



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together

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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

September 14, 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), Dalton Clark, Gregg Dame, Marcy Heit, Larry Lemelin, Don Love, Kevin Maves, Barbara Ness

Student

Trustees: James Gillespie, Clive Velkers

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, Doug Durant (present for public session)

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 7:59 p.m.

Chair Fulford welcomed Student Trustees James Gillespie (Port Colborne High School) and Clive Velkers (Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School) to their first meeting of the Board. Chair Fulford also welcomed the Brock University students who were attending as observers.

B. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

C. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Barb Ness
Seconded by Dalton Clark

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

CARRIED

Moved by Dalton Clark

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

CARRIED

D. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood and sang “O Canada” accompanied on video by Kendra Dyck, Eden High School.

E. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Lora Campbell opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

F. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Don Love
Seconded by Gary Atamanyk

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

G. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated June 22, 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 Dalton Clark

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

Staff Matters – Elementary
Staff Matters – Secondary
Staff Matters – Support Staff
Negotiations
Legal/Property Update
Human Resources

CARRIED

J. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

(a) DSBNi – Home Build in Vietnam

Superintendent Carol Germyn introduced the showcase.

Superintendent Germyn acknowledged the Board’s six year partnership with Habitat for Humanity which has provided students with the opportunity to develop construction skills and to learn the importance of connecting with communities and helping others, both locally and globally. The Board’s first international build was in El Salvador during the summer of 2009.

Students (Olufisayo Olodade, Sir Winston Churchill; Alexander Mills, Sir Winston Churchill; and Emily DeSilva Piques, Governor Simcoe) from the DSBNi / Habitat for Humanity International summer 2010 build in Vietnam highlighted their experiences and presented a short video. Alexander shared a letter from Prime Minister Stephen Harper commending the District School Board of Niagara and the students for their participation in the Vietnam build. DSBNi ambassador Mitchell Delle Monache presented Director Hoshizaki and Chair Fulford with a framed copy of Prime Minister Harper’s letter.

Kevin Johnston presented Director Hoshizaki and Chair Fulford with a print on behalf of the My Tho Vietnamese Front Fatherland Committee in appreciation of the Board’s participation in the build.

Emily DeSilva Piques introduced students who were presented with certifications of recognition for their participation in the summer 2010 Vietnam build. Emily thanked the Trustees and Board staff for supporting the project.

Chair Liz Fulford commended the students for their commitment and participation. On behalf of the Board Chair Fulford also expressed appreciation to the staff for their dedication to students and for bringing recognition to the Board.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS (continued):**DSBNi – Home Build in Vietnam**

The following secondary school students participated in the DSBNi – Habitat for Humanity Build:

Mitchell Delle Monache (E.L. Crossley), Emily DeSilva Piques (Governor Simcoe), Lyndsay Johnston (Port Colborne), Kevin Johnston (A.N. Myer), Ryan Kroeker (Eden), Alexander Mills (Sir Winston Churchill), Nancy Nguyen (Stamford), Olufisayo Olodade (Sir Winston Churchill), Michael Petrini (Laura Secord), Alanna Smyth (Grimsby), Curtis Stratford (Welland Centennial)

The following DSBN staff participated in the DSBNi – Habitat for Humanity Build:

Kevin Graham, Cairine Coulis-Brown, Mike Doyle, Carrie Thwaites, Colleen Fast, Jill Russell, Tyler Graham, Paul Brunet

Trustee Clark expressed his continued support for the international build program which benefits communities and provides students with life-changing experiences that inspire others.

(b) OMCA (Ontario Mathematics' Coordinators' Association) Award of Excellence

Superintendent Carol Germyn introduced the showcase by stating the OMCA Award of Excellence and Innovation recognizes educators who demonstrate an outstanding contribution to Mathematics education.

DSBN Consultant, Pat Milot, who received the Ontario Mathematics' Coordinators' Association (OMCA) Award of Excellence and Innovation, was recognized for her work on the Supporting Understanding in Mathematics (SUM) program. John Dickson, System Administrator, described Pat Milot as a dedicated and passionate Math Consultant who is well respected locally and provincially for her contributions to Mathematics education.

In recognition of her outstanding accomplishments and contributions to Mathematics education, Director Hoshizaki presented Pat Milot with a certificate of recognition for receiving the OMCA Award of Excellence and Innovation.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Fulford congratulated Pat Milot and thanked her for her dedication and passion on behalf of students.

Pat Milot thanked the Board for its leadership and for supporting provincially recognized programs and initiatives that benefit students.

K. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

L. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board Recess.

M. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

Moved by Barb Ness

Seconded by Dalton Clark

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 0725 to 0737 for the month of June 2010 totalling \$17,670,939.48 be received.”

CARRIED

Moved by Gary Atamanyk

Seconded by Dalton Clark

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 0738 to 0745 for the month of July 2010 totalling \$12,678,179.42 be received.”

CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (PIC)

Moved by Gregg Dame

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated September 8, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Gregg Dame provided verbal highlights of the report as follows:

- Kevin Graham, Technology Consultant, provided information on the Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) program;
- Lisa Barnes and Diane Chase have agreed to act as Co-Chairs of the Parent Involvement Committee;
- An update was provided on the planning for the Fall Conference;
- An update was provided on the Board's efforts to address Special Education funding issues;
- Concern was expressed regarding representation on the Committee and an amendment was suggested so that representatives would not be identified by area;
- The Ministry's new parental engagement policy and regulation were reviewed;
- IBM has donated 15 computers through the Education Foundation of Niagara to JK and K programs across the Region;

OLD BUSINESS (continued):**REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (PIC)**

- The Committee recognized the achievements and contributions of Port Colborne High School teacher Chris Cairns who passed away in August 2010;
- Next meeting is October 6, 2010, at A.K. Wigg Public School.

Chair Fulford added that the Education Foundation of Niagara has received a donation of another computer for a total of 16.

N. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

- (a) Trustee Gary Atamanyk asked if Trustees can be provided with access to the Niagara Student Transportation Services' (NSTS) secure website to research bus routes and pickup times in order to respond to community concerns. Superintendent Kartasinski replied that the NSTS website is accessible by everyone but information specific to named children is secure for safety reasons.

At Chair Fulford's request, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, commented on Trustee Atamanyk's request. Brenda Stokes Verworn indicated that Ontario's Information and Privacy Commission has reviewed this issue globally and it has stated that individual student bus routes and pickup times must be secure to ensure the safety of students. Brenda Stokes Verworn reminded Trustees that last year they were asked to forward bussing inquiries to NSTS for a response.

Superintendent Kartasinski added that Trustees can direct their inquiries to her attention and she will forward them to NSTS for a response.

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

Trustee Don Love noted that the Board's membership fee in OPSBA for 2010-2011 is \$82,434.63 (inclusive of HST). Trustee Love pointed out that the fee is less than the 2009-2010 year due to declining enrolment, and that OPSBA has not increased its budget for the 2010-2011 year. Trustee Love added that OPSBA has outlined the benefits and value of membership in OPSBA.

Trustee Love reported that the Board of Directors will meet in Toronto at the end of September 2010 and that the District School Board of Niagara will host the upcoming Central West Regional meeting.

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:

- John Bryant, former Superintendent at Upper Grand DSB, has been appointed Director of the Bluewater District School Board.
- The beautifully renovated facilities at St. Davids Public School were completed and ready for the start of school.
- Board staff met today with community partners in Project Connect to discuss moving the project forward. A report will be brought forward at a future meeting of the Program and Planning Committee. The following community partners are represented in Project Connect.
 - Brock University
 - Community Care, St. Catharines
 - Niagara College
 - Niagara Region Health Department
 - Niagara Region Community Services
 - YMCA

Chair Fulford reported that a number of Boards have adopted DSBN's successful school year kick off initiative event and Director Hoshizaki was contacted for input following the Board's September 2009 successful event at Brock University.

(b) Verbal Update on Crowland Central Public School Appeal of the Accommodation Review

Superintendent Linda Kartasinski provided a verbal update on the Crowland Central Public School Appeal of the Accommodation Review. Superintendent Kartasinski reported that the Board received a notice of appeal on July 20, 2010, and a written response was submitted to the Ministry of Education on August 4, 2010. Staff are waiting to hear from the Ministry as to whether a facilitator will be appointed to conduct a review. Trustees will be kept informed.

(c) 2010 School Construction Projects Update

Superintendent Jane Roth provided an update on a number of 2010 school construction projects. Superintendent Roth commended Facility Services, particularly Doug Durant and Colin Munro and their staff, for ensuring that projects scheduled for completion for the start of school were ready, including the John Marshall Public School open concept renovations and renovations of E.L. Secondary School's Special Needs rooms. Superintendent Roth noted that construction of the new Crossroads Public School is on target for a September

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS (continued):**2010 School Construction Projects Update**

2011 opening. Superintendent Roth pointed out that although soil conditions at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School caused a two week delay of the cafeteria addition, construction is well under way and it is expected that construction and upgrades will be completed in 3 phases between March and August 2011. Superintendent Roth noted that a variety of electrical and mechanical projects have been completed, portables have been relocated, and that open concept renovations will continue at a number of schools in 2010-2011.

Doug Durant confirmed for Chair Fulford that eight surplus portables have been sold and there are approximately 45 remaining.

Doug Durant explained for Trustee Love that holes are drilled at every construction site to ensure that the soil is suitable. Sir Winston Churchill was an extraordinary situation in that the soft areas were between the bore holes.

Trustee Gary Atamanyk asked if the construction costs at Sir Winston Churchill are within the approved budget. Doug Durant replied that it is anticipated the contingency allowance provided for in the budget will cover the additional costs related to the bad soil conditions. Costs associated with the soil conditions will be made available when they are received.

Student Trustee James Gillespie added that the construction at Sir Winston is going well.

(d) Verbal Update on Early Learning Numbers

Superintendent Jim Morgan reported that the actual early learning enrolment as of September 13, 2010, is 681 students in 26 classes at the 11 schools participating in early learning. The Board's projected enrolment for September 2010 was 644 students.

Superintendent Carol Germyn reminded the Board that registration for full day early learning is an optional choice and that the Ministry's ELP year one funding is based on 650 students in 25 classes. Each class is staffed by a full time teacher and one Early Childhood Educator. Superintendent Germyn informed the Board that Senator Gibson Public School's actual enrolment of 112 students exceeded the projected enrolment of 88 and it was necessary to add one additional class at that school. Superintendent Germyn commended Superintendents Hyatt and Morgan for ensuring that additional staff was in place for school opening and that the student/staff ratio was resolved. Superintendent Germyn pointed out that the Ministry's guidelines provide for 26 children in every class with a 13-1 student/staff ratio. Most classes in the 11 schools are within the compliance range. Superintendent Germyn also reminded Trustees that the Ministry of Education's guidelines do not provide for an early learning program and a full day kindergarten program in the same school. Superintendent Germyn explained that Director Hoshizaki authorized the addition of the fourth class at

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS (continued):**Verbal Update on Early Learning Numbers**

Senator Gibson to provide equity of opportunity for all families at Senator Gibson. The Board will be responsible for the costs associated with adding the fourth class. Enrolment at all 11 sites will be monitored over the next week as part of the elementary staffing process and the Ministry of Education continues to watch the numbers provincially.

Trustee Marcy Heit expressed her concern that enrolment at Westdale Elementary School is too high and she asked what the Ministry of Education's basis was for establishing class size and ratio and how the Ministry will address enrolment that exceeds class size. Superintendent Germyn replied that the Ministry is very aware of the enrolment figures and will continue to monitor areas in the province where the numbers are higher than projected. Superintendent Germyn added that the Board has kept the Ministry of Education informed of its enrolment numbers, including at Westdale Elementary School.

Trustee Heit added that the enrolment at Westdale Elementary School presents a safety issue for students and that the problem cannot be addressed by only making additional classroom space available to accommodate the students. Trustee Heit indicated that she is not prepared to put the safety of children at risk due to the student/staff ratio resulting from the larger enrolment and she suggested that the Board has the option of increasing Board funding to establish and staff another class or withdraw the program. Trustee Heit acknowledged the importance of early learning opportunities and the Ministry's role in providing sufficient funding. Trustee Heit expressed her support for allocating Board funding to staff another class at Westdale Elementary School.

Trustee Clark agreed that the supervision and safety issues due to increased enrolment are a concern and that the Board is responsible for addressing those concerns. Trustee Clark agreed that the Board should alleviate the problem at Westdale Elementary School by allocating funds to assign additional staff. Trustee Clark also agreed that the Ministry has a responsibility to review its funding of the early learning program.

Trustees agreed that the safety issues at Westdale should be addressed. A discussion followed on whether a proposed motion should allow staff the flexibility to establish another early learning program or another full day kindergarten class at Westdale Elementary School. Staffing options were also discussed. Trustees were reminded that the Ministry directs that an early learning program and a kindergarten class cannot be operated at the same school. Trustees were also reminded that the Ministry's current ELP funding for the Board is for 650 students in 25 classes and that there are also other schools with class sizes close to 30. Superintendent Morgan responded to a request for the costs associated with assigning additional staff by stating the cost for a teacher is approximately \$85,000 and the cost for an Early Childhood Educator is approximately \$40,000.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS (continued):**Verbal Update on Early Learning Numbers**

Director Hoshizaki pointed out there are other sites with class enrolment of 28/29 students. Director Hoshizaki asked for clarification if the Board is suggesting that only the Westdale situation be addressed at this time. Trustees replied that the Westdale situation makes an excellent case to address the staffing ratio and funding levels with the Ministry.

Moved by Dalton Clark

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That staff be directed to establish another Early Learning Program class at Westdale Elementary School to address the current enrolment issue in the school’s ELP program.”

CARRIED

Trustee Lemelin noted that it was reported the Director made a final decision on the Senator Gibson situation. Trustee Lemelin reminded Trustees that the Board has final decision making authority and prior to making final decisions the Director should be encouraged to inform Trustees and give them the opportunity to provide input. Chair Fulford commended the Director for taking the initiative to address the Senator Gibson situation in a timely manner.

Superintendent Hyatt confirmed that the fourth class at Senator Gibson is open and operating. Superintendent Hyatt commended staff in Area 3 for their prompt action in responding and ensuring that the class was ready for the start of school.

Superintendent Germyn confirmed for Chair Fulford that a supply Early Childhood Educator has not been assigned to Senator Gibson Public School, however, there are 11 ECE’s on the supply list and the staffing issue will be addressed shortly.

Superintendent Morgan confirmed for Trustee Heit that staffing options for the additional class at Westdale Elementary School will be discussed to ensure that staff are assigned as quickly as possible. Director Hoshizaki added that parents will be contacted and staff will be assigned within days. The Communications Department will assist in drafting correspondence to parents. Chair Fulford commended staff for their work in addressing this situation and she asked that Trustees be kept informed.

3. Trustee Communications

- (a) Trustee Barb Ness asked that the Student Trustees be provided with silver DSBN pins.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS (continued):**4. Correspondence and Communications**

- (a) Correspondence received from Premier Dalton McGuinty to Chair Liz Fulford in appreciation of DSBN feedback on the implementation of full-day learning.
- (b) Correspondence from Toronto DSB regarding changes to data gathering from Statistics Canada.
- (c) Request from CUPE Local 4156 to endorse a day of recognition and celebrate the work of Early Childhood Educators and Child Care Staff in our communities.

**Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Kevin Maves**

“That October 27, 2010, be designated the 10th Annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day” in recognition of the education, dedication and commitment of Child Care Workers and Early Childhood Educators to children, their families and quality of life of the community.”

CARRIED

Chair Fulford noted that the Communications Department will draft communications in recognition of the 10th Annual Child Care Worker and Early Childhood Educator Appreciation Day.

Q. FUTURE MEETINGS

The Schedule of Meetings for September 2010 was amended to show an early release time of 12:00 noon on September 24th.

R. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Barb Ness
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:32 p.m.

