



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together

**THE MINUTES OF THE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA**

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

November 23, 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, Dalton Clark, Gregg Dame, Marcy Heit, Don Love, Kevin Maves, Barbara Ness

Student Trustees: James Gillespie, Clive Velkers

Regrets: Larry Lemelin

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

Recording Secretary: Irene Foster

Technical Support: Linda Gonschior, Ezeldin Ebadalla

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.

Chair Fulford welcomed parents and students to the Board meeting.

B. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

C. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Marcy Heit
Seconded by Gregg Dame

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

CARRIED

Moved by Gregg Dame

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

CARRIED

D. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as students from Ridgeway Crystal-Beach Secondary School sang “O Canada,” under the direction of teacher, Shannon Smith, and accompanied by students on acoustic guitars. The students also performed “Imagine.”

E. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Barbara Ness opened the meeting with a reflective reading entitled, “For Good.”

F. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Gary Atamanyk
Seconded by Don Love

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

G. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Gregg Dame
Seconded by Kevin Maves

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated November 9, 2010, be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

H. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

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

**Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Kevin Maves**

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

Motion to Hire a Supervisory Officer

“That John Dickson be appointed to the position of Assistant Superintendent of Schools for the District School Board of Niagara effective January 1, 2011.”

CARRIED

J. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**Director’s Holiday Card Contest**

The winners of this year’s art contest for designing holiday cards were recognized and presented with copies of their cards, along with a certificate of recognition.

Kim Yielding, Manager of Communications and Public Relations, introduced the winners of this year’s art contest. Chair Fulford thanked all the students who submitted entries and she thanked parents and staff for their support.

Lisa Almon, Eastdale Secondary School
Mya Breem, College Street Public School
Kaye Chang, Glynn A. Green Public School
Ian Cushnie, Jordan Public School
Evan Fee, Lakeview Public School
Allyson Gauvin, Parnall Public School
Alexia Gibson, Crystal Beach Public School
Morgan Hoover, Ridgeway Public School
Madison Page, Fitch Street Public School
Erin Prysiaczny, E.L. Crossley Secondary School
Oishi Ray, St. Davids Public School
Lamees Shawaf, Gainsborough Public School
Christie Tran, Glynn A. Green Public School
Ryan Waskawich, Welland Centennial Secondary School
Paige Wasyluk, Cherrywood Acres
Samantha Wimbush, Fitch Street Public School
Mei Mei Mingyi Yang, Connaught Public School

K. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

L. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board Recess.

M. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 0770 to 0775 for the month of October 2010, totaling \$13,303,621.66 be received.”

CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Moved by Don Love
Seconded by Lynn Campbell

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated November 11, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Don Love presented the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated November 11, 2010.

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

Moved by Lynn Campbell
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP) Committee dated November 15, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Lynn Campbell presented the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP) Committee dated November 15, 2010.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**4. REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Moved by Gregg Dame

Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the recommended amendments to the By-Laws and Rules of Order of the District School Board of Niagara, as outlined in Appendix 1 attached, be approved as amended, with such amendments to take effect on November 30, 2010.”

CARRIED

Moved by Gregg Dame

Seconded by Lynn Campbell

“That the recommended amendments to the By-Laws and Rules of Order of the District School Board of Niagara, as outlined in Appendix 2 attached, be approved with such amendments to take effect on November 30, 2010.”

(Trustees agreed that the recommended amendments to the By-Laws and Rules of Order as outlined in Appendix 2 would be considered and voted on separately.)

Trustee Dame reminded the Board that the Ad Hoc Governance Committee has been meeting since January 2010 to review the Board's By-Laws and Rules of Order. Trustee Dame deferred to Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer. Brenda Stokes Verworn explained that the Notice of Motion brought forward on October 26, 2010, was to be dealt with on November 9, 2010, but due to Trustee illness there was an insufficient number of Trustees present on November 9, 2010 (as required by By-Law Q-2) and the matter was deferred to the November 23, 2010, Board meeting. However, the original Board motion was deliberately split into two sections (Appendix 1 and Appendix 2) to facilitate discussion at tonight's meeting. Brenda Stokes Verworn explained that the recommended changes to the Board's By-Laws in Appendix 1 are primarily housekeeping matters to reflect current practices. Recommended changes to the Board's By-Laws and Rules of Order in Appendix 2 have prompted some prior questions from Trustees and they have been grouped together for discussion purposes. The Board may elect to deal with Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 collectively or may choose to deal with the individual amendments. Explanatory notes were placed beneath each proposed change to provide a rationale for the recommended change and to refresh Trustees on discussions in the prior Ad Hoc Governance Committee minutes.

Chair Fulford led the Trustees through the recommended changes to the Board's By-Laws listed in Appendix 1, as follows, and provided a brief rationale for the recommended changes.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****APPENDIX 1****PREAMBLE**

The following organizational and governing By-Laws of the District School Board of Niagara shall be observed for the order and dispatch of its business. **Whenever the By-Laws are silent on an issue, the rules and practices of Bourinot's Rules of Order shall govern.**

CARRIED**F ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOARD**

- F - 1 The order of business for the Organization Meeting is to elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Board and, in an election year, for Trustees to make committee selections by Trustees submitting their committee preferences to the Director's Office, **as outlined in By-Law L - 4**, preferably by electronic submission.

CARRIED**G REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS**

- G - 1 The regular meetings of the Board shall be held on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month between September and June, save and except for the months of March and December when there will only be one regular Board meeting, and save and except for the month of June when the regular meeting of the Board shall be held on the second Tuesday and the fourth Monday of the month. Should any such Tuesday or Monday fall on a statutory or civic holiday, the Board shall meet on the evening of the following day at the same hour, or as otherwise decided by the Board. Committee of the Whole shall commence at **6:45** p.m. and the regular Board meeting, public session, shall commence at 7:30 p.m.

CARRIED

- G - 3 In the event of weather conditions which, in the judgment of the Chairperson, preclude the regular meeting of the Board, the meeting will be held on the next following Tuesday, with Committee of the Whole commencing at **6:45** p.m. and the regular Board meeting, public session, commencing at 7:30 p.m.

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****Proposed G-10:**

The order of business for regular meetings of the Board shall be:

- A. Commencement of the Meeting of the Board
 - 1. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent
 - 2. Declaration of Conflict of Interest
- B. Committee of the Whole
 - 1. Motion to Move to Committee of the Whole (Private Session)
 - 2. Motion to Return to Open board (Public Meeting)
- C. Singing of O Canada
- D. Opening Prayer or Reflective Reading
- E. Business of the Board
 - 1. Adoption of Agenda
 - 2. Approval of Board Minutes
 - 3. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - 4. Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole
- F. Educational Showcasing or Presentations
- G. Student Achievement Reports
- H. Delegations
- I. Board Recess (Optional)
- J. Old Business
- K. Questions Asked of and by Board Members
- L. New Business
- M. Information and Proposals
 - 1. Staff Reports
 - 2. Trustee Information Sessions
 - 3. Correspondence and Communications
 - 4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison
 - 5. OPSBA Reports
 - 6. Future Meetings
- N. Adjournment

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

New G – 12 The Director of Education shall meet with the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson to review and plan the Board meeting agenda. ~~The Past Chairperson will be invited to attend.~~

CARRIED

Trustee Atamanyk requested an amendment to proposed By-Law G - 12 to clarify that the Past Chairperson should include the language, “who is a member of the current Board,” to ensure that individuals who are not elected officials are not participating in planning the Board meeting agenda, or accessing confidential information.

The mover of the motion, Trustee Gregg Dame, did not accept the suggested amendment as a friendly amendment.

At Chair Fulford's request, Brenda Stokes Verworn clarified that the Past Chairperson would be invited to attend the meeting as a resource only to provide an historical perspective or background information on an issue. Brenda Stokes Verworn concurred that the Past Chairperson, who may or may not be an elected official at the time, would not participate in actually planning the Board meeting agenda.

Following discussion, it was agreed that proposed By-Law G – 12 recognizes that the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson have the responsibility of planning the Board agenda and that Trustee Atamanyk's proposed amendment does not preclude seeking background information on certain issues from other sources.

Mover Gregg Dame, and seconder Barbara Ness, subsequently accepted Trustee Atamanyk's proposed wording as a friendly amendment to By-Law G – 12.

Trustee Heit suggested that the last sentence of proposed By-Law G – 12 be deleted on the basis By-Law G – 12 should not preclude the Director of Education, Chairperson, or Vice-Chairperson from seeking out background information on issues from any source, not just the Past Chairperson.

Mover Gregg Dame, and seconder Barbara Ness, accepted Trustee Heit's suggestion to delete the last sentence of proposed By-Law G – 12 as a friendly amendment.

J **INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE BOARD**

J - 1 In each municipal election year, the Inaugural Meeting of the Board shall be held on the first Board meeting in December following the Organization Meeting, at the hour of **6:45** p.m. for Committee of the Whole and 7:30 p.m. for the regular Board meeting, public session, unless otherwise determined by Board motion.

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****L STANDING AND STATUTORY COMMITTEES**

- L - 4 The Board members will indicate their preference for committees to the Nominating Committee. **The membership of the Nominating Committee shall be comprised of the Chairperson, the Vice-Chairperson, and one Board member selected at large by the Chairperson. The mandate of the Nominating Committee is to receive each Board member's preference for committees, preferably electronically, and subsequently allocate committee assignments to each Board member.**

CARRIED

- L - 6 There shall be the following committees of the Board with each Board member required to sit on two (2) Standing or Statutory Committees.

• <u>Audit Committee</u>	<u>3 Board Members</u>
• Policy Advisory Committee.....	<u>5 Board Members</u>
• Program and Planning Committee.....	5 Board Members
• Finance Committee.....	4 Board Members
• Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC).....	2 Board Members <u>plus 2 appointed Board Member Alternates (this is a legislated four (4) year term)</u>
• Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils Committee (SALEP).....	1 Board Member
• Parent Involvement Committee.....	2 Board Members
• Student Trustee Senate.....	2 Board Members plus 2 Student Trustees
• Student Discipline Committee.....	3 Board Members (<u>legislated minimum</u>)
• Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee.....	2 <u>Trustees Board Members</u> for each contract
• Ad Hoc Properties Disposal Committee.....	2 <u>Trustees Board Members</u> (Chair of Program and Planning Committee, and Chair of Finance Committee, or designate)

Other Ad Hoc Committees will be established as required.

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

- L - 7 The committee responsibilities of the incoming Chairperson shall be assumed by the outgoing Chairperson, **save and except if the incoming Chairperson was the Board member assigned to serve on the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC), then the incoming Chairperson will remain on the SEAC Committee for the balance of the Board's four year term.**

CARRIED

- L - 10 The Board shall then appoint its representative to outside agencies, boards and commissions **to serve the same term as cited in By-Law L-9, unless otherwise required.**

CARRIED**N AD HOC COMMITTEES AND SPECIAL COMMITTEES**

- ~~N-3~~ **N - 2** The Board may, from time to time, appoint special committees as it deems necessary. Such committees shall be appointed by resolution of the Board and each shall receive terms of reference from the Board.
- ~~N-2~~ **N - 3** Items which have been referred to an ad hoc committee may only be placed on the agenda after consultation with the committee.

CARRIED**O - 10**

Reports of all committees shall be printed before being presented to the Board, and shall contain the names of the members of such committee present at the meetings at which such reports were adopted, and if a meeting of any committee is called at which a quorum is not present, the Chairperson of such committee, or in the Chairperson's absence the Secretary **of the Board (Director of Education)**, shall report the fact to the Board at the next meeting with the names of the members present.

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Chair Fulford led the Trustees through the recommended changes to the Board's By-Laws listed in Appendix 2, as follows, and provided a brief rationale for the recommended changes.

APPENDIX 2**Proposed G - 9**

- (a) The Board will endeavour to have posted on the Board's website at least 24 hours prior to the Board meeting, the Board agenda, ~~together with support material,~~ exclusive of matters to be considered in Committee of the Whole - Private Session, for access by the public. ~~shall be made available to media representatives, presidents of staff unions, federation representatives, and other persons so designated by the Board.~~*
- (b) The Board meeting minutes, without supporting material, shall be posted on the Board's website once they are approved by the Board.*
- (c) The Board will endeavour to have posted on the Board's website at least 24 hours prior to a Standing or Statutory Committee meeting the Committee agenda, exclusive of matters to be considered in a Closed Session, for access by the public.*

Proposed G – 9, as amended

- (a) The Board will post the Board meeting agenda on the Board's website at least 24 hours prior to the Board meeting, exclusive of matters to be considered in Committee of the Whole - Private Session, for access by the public.**
- (b) The Board meeting minutes, without supporting material, shall be posted on the Board's website once they are approved by the Board.**
- (c) The Board will post the Committee meeting agenda on the Board's website at least 24 hours prior to a Standing or Statutory Committee meeting, exclusive of matters to be considered in a Closed Session, for access by the public.**

CARRIED

Trustee Marcy Heit suggested that proposed By-Law G – 9 (a) and (c) be amended to read, the Board **"will post,"** the Board meeting agenda and the Committee meeting agenda, rather than "will endeavour to have posted."

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

A brief discussion followed on potential situations that could arise which would impact on posting the agenda on the Board's website in a timely manner. Trustees agreed that, if necessary, the agenda, as posted, could be amended at the Board meeting or committee meeting.

Trustee Gary Atamanyk further suggested minor grammatical amendments to proposed By-Law G – 9 (a) and (c), to read as follows:

“The Board will post the Board meeting agenda on the Board's website at least 24 hours prior to the Board meeting, exclusive of matters to be considered in Committee of the Whole - Private Session, for access by the public.”

“The Board will post the Committee meeting agenda on the Board's website at least 24 hours prior to a Standing or Statutory Committee meeting, exclusive of matters to be considered in a Closed Session, for access by the public.”

Mover Gregg Dame, and seconder Lynn Campbell, accepted the proposed amendments as friendly amendments to proposed By-Law G – 9.

Proposed O - 7

- a) All Board members who are not official members of a Standing or Statutory Committee as listed in By-Law L-6 (~~save and except the Policy Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee~~) may attend all or any committee meetings in the capacity of an observer or to participate in discussions and but, if in attendance, the observing Trustee shall not be counted in arriving at quorum, ~~but shall be allowed to vote, shall not move any motions, and shall not be allowed to vote.~~
- b) Notwithstanding (a), a Board member assigned to a Standing or Statutory Committee may designate an alternate Board member as a replacement voting member in their absence in accordance with Board Policy A-2 (Attendance at Board and Committee Meetings) for the purpose of arriving at a quorum, and such designated alternate shall be allowed to vote.

New (c)

- c) Furthermore, notwithstanding (a), all Board members who are not official members of the Policy Advisory Committee or the Special Education Advisory Committee may attend any Policy Advisory Committee and/or Special Education Advisory Committee meetings in the capacity of an observer but, if in attendance, shall not participate in discussion, shall not be counted in arriving at quorum, shall not move any motions, and shall not be allowed to vote.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****Proposed O – 7, as amended:**

- a) All Board members who are not official members of a Standing or Statutory Committee as listed in By-Law L-6 (~~save and except the Policy Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee~~) may attend all or any committee meetings in the capacity of an observer or to participate in discussions **and but**, if in attendance, **the observing** Trustee shall not be counted in arriving at quorum, ~~but shall be allowed to vote~~, **shall not move any motions, and shall not be allowed to vote.**
- b) Notwithstanding (a), a Board member assigned to a **Standing or Statutory** Committee may designate an alternate Board member as a replacement voting member in their absence in accordance with Board Policy A-2 (Attendance at Board and Committee Meetings) for the purpose of arriving at a quorum, **and such designated alternate shall be allowed to vote.**

New (c)

- c) **Furthermore, notwithstanding (a), all Board members who are not official members of the Special Education Advisory Committee may attend any Special Education Advisory Committee meetings in the capacity of an observer but, if in attendance, shall not participate in discussion, shall not be counted in arriving at quorum, shall not move any motions, and shall not be allowed to vote.**

CARRIED

A brief discussion followed on the importance of permitting Trustees who attend meetings of the Policy Advisory Committee as observers to participate in discussion.

At Chair Fulford's request, Brenda Stokes Verworn explained that the proposed amendment is not a change from the existing By-Law O – 7, rather it clarifies the existing language which reflects that the Policy Advisory Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee are predominantly stakeholder committees, and that the historical intent (since amalgamation in 1998) was not to have the Trustees dominate the discussions.

**Moved by Marcy Heit
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

“That By-Law O – 7 (c) be amended to delete reference to the *Policy Advisory Committee*.”

AMENDMENT CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****Proposed O - 8**

The Chairperson of the Board shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. As such, the Chairperson ~~of the Board is allowed, but not required, to vote~~ shall not be counted in arriving at quorum, or allowed to vote unless acting as a designated alternate for an absent Board member of the committee.

Proposed O – 8, as amended:

The Chairperson of the Board shall be an ex-officio member of all committees. As such, the Chairperson ~~of the Board is allowed, but not required, to vote~~ shall not be counted in arriving at quorum, or allowed to vote unless acting as a designated alternate.

CARRIED

Trustee Clark questioned the rationale for amending By-Law O – 8 and suggested that the proposed changes to the By-Law be further amended to reflect that the Chairperson of the Board shall be an ex-officio member of all committees and may act in the absence of a committee member who has not designated an alternate.

Brenda Stokes Verworn explained that the rationale for the proposed changes was to ensure that if the Chairperson of the Board visited part of a committee meeting in their ex-officio capacity, they were not compelled to stay for the whole meeting or be required to vote, unless they were attending as a designated alternate for an absent Trustee committee member.

Mover Gregg Dame accepted Trustee Clark's suggested amendment as a friendly amendment. Secunder Lynn Campbell did not accept Trustee Clark's suggested amendment as a friendly amendment.

Trustee Maves further suggested that the proposed changes to By-Law O – 8 be amended by deleting "**for an absent Board member of the committee**" from the last sentence.

Mover Gregg Dame, and secunder Lynn Campbell accepted Trustee Maves' suggested change as a friendly amendment to By-Law O – 8.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Prior to proceeding to discussion on the Rules of Order, Chair Fulford called for a vote on the amendments to the By-Laws listed in Appendix 2.

**Moved by Gregg Dame
Seconded by Lynn Campbell**

“That the recommended amendments to the By-Laws of the District School Board of Niagara as outlined on Appendix 2, specifically By-Laws G – 9; O – 7; and O – 8, as further amended, be approved with such amendments to take effect on November 30, 2010.”

CARRIED

RULES OF ORDER

Chair Fulford led the Trustees through the recommended changes to the Board’s Rules of Order listed in Appendix 2, as follows, and provided a brief rationale for the recommended changes.

Current Rule 42 – Motion to Reconsider

After a vote has been taken on any question (except one of indefinite postponement) such vote may, with the consent of two-thirds majority of the members present, provided that the members constitute a quorum, be reconsidered during the same meeting, or may be reconsidered (with the consent of a two-thirds majority of the members present) at any meeting held thereafter, provided any member shall give notice to that effect in writing at a previous regular meeting. A motion to reconsider, being once made after notice at a previous Board meeting and decided in the negative, shall not again be entertained during the current year or within a period of four months, whichever is the lesser, unless approved unanimously by a quorum of the Board.

Recommended Rule 42

A motion to reconsider can only be applied to defeated motions or motions that have failed. Any motion that has failed (except one of indefinite postponement) may be reconsidered at the same meeting without the need for prior notice, or at any meeting held thereafter provided any Board member shall give notice to that effect in writing at a previous meeting. A motion to reconsider is passed by a vote of at least two-thirds of the Board members present and voting. If the motion to reconsider fails, a motion to reconsider that same failed earlier main motion cannot again be entertained during the current calendar year or within a period of four (4) months from the failed motion to reconsider, whichever is the lesser, unless approved unanimously by the Board members present and Voting.

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Moved by Gregg Dame
Seconded by Lynn Campbell

“That the recommended amendments to Rule 42 be approved with such amendments to take effect on November 30, 2010.”

CARRIED

Recommended Rule 43

When a member has moved for reconsideration of any question which has been decided, no discussion of the main question shall be allowed until the motion for reconsideration has been decided. **A motion to reconsider is a two step process. The first step requires the Board members to vote on whether or not the motion in question should be reconsidered. If the motion to reconsider is adopted by a vote of at least two-thirds of the Board members present and voting, then the Board members proceed to the second step. The second step is to debate and vote again on the main question being considered. The vote on the main question must be passed by a majority vote of the Board members present and voting.**

CARRIED

Moved by Gregg Dame
Seconded by Lynn Campbell

“That the recommended amendments to Rule 43 be approved with such amendments to take effect on November 30, 2010.”

CARRIED

Trustee Gary Atamanyk suggested that requiring a two-thirds vote at the first step of a motion to reconsider may preclude the Board from hearing important additional information on an issue. Trustee Atamanyk suggested that the first step should only require a majority vote to proceed and the second step should require a two-thirds vote to carry.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

At Chair Fulford's request, Brenda Stokes Verworn reminded the Board that motions to reconsider are for defeated or failed motions, whereas, motions to rescind are for motions that have passed. Rules 42 and 43 clarify that motions for reconsideration are a two step process. Brenda Stokes Verworn added that, in consultation with outside legal counsel, it would be unusual to have a higher threshold of a two-thirds vote in favour at the second step when the main question originally only required a majority vote. Brenda Stokes Verworn added that the amendments to the current Rule 43 are for the purpose of clarifying that motions for reconsideration are a two step process. A brief discussion followed on whether or not the second step in the process should require a two-thirds vote on the main question.

Current Rule 44 - Motion to Rescind

No resolution of the Board shall be rescinded at any subsequent meeting unless a notice of motion to rescind is given and read at a prior meeting, but such notice may be dispensed with provided two-thirds of a quorum of the members vote in favour thereof.

Recommended Rule 44

Motions adopted by the Board can be rescinded at any subsequent meeting, provided a notice to this effect in writing is given at a previous meeting. A notice to rescind is adopted by a vote of at least two-thirds of the Board members present and voting.

CARRIED

**Moved by Gregg Dame
Seconded by Lynn Campbell**

“That the recommended amendments to Rule 44 be approved with such amendments to take effect on November 30, 2010.”

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****Recommended Rule 64 (New)****School Accommodation Reviews**

R - 64 In situations where the Board is considering closure of a school, the Board will endeavour to provide certainty and finality in its decision-making for the sake of the community and will not adopt conditional motions that prolong the uncertainty of the school's future or the outcome.

Trustee Marcy Heit suggested that Rule 64 be defeated, or, alternately that “for the sake of the community” be deleted from recommended Rule 64.

A discussion followed on precluding the Board from making conditional motions.

Trustee Dalton Clark suggested that the Rule be further amended to read, “*In situations where the Board is considering closure of a school, the Board will endeavour to provide certainty and finality in its decision-making.*”

Moved by Dalton Clark

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That recommended Rule 64 be amended to read, “*In situations where the Board is considering closure of a school, the Board will endeavour to provide certainty and finality in its decision-making.*”

AMENDMENT CARRIED

Recommended Rule 64, as amended, carried as an amended motion to take effect on November 30, 2010.

Recommended Rule 64, as amended:**School Accommodation Reviews**

R - 64 In situations where the Board is considering closure of a school, the Board will endeavour to provide certainty and finality in its decision-making.

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE****Recommended Rule 65 (New):**

R - 65 Delegations on school closures will not be permitted to address the Board on the same night a decision is scheduled to be made by the Board on whether or not a school will be closed. However, delegations will be permitted in accordance with the Board's Rules of Order (Rules 6 to 8) at prior meetings and/or heard at a Special Meeting of the Board held to receive community input on that specific issue.

CARRIED

Moved by Gregg Dame
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That recommended Rule 65 be approved to take effect on November 30, 2010.”

CARRIED

Trustees discussed the importance of providing the public with opportunities to address the Board on school closure issues.

N. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of and by Board members.

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

Trustee Don Love reported on the recent Central West Regional meeting, as follows:

- All Boards within the Central West Region were represented, including a number of newly elected Trustees; Catherine Fife and Lori Lukinuk also attended;
- Discussion took place on OPSBA promoting public education with the provincial New Democrat and Conservative parties, leading up to provincial elections;
- A template is being developed to assist Trustees with reporting to their respective Boards;
- Discussion took place on lobbying the government for relief from payment of HST;
- Numerous Boards have many newly elected Trustees.

NEW BUSINESS – continued:**ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION (OPSBA)**

Trustee Love also reported that he will attend the Director's meeting in Toronto on November 26/27, 2010. Mary Gordon, Founder and President of Roots of Empathy, will address the meeting.

Trustee Barbara Ness reminded the Board that OPSBA's annual Public Education Symposium will be held from January 27-29, 2011. Trustees will have an opportunity to participate in a School Board Governance Certification Program.

Trustee Lora Campbell thanked Trustee Love for acting as the Board's OPSBA delegate and for providing informative reports.

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

There was no Trustee Information Session.

2. Staff Reports**(a) Director's Report**

Director Hoshizaki reported the following:

- Kate S. Durdan Public School is participating in a Grade 3 boys' only classroom pilot program. Currently, there is a lot of discussion on gender learning across the province.
- Director Hoshizaki recently attended celebrations at Lincoln Centennial Public School to commemorate National Child Day (November 20th). Director Hoshizaki noted that the Niagara Region is the first region in Canada to institute a Charter of Rights for Children and Teens. The District School Board of Niagara is a community partner and supporter of the Charter of Rights.
- Newly elected and returning Trustees attended the Ministry of Education's recent Trustee Training session in London.
- David Sisler, Laura Secord Secondary School teacher, has been invited to take the 30-student choir to back up Kenny Rogers at an upcoming concert in Toronto.

Superintendent Hathaway confirmed for Trustee Heit that the parents of the Grade 3 boys were consulted prior to establishing the boys' only pilot classroom. The Grade 3 girls have been accommodated in a split class.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

3. Trustee Communications

- (a) Trustee Gary Atamanyk expressed his appreciation to the voters of Pelham/Thorold for providing him with the honour and privilege of serving students as a Trustee of the District School Board of Niagara.
- (b) Trustee Kevin Maves commended the departing Trustees for their contributions to public education and acknowledged them for their dedication, compassion, and leadership in their service to students and the Board.
- (c) Trustee Marcy Heit expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to serve students.
- (d) Chair Fulford expressed her appreciation to the Senior staff, Assistants, and her Trustee colleagues for their support, and for their dedication to students.

4. Correspondence and Communications

There was no correspondence and communications.

Q. FUTURE MEETINGS

The Revised Schedule of Meetings for December 2010 was provided.

Trustees were reminded that the calendar is available for viewing on the Trustee Calendar on the First Class Desktop of Trustee computers.

R. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Lynn Campbell
Seconded by Marcy Heit**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

ELIZABETH FULFORD, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer