



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together

THE MINUTES OF THE
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

September 28, 2010

6:00 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, Marcy Heit, Larry Lemelin (present for Public Session), Don Love, Kevin Maves, Barbara Ness

Student

Trustees: James Gillespie, Clive Velkers

Regrets: Gregg Dame

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

A. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Liz Fulford called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:35 p.m.

Chair Liz Fulford welcomed students from Brock University who were attending as observers in the gallery.

Chair Fulford also welcomed Lynne Irvine, School Education Director, from New South Wales, Australia, who is visiting as part of the Leading Educators Around the Planet (L.E.A.P.) exchange with DSBN Superintendent of Schools, Marilyn Hyatt.

B. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

C. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“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 and sang “O Canada” accompanied by staff from Stamford Collegiate; Vocalist Kate Shepherd (Teacher), Vocalist Sylvie Thomas (Custodian), and Guitarist Paul Taylor (Teacher).

E. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Gary Atamanyk opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

F. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Lynn Campbell
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

G. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Don Love

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated September 14, 2010, be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

H. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

Superintendent Hyatt reported that as directed by the Board at its meeting of September 14, 2010, the additional Early Learning Program class at Westdale Elementary School was staffed and operating on September 16th. There are approximately 22 students in each class.

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

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Gary Atamanyk

“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

Director Hoshizaki reported that Superintendent Linda Kartasinski’s resignation for retirement purposes effective November 30, 2010, was accepted by the Board in Committee of the Whole (Private Session). Director Hoshizaki commended Superintendent Kartasinski for her 29 years of service devoted to student learning in Niagara in a variety of roles. Director Hoshizaki recognized Superintendent Kartasinski for her high level of integrity and trust, her exceptional facilitating skills at all levels, and for her outstanding depth and knowledge of educational issues and commitment to student learning.

J. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**Summer H.E.A.T. (Helping Everyone Achieve Together)**

Superintendent Carol Germyn introduced the showcase. Administrators of the program, Jennifer Tye, Simon Hancox and Shelley Fehrman, along with Summer H.E.A.T. Teacher Lindsay Parravicino updated the Board on the 2010 program which was supported by the District School Board of Niagara and through grants from LNS, CODE and the Niagara Prosperity Initiative.

Principal Tye explained that the goal of the program, which has expanded to eight school sites, is to provide early intervention for students entering JK. Students engaged in literacy and numeracy activities in a camp style learning environment over a four week period. Daily physical activities were a highlight each morning. The program also provided a nutrition program which focused on healthy eating.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Summer H.E.A.T. (Helping Everyone Achieve Together)**

The Board viewed a video of highlights of Summer H.E.A.T. 2010.

Teacher Lindsay Parravicino spoke on the program's positive impact on students and parents over the last two years which contributed to enhanced student learning when students started school.

Principal Simon Hancox highlighted the experiential learning and parent engagement components of the program.

Principal Shelley Fehrman highlighted the literacy (home reading) component of the program, which had an 82% participation rate, and the success of the lending library.

Principal Tye noted that staff are currently analyzing data to determine the success of the program on improving literacy and numeracy skills and student learning. Feedback from parent surveys was positive. Principal Tye thanked the Trustees for supporting the Summer H.E.A.T. program. Principal Tye confirmed for Trustee Heit that student learning will be tracked for 4-5 years to analyze how the program correlates with EQAO results.

Trustees acknowledged the value of the program on student learning. Principal Tye confirmed for Trustee Heit that a number of community funding sources are being considered in order to maintain the program.

Chair Fulford commended staff for their commitment in organizing and staffing the program.

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 Gary Atamanyk

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 0746 to 0766 for the month of August 2010 totalling \$17,704,840.17 be received.”

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**2. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)**

**Moved by Don Love
Seconded by Barbara Ness**

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated September 9, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Don Love provided highlights of the report as follows:

- Sandy Motz was elected as SEAC Chair, and Selby Harris was elected as Vice-Chair;
- Superintendent Carol Germyn provided an overview of the structure, purpose and focus, and role of the Special Education Advisory Committee;
- Superintendent Germyn reported that a meeting will take place with the Ministry on October 6 to address the issue of special education funding; Selby Harris will represent the SEAC Committee at the meeting;
- The Committee members were provided with a copy of the resource book “Caring and Safe Schools in Ontario;” the publication which is also available on the Ministry of Education’s website at www.edu.gov.on.ca is an excellent resource and it will be provided to school administrators;
- A schedule has been set to conduct a review of the Special Education Report during the 2010-2011 school year.

3. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated September 28, 2010, be received and the recommendation adopted.”

Solar Photovoltaic System Project at Crossroads Public School

“That the Solar Photovoltaic System at Crossroads Public School be approved at a cost of \$962,476.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dalton Clark reported that the Committee received the report on the Solar Photovoltaic System Project at Crossroads Public School. The goal of the project, which received final approval from the Ministry of Education, is to convert solar energy into electricity that will be sold into the provincial electricity grid. Annual revenue to the Board will be approximately \$60,000. Trustee Clark added that the project is fully funded by the Ministry and it will be monitored for broader applications of the system that

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

may have provincial benefits. Trustee Clark noted that construction of the new school is proceeding on schedule and should be complete for September 2011.

4. REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

**Moved by Lynn Campbell
Seconded by Larry Lemelin**

“That the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated June 17, 2010, be received.”

CARRIED

Chair Liz Fulford reported that the Committee discussed issues such as the Order of Business; length of Committee terms; Trustee roles as observers at Committee meetings which they are not assigned to; and proposed wording to clarify motions to rescind and motions to reconsider. The Committee will be bringing forward recommendations for changes to the By-Laws and Rules of Order in the near future. The Committee also discussed the future structure and format of the Policy Advisory Committee. On the topic of a Trustee code of conduct, the Committee identified a number of issues that either the Board or the Ministry of Education will need to address and concerns were submitted to the Ministry in response to their request for feedback.

Trustee Dalton Clark asked for clarification on the length of the term of the Chair and Vice-Chair of various Standing and Statutory Committees. Chair Fulford indicated that this will be discussed at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee.

Trustee Marcy Heit asked for clarification on the intent of amendments to By-Law O-7. Chair Fulford explained that the intent is that only the votes of the official Committee members will be counted and any other votes, for or against, will be noted for information only. Further discussion will take place at the Ad Hoc Governance Committee to ensure that the intent of By-Law O-7 is clear.

Trustee Marcy Heit asked for clarification on By-Law O-8, specifically with respect to the vote of the Chairperson of the Board if in attendance at a Committee meeting. Brenda Stokes Verworn pointed out that the wording of By-Law O-8 as noted in the minutes is the current language. Chair Fulford indicated that discussion will take place at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee as to whether By-Law O-8 should be amended for clarity.

Trustee Dalton Clark suggested that upcoming Board meeting and Committee meeting agendas should be posted on the Board’s external website for access by the public.

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

Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, pointed out that By-Law G-9 currently provides for making the Board agenda available. By-Law G-9 currently states: *“The Board agenda, together with support material, exclusive of matters to be considered in Committee of the Whole - Private Session, shall be made available to media representatives, presidents of staff unions, federation representatives, and other persons so designated by the Board.”* Brenda Stokes Verworn suggested that it would be a professional courtesy to post the Board agenda on Monday to ensure that Trustees receive their Friday Board agenda package in the courier prior to the public having electronic access to the agenda.

There were no objections raised by Trustees to posting the Board meeting and Committee meeting agendas on the website and Chair Fulford indicated that discussion regarding this suggestion will take place at the next meeting of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee.

N. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

- (a) Trustee Marcy Heit asked for an update on the status of the elementary school athletic convenor.

Superintendent Carol Germyn replied that staff are waiting for a decision from the current elementary school athletic convenor whether he will continue in that role. In the meantime, plans are in place to ensure that someone will be available to assume the responsibilities so that organized sporting activities and tournament play will continue.

- (b) Trustee Gary Atamanyk asked if late buses are available to allow bussed students at E.L. Crossley Secondary to participate in extracurricular activities if they are not able to provide their own transportation.

Superintendent Linda Kartasinski replied that late bussing is only available to students who reside in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Chair Fulford reminded the Trustees that this practice reflects a policy decision previously made by the Board and it is consistent for all families across the Region.

Trustee Gary Atamanyk suggested that the policy should be reviewed to ensure that students have the opportunity to participate in extracurricular activities which are an important learning and educational experience for students. Chair Fulford stated that the policy will be reviewed when it is regularly scheduled for review or if new legislation is introduced that would require an earlier review.

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

Trustee Don Love reported that the Central West Regional OPSBA meeting scheduled to be hosted by the DSBN on Saturday, October 2, 2010, has been postponed until November.

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

There was no Trustee Information Session.

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

Director Hoshizaki reported that two DSBN teachers have received Awards from the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario.

- Jacqueline Kelly, a teacher at Central Public School, received the ETFO Provincial Annual Writer's Award for her manuscript, Boiling Point. The Award recognizes Jacqueline Kelly's significant contribution to education and to the teaching profession. The manuscript is a story about the environmental effects of the Alberta Tar Sands project on surrounding First Nations communities.
- Todd Rimmington, teacher and Vice-President of the ETFO Niagara local, received the ETFO Provincial Annual Newsletter Editor's Award for his excellence and expertise in creating an informative and attractive publication.

Chair Fulford congratulated the teachers on behalf of the Board.

(b) Transition of Niagara District Secondary School Students – Update Report

Superintendent John Stainsby summarized the "Update of NDSS Transition Planning."

- The statistics summarizing the transfer of Grade 8 students is consistent with past trends.
- Commencing in September 2011 current Grade 8 students residing in Niagara-on-the-Lake will have the option of attending either A.N. Myer Secondary School or Laura Secord Secondary School, unless they have siblings attending other schools.
- The number of Grades 9 to 11 students transferring from NDSS as at September 2010 is consistent with the numbers projected in June 2010.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**Transition of Niagara District Secondary School Students – Update Report**

- Every Grade 9 and 10 student at Governor Simcoe has their own locker; some senior students are sharing to ensure that the 969 students have access to 940 available lockers.
- Staff at the receiving schools were commended for welcoming the students and families from NDSS.
- Some existing bus routes and bus times were amended due to the transfer of 11 students.
- A late bus has been scheduled out of St. Catharines and Niagara Falls so that students residing in Niagara-on-the-Lake can participate in extracurricular activities. Bus times may be amended as the sports seasons change.

Superintendent Stainsby confirmed for Trustee Heit that the decision to allow students to attend either A.N. Myer Secondary School or Laura Secord Secondary commencing September 2011 was made last school year through the planning process, which subsequently came to the Board for approval. Superintendent Kartasinski confirmed for Trustee Heit that the information came forward through the Transition Planning Report which was developed by a transition planning team. Superintendent Stainsby clarified for Trustee Heit that the transition planning team last met on March 9, 2010, as an entire community. Since then many things continued to happen through subcommittees and small group work. Some parents have joined School Councils at the receiving schools.

Superintendent Stainsby also clarified for Trustee Heit that the late bussing needs and transportation issues for the students residing in Niagara-on-the-Lake will continue to be monitored throughout the school year.

Trustee Lynn Campbell added that out of 177 students residing in Niagara-on-the-Lake only four bussing issues were brought to her attention by parents and three have been successfully addressed to date. Vice-Chair Lynn Campbell expressed her appreciation for the warm welcome that has been extended to the students from NDSS.

3. Trustee Communications

- (a) Trustee Lynn Campbell reported that she recently attended an open house where she advocated for a regional transit service which would facilitate opportunities for students to participate in after school activities.
- (b) On behalf of the Board, Chair Liz Fulford commended Director Hoshizaki for being the recipient of the Canadian Association of School Administrators' EXL Award for Exemplary Leadership in Education. The nomination for the Award was made by CODE (Council of Ontario Directors of Education) and supported by this Board. The Award recognizes Director Hoshizaki's exemplary leadership,

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

his role modeling, and his contributions to education that have brought honour to himself and this Board, his colleagues, and the profession. Chair Fulford commended Director Hoshizaki for his ability to build capacity and for his decision making that considers the impact on students.

- (c) Trustee Lora Campbell reported that the Education Foundation of Niagara has received a letter of gratitude for its support of children. Specifically, the Education Foundation of Niagara partnered with Walmart to provide students with gift cards for shoes. The campaign put smiles on the students' faces and contributed to building their self esteem.
- (d) Trustee Lora Campbell gave a reminder of the "Make Change for Children" initiative which will take place from February 21-25, 2011.
- (e) Trustee Lora Campbell reported that volunteers from Home Depot recently refurbished the sports field at E.I. McCulley Public School. Members of Team Depot, Home Depot's associate volunteer program, and staff volunteers worked many hours to ensure that the students have a place to play and exercise for years to come. Members of Team Depot also volunteered their time to do crafts with students. Trustee Lora Campbell commended Home Depot and all community partners for their dedication to students throughout the Board.
- (f) Trustee Gary Atamanyk reported that he will be attending the National School Boards Association's Technology in Education conference in Phoenix. Trustee Atamanyk asked for a volunteer to attend Board Committee meetings on October 19 and October 20, on his behalf.
- (g) Trustee Lynn Campbell reported that she attended St. Davids Public School's recent open house. It was exciting to see the enthusiasm of parents, staff and students in the newly renovated and expanded facilities.

4. Correspondence and Communications

There was no correspondence and communications.

Q. FUTURE MEETINGS

The Schedule of Meetings for October 2010 was reviewed. Chair Fulford noted that meeting schedule updates are available on the Board's website.

Trustee Barbara Ness gave a reminder of the upcoming Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Conference on Wednesday, November 3, 2010. Registration for workshops will be available soon.

R. **ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Dalton Clark**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

ELIZABETH FULFORD, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer