appreciation Day for Child Care Workers (CCW) and Designated Early Childhood Educators (DECE). The following revisions/reminders were noted:

October 19 – Policy Advisory Committee meeting is cancelled.

October 26 – Master Works Art Show opens at the Education Centre.

November 4 – Retirement Celebration for Superintendent Kartasinski

R. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Lynn Campbell

Seconded by Larry Lemelin

“That this meeting of the District School Board of Niagara be now adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

ELIZABETH FULFORD, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer