DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together

THE MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE **November 9, 2010**
6:45 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. (Private Session)
7:30 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Liz Fulford (Chair), Lora Campbell, Lynn Campbell, Gregg Dame, Marcy Heit, Don Love, Kevin Maves

Student Trustees: James Gillespie, Clive Velkers

Regrets: Gary Atamanyk, Dalton Clark, Larry Lemelin, Barbara Ness

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Carol Germyn, Sue Greer, Cam Hathaway, Marilyn Hyatt, Sue Mark, Jim Morgan, Jane Roth, John Stainsby, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Peter Doan, 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 Gregg Dame
Seconded by Lora Campbell

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

CARRIED

Moved by Marcy Heit

"That the Board do now return to open meeting."

CARRIED

D. SINGING OF "O CANADA"

The Board stood as students from Glynn A. Green Public School sang "O Canada" and "In Flanders Field."

E. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Gregg Dame opened the meeting by introducing a video performance of "Standing Strong and True (for tomorrow) – A Benefit Song" in commemoration of Remembrance Day.

F. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Gregg Dame

"That the Agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

G. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Gregg Dame
Seconded by Lynn Campbell

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated October 26, 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 Lynn Campbell
Seconded by Marcy Heit

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

CARRIED

J. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

There was no educational showcasing or presentations.

K. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

L. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board Recess.

M. OLD BUSINESS

1. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE RETREAT

Moved by Gregg Dame
Seconded by Marcy Heit

"That the Report of the Student Trustee Senate Retreat dated October 27, 2010, be received."

CARRIED

Student Trustees James Gillespie and Clive Velkers provided a verbal summary of the report, as follows:

- There was good attendance with 16 of 20 schools represented.
- School based fundraising initiatives were discussed.
- Discussion continues for planning spring fundraising activities.
- Positive feedback was received on the retreat's Keynote speaker.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:

REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE RETREAT

- Alanna Smyth of Grimsby Secondary School was elected as the Education Foundation of Niagara representative.

Trustee Marcy Heit commended the students for their energy and enthusiasm at the retreat.

2. 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 November 2, 2010, be received and the recommendations adopted."

Educational Research Committee

"That the Program and Planning Committee approve the recommendations outlined in the report of the Educational Research Committee of October 25, 2010."

CARRIED

Trustee Marcy Heit provided a verbal summary of the report, noting the following:

- The Committee discussed the recommendations of the Educational Research Committee.
  - *Evaluating the Effects of CLIPS on At-Risk Populations*
  - *School Travel Planning*
  - *Niagara Senior Kindergarten Parent Survey*
  - *Working Together for Kids' Mental Health*

  It is anticipated that the studies will be beneficial in addressing the needs of students in Niagara.
- The Committee heard a presentation on School Travel Planning in Niagara.

3. VERBAL UPDATE ON THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE CONFERENCE

Trustee Gregg Dame provided a verbal report of the Parent Involvement Committee Conference which was held on November 3, 2010, at Eden High School. Trustee Dame noted that attendance almost doubled from last year to 195 participants who enjoyed a variety of informative workshops and Vendor booths. Sixty elementary schools and ten secondary schools were represented. Initial feedback from participants is that the conference was a successful event and that Eden High School was a great venue. Trustee Dame thanked Eden High School for hosting the conference and he also thanked Superintendent Mark and her Assistant, Gisele Tisi, for their role in making the conference a success.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:

4. REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Chair Fulford deferred the Report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee to the Board meeting of November 23, 2010, as only seven of eleven Trustees were present at the Board meeting. In accordance with the Board's By-Laws, any proposed amendment, alteration or addition to the Board's By-Laws and Rules of Order must be confirmed by a two-thirds vote of all the members of the Board.

N. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

No questions were asked of and by Board members.

O. NEW BUSINESS

1. ONTARIO PUBLIC SCHOOL BOARDS' ASSOCIATION (OPSBA)

Trustee Love reported that the Central West Regional Council will meet on Saturday, November 13, 2010, at the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board.

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:

- Jane Garrett-Peat, Teacher at South Lincoln High School, recently placed third in this year's edition of the *Saving Bannister Anthology* for her poem entitled "*Instinct*."
- Derek McDermott, former Department Head at Port Colborne High School, was this year's first place winner for his poem "*Queen of the Lakes*," which explores the rise and fall of the City of Buffalo.

Director Hoshizaki commended the teachers for their talents and accomplishments.

- Assistant Deputy Minister of Education, Jim Grieve, recently visited the Full Day Kindergarten program at Memorial Public School.
- The upcoming edition of Canadian Living magazine will feature Ridgeway Elementary School's greeting/Christmas card initiative.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

Staff Reports

(a) **Director's Report**

- Director Hoshizaki recognized former students who participated in the Board's Militia Co-op Program for their dedicated and courageous service in the Canadian Armed Forces. These former students are just some of our local Niagara Residents who have volunteered to serve Canada as part of our NATO contingent force.

  Steve Bell, Jared Braybrook, Dennis Brown, Frank Brown, Branden Honey, Nick Hoogendorn, Jay Hudson, Emily Ireland, Drew Neufeld, Sandy Perry, Mitch Seiler, Jeff Pettigrew

(b) **Board Improvement Plan**

Superintendent Cam Hathaway explained that the process of reviewing and modifying the existing Board Improvement Plan began in February 2010 and input was received from stakeholder groups, including the Ministry of Education. Superintendent Hathaway added that the Ministry of Education expects the Board Improvement Plan to be a dynamic document which will guide the work of schools, continue to enhance student learning, and build on existing, effective strategies and initiatives within the Board. The Board Improvement Plan will also be referenced by school administrators when developing their own individual School Growth Plans. Superintendent Hathaway noted that the document presents a concise focus on enhancing strategies for student achievement based on the Board's K-12 needs assessment. Superintendent Hathaway pointed out that EQAO results show improvements at the Primary, Junior and Secondary levels by English Language Learners, Special Education students, and boys. Credit accumulation in secondary schools also continues to rise. Superintendent Hathaway provided an overview of the Board Improvement Plan which will continue to focus on student literacy, numeracy, and student success. The Plan also identifies strategies and actions for teachers to enhance their knowledge and effectiveness of instructional practices to support student learning. Superintendent Hathaway commended all the members of the planning team for their role in bringing the Board Improvement Plan forward. Superintendent Hathaway thanked Kim Yielding, Manager of Communications and Public Relations, for designing the cover page.

Superintendent Hathaway confirmed that the Board Improvement Plan will be shared with the new Board of Trustees. Trustee Heit commended staff for their work in bringing forward a great document and she suggested that a glossary of terms be included as a reference.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

3. Trustee Communications

(a) Chair Liz Fulford reminded the Board that the Human Resources Department is hosting its Annual Pancake Breakfast on December 3, 2010. Proceeds will support the Board's Adopt-a-Family program. Chair Fulford added that the Silent Auction in support of the Adopt-a-Family program will also take place on December 3rd.

(b) Trustee Don Love thanked Kim Yielding, Manager of Communications and Public Relations, for providing stickers for the Board's Phone Directory to enable easy access to the Board's contact information. Trustee Love gave a reminder that (905) 563-0909 is a toll free number for residents in the West Lincoln/Grimsby area of the jurisdiction. Chair Fulford commended Kim Yielding for the quick response in addressing the concerns expressed by Trustee Love at the last Board meeting.

4. Correspondence and Communications

(a) Letter from Assistant Deputy Minister Gabriel Sékaly regarding appointment of Joan Green as facilitator of East Welland Accommodation Review.

(b) Letter from DSB Ontario Near North to the Minister of Education regarding Special Education services at the conterminous Board.

In response to Trustee Maves' suggestion, a letter will be sent to the Minister of Education expressing similar concerns in Niagara.

(c) Letter from Premier Dalton McGuinty regarding DSBNi Vietnam.

Q. FUTURE MEETINGS

The Revised Schedule of Meetings for November and 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 Lora Campbell

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

ELIZABETH FULFORD, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education and Secretary/Treasurer