



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
Achieving Success Together

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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

February 22, 2011

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

7:30 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Kevin Maves (Chair), Sue Barnett, Alex Bradnam, Dalton Clark, Jonathan Fast, Ed Fulford, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel, Cheryl Scott

Student Trustees: James Gillespie, Clive Velkers

Regrets: Lora Campbell

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), John Dickson, Carol Germyn, Sue Greer, Cam Hathaway, Marilyn Hyatt, Sue Mark, Jim Morgan, John Stainsby, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Peter Doan, Brett Sweeney (present for Public Session), Kim Yielding, Rick Werezak, Marian Lamb, Karen Bellamy

Recording Secretary: Irene Foster

Technical Support: Ezeldin Ebadalla

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent

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

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Ed Fulford

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

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

CARRIED

Moved by Ed Fulford

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

CARRIED

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

Students from Prince of Wales Public School (Thorold) sang “O Canada” under the direction of Teacher Laurie Benson.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Dalton Clark opened the meeting with a reading of Psalm 23, The Lord is My Shepherd.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Dave Schaubel

Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Sue Barnett

Seconded by Cheryl Scott

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 8, 2011, be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD - continued:**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole (Private Session)

Moved by Dale Robinson

Seconded by Barbara Ness

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

CARRIED

Chair Maves reported that in Committee of the Whole (Private Session) the Board accepted the following retirements.

Richard Rossi, Elementary School Principal

Gail Ragetlie, Senior Business Clerk (Community Use of Schools)

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Richard Rossi and Gail Ragetlie for their many years of service to the Board and students and he wished them well in their retirement.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Orff Ensemble**

Superintendent John Dickson introduced the showcase. Principal Janice Agnew and Vice-Principal Rob Game introduced the members of Oakridge Public School's Orff Ensemble. Principal Agnew explained that the Orff approach to music emphasizes the teaching-learning process and involves imitation, exploration and improvisation which leads to sensitivity, flexibility and capability in music making. The mediums used for teaching with an Orff approach include speech, singing, body percussion, movement and instruments.

Oakridge Public School presented its first extra-curricular Orff Ensemble, “Hear Comes Treble.” The students performed their rendition of “I Gotta Brain,” followed by “Street Song,” under the direction of Music Teacher Tean King.

Chair Maves thanked the students for sharing their talents.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**2. Klaus Woerner Skilled Trades Hall of Fame**

Superintendent Carol Germyn introduced the showcase. Superintendent Germyn explained that the late Klaus Woerner was a gifted entrepreneur and businessman who was the founder and CEO of Automation Tooling Systems (ATS). This award in his honour recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to the advancement of skilled trades and technologies. Many students have benefitted from his innovation and forward thinking. Superintendent Germyn noted that it is rare that a teacher is awarded this honour. Superintendent Germyn announced that Kevin Graham, Technology Curriculum, Experiential Learning and Special Projects Coordinator, is the recipient of this award in recognition of his outstanding and innovative leadership in technical education and for his numerous contributions to students and this Board.

On behalf of the Board, Director Hoshizaki and Chair Maves presented Kevin Graham with a certificate in recognition of his outstanding contributions to students and technical education.

Trustees commended Kevin Graham for his leadership, his innovative and forward thinking for the benefit of students and for bringing provincial recognition to the Board for its leadership in technical education.

3. Lincoln Fabrics Ltd. Teachers Award

Director Hoshizaki announced that Principal Patrice Johnson (Empire Public School) is this year's DSBN recipient of the Lincoln Fabrics Ltd. Annual Teachers Award. Principal Johnson was presented with the award at the recent Business Education Council of Niagara's Annual Partners Breakfast. The award recognizes educators who best demonstrate a responsible role in the achievement of school-community collaboration. Director Hoshizaki noted that Principal Johnson was recognized for developing a collaborative partnership between all schools in East Welland and a variety of community agencies.

On behalf of the Board, Director Hoshizaki and Chair Maves presented Principal Johnson with a certificate in recognition of her outstanding contributions to students and the community.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves and Vice-Chair Robinson thanked Principal Johnson for her determination and dedication to students and for bringing honour to the Board.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**4. Niagara Regional Police Service – School Resource Officers**

Superintendent John Stainsby introduced the showcase. Superintendent Stainsby explained that the School Resource Officers program began in Niagara Falls as a pilot program. The partnership with the Niagara Regional Police Service (NRP) is welcome and beneficial to students, families and schools.

Niagara Regional Police Service Superintendent Scott and Constable Weadick outlined the School Resource Officer program. Superintendent Scott indicated that the NRP is pleased to participate in this program and is pleased to announce the expansion of the program into St. Catharines and Thorold. The partnership with the School Board provides opportunities to proactively address issues in schools on a daily basis. The program is a cost effective community policing model and it is viewed as a first line of prevention resulting in fewer criminal behaviours in schools, increased safety, and also serves to break barriers that can exist between youth and law enforcement by providing an opportunity to build positive relationships between students and the police. In addition to investigating criminal matters at schools, the School Resource Officers support students and schools with a collaborative approach by providing guidance and direction to students, parents and teachers on a variety of issues, presenting information to students and parents at school assemblies and parent group meetings, interpreting the law, assisting in protecting students, staff and schools in accordance with their duties as a police officer, building positive relationships with students, and enhancing the image of the Niagara Regional Police Service. Constable Weadick noted that the success of the program and positive outcomes for students is also attributed to the positive relationship between the School Resource Officer and school staff. Constable Weadick commended school staff for creating a welcoming and supportive environment.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Superintendent Scott and Constable Weadick for sharing information on this partnership that is valued by the Board.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS**1. Report on Board Improvement Plan**

Superintendent Cam Hathaway presented a report on the Board Improvement Plan. Superintendent Hathaway reminded the Board that Board improvement planning is a collaborative effort between School Boards and the Ministry of Education. The focus of this year's second of three visits with the Ministry was to monitor our Board's progress in addressing the initiatives and goals set out within our Plan. Superintendent Hathaway summarized the elements of the Plan that were the focus of discussion, which included the impact of our Plan on student achievement, and helping staff to develop a clearer understanding of the complexity of aligning Ministry directives with the Board's Improvement Plan and School Improvement Plans. Discussion also took place on the progress and effectiveness on student learning and achievement of a number of initiatives set out in the Board Improvement Plan, including:

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS – continued:**Report on Board Improvement Plan**

- establishment of Literacy Coaches/Leads in schools and its ongoing evolution into Instructional Coaches/Leads;
- the inclusion of Instructional Coaches in 12 of our secondary schools and S.U.M. (Supporting Understanding in Math) teachers in 27 of our elementary schools;
- the establishment of a Grade 9 Math Coaching Project designed to increase Applied and Academic EQAO math results and pass rates;
- a re-engagement initiative to address the Ministry's focus to re-engage those secondary school students who have left school without completing the requirements for a diploma;
- the establishment of Principal Network Learning Communities (NLC's), under the guidance and direct involvement of O.I.S.E.'s Steven Katz;
- the expanded Summer H.E.A.T. programs for elementary school students;
- Board-wide formative assessment of student learning in the form of EQAO practice tests;
- differentiation for English Language Learners, Special Education students, and Aboriginal students.

Superintendent Hathaway added that school Administrators and Senior Staff continue to monitor the efficient and effective deployment of the Board's resources through a variety of means to enhance student learning and achievement. The third and final meeting with Ministry officials this school year will take place in May 2011.

2. Verbal Report on DSBN Academy

Superintendent John Stainsby presented a report on the DSBN Academy. Superintendent Stainsby acknowledged and thanked everyone who provided feedback on the DSBN Academy and he indicated this information has been helpful in the planning process. Superintendent Stainsby provided an update on recent DSBN Academy activities, which included hosting 19 information and question/answer sessions at elementary schools throughout the region for parents of Grades 5 and 6 students. The sessions also provided parents and families with information to determine whether or not they feel this opportunity would be good for their family. Feedback provided by parents and families will continue to assist staff in the implementation of this strategy. Superintendent Stainsby emphasized that attending the DSBN Academy is a voluntary and personal choice for families. Families who determine that this strategy does not fit with their needs will continue to be well served at their local school. Superintendent Stainsby reminded the Board that the purpose of the DSBN Academy is to provide a culture of success that surrounds students and reinforces in them that they are qualified and capable to attend and graduate from post-secondary school. This program will provide an opportunity for students to become the first in their families to graduate from College or

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS – continued:**Verbal Report on DSBN Academy**

University and increase their potential for future prosperity. Superintendent Stainsby explained that this program is intentional, well researched, and focused and it provides a strategy that removes barriers for students and their families and it supports students at risk. Superintendent Stainsby added that this is not the only strategy to support students. Schools will continue to provide supports for all students in many different ways to meet their complex needs.

Superintendent Stainsby provided a chronological summary of the development of the DSBN Academy (which began in December 2009 as Project Connect) and a chronology of updates and reports to stakeholders and to the Board of Trustees. Superintendent Stainsby pointed out that the strategy (Project Connect at the time of the 2010 election) was also referenced by Trustees during the election debate that took place at the Education Centre, and was also referenced by Chair Maves in his Inaugural Address to the Board on December 14, 2010. Superintendent Stainsby also reported that he recently had a discussion with David Hughes, CEO of the Pathways program, who explained that Pathways is a community-based program that functions outside of schools. Superintendent Stainsby clarified that the Board is not building a new school for this project or diverting funds away from current projects or schools. Further, there are no plans to allocate additional funds toward upgrading Empire Public School. Superintendent Stainsby noted that the DSBN Academy will have a research component which will inform educational practices that will be shared with schools and colleagues across the Board. Superintendent Stainsby's report concluded with the Board viewing a tape of a recent CBC production on the DSBN Academy that was aired on CBC television.

H. DELEGATIONS**1. Linda Crouch – DSBN Academy**

Linda Crouch opposed the DSBN Academy. Linda Crouch supported opportunities for all students to do well in school and prepare them for post-secondary education if that is their choice. Linda Crouch expressed her support for the Pathways to Education Program and asked the Board to rescind its motion of January 25, 2011.

No questions of clarification were asked.

DELEGATIONS – continued:**2. Andy Petrowsky - DSBN Academy**

Andy Petrowsky addressed the issue of process in moving the DSBN Academy forward. Mr. Petrowsky stated that the process must respect and value the concept that the “public is always right.” Mr. Petrowsky encouraged the Trustees to consider whether or not the public had sufficient opportunity to provide input throughout the planning process, and whether or not the process followed by the Board is one that will deliver the best outcome for all children of the public school board.

No questions of clarification were asked.

3. The Croft Family – DSBN Academy

Mr. Croft supported the DSBN Academy as a positive opportunity for students to better their future.

No questions of clarification were asked.

4. The Connell Family – DSBN Academy

Mrs. Connell expressed her family’s support for the DSBN Academy as a once in a lifetime opportunity for the students to have a brighter and successful future by preparing them for post-secondary job opportunities in an ever changing and challenging employment situation. Mrs. Connell added that suggestions that students attending the DSBN Academy will be the subject of increased bullying or will be stigmatized on the basis of poverty, or will be segregated, are not valid arguments. Mrs. Connell asked the Trustees to continue their support of this program that will have positive outcomes for students and the community.

Trustee Jonathan Fast asked Mrs. Connell to address whether or not students could maintain their motivation for post-secondary education if they stayed at their local school. Mrs. Connell replied that the students’ chances of future success would be higher in a school that focused on preparing students for post-secondary education.

Chair Maves thanked all the speakers for their comments and input.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board Recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

**Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 0788 to 0793, for the month of January 2011, totaling \$14,869,967 be received.”

CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Sue Barnett**

“That the Report of the Program and Planning Committee dated February 8, 2011, be received and the following recommendation be adopted.”

School Year Calendars for 2011-2012

“That the Program and Planning Committee approve the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars for 2011-2012.”

CARRIED

Trustee Barbara Ness summarized the process for developing the Board's school year calendar as set out in Ontario Regulation 304 - School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days.

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

**Moved by Cheryl Scott
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

“That the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated February 10, 2011, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustees Cheryl Scott and Alex Bradnam presented the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Trustee Scott reported that the SEAC Committee received information on the Niagara Student Transportation Services and the DSBN Academy. Trustee Bradnam noted that information was provided on the “Best Buddies” program, a global volunteer movement which creates social and employment opportunities for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities. Trustee Bradnam reminded the Board of the upcoming Special Olympics event on May 16, 2011.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**4. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Ed Fulford**

“That the Report of the Finance Committee dated February 15, 2011, be received and the following recommendations be adopted.”

Parliament Oak School Renovation Project

“That the low tender received from Bromac Construction and Engineering Ltd., in the amount of \$1,165,000 (plus HST) be accepted and a contract awarded for the Parliament Oak Public School Renovation Project;” and

Crossroads Public School Solar Photovoltaic System

“That the low tender received from Ontario Electric Construction Company Ltd., in the amount of \$645,499 (plus HST) be accepted and a contract awarded for the Solar Photovoltaic System at Crossroads Public School.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dalton Clark presented the Report of the Finance Committee. Trustee Clark noted that both projects were previously approved by the Board and that the projects have come forward for tender selection.

Trustee Clark clarified for Trustee Bradnam that the hydro-electric needs of Crossroads Public School will be purchased off the grid. Power generated through the solar photovoltaic system will be sold back to the grid and will result in revenue to the Board of approximately \$68,000 per year. Trustee Clark explained that redirecting power generated from the system directly into the school would be more costly and more difficult for staff to track usage.

Trustee Dalton Clark noted that the Finance Committee met prior to tonight's Board meeting and Trustee Clark requested permission to bring the report and recommended motion forward.

**Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

“That the Report of the Finance Committee dated February 22, 2011, be received and the following recommendation be adopted.”

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE****Long-Term Financing of Ministry Funded Capital Projects**

“That the District School Board of Niagara approve By-Law Number 2011-01 to authorize a loan from the Ontario Financing Authority in the amount of \$5,288,170 pursuant to a loan agreement under section 7 of Ontario Regulation 41/10.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dalton Clark presented the report of the Finance Committee dated February 22, 2011. Trustee Clark explained that the Ministry of Education requires School Boards to short-term finance capital projects previously approved by the Board until such time that the long-term financing can be put in place. All interest costs of the short-term financing and all interest and principal payments associated with the long-term financing is covered by the Ministry. Trustee Clark added that the Ministry requires School Boards to obtain independent legal advice and to pass a By-Law to enter into a long-term loan agreement.

5. REPORT OF THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Moved by Dale Robinson
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

“That the Report of the Policy Advisory Committee dated February 15, 2011, be received and the following recommendations be adopted.”

Policy i-2: Policy Advisory Committee

“That Policy i-2: Policy Advisory Committee be approved with revisions and adopted by the District School Board of Niagara.”

Policy i-3: Policy Generating Process

“That Policy i-3: Policy Generating Process be approved as presented and adopted by the District School Board of Niagara.”

Policy A-1: Student Trustees on Boards

“That Policy A-1: Student Trustees on Boards be approved as presented and adopted by the District School Board of Niagara.”

Policy A-12: School Councils

“That Policy A-12: School Councils be approved as presented and adopted by the District School Board of Niagara.”

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Trustee Dale Robinson presented the Report of the Policy Advisory Committee. Trustee Robinson summarized the recommended changes to the Policies. Policy A-9: Naming/Renaming of Schools, will come back to the Committee for further discussion.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions

L. NEW BUSINESS

Pursuant to the Board's By-Laws, Trustee Jonathan Fast gave notice at the February 8, 2011, Board meeting that the following motion will be brought forward at the February 22, 2011, Board meeting for consideration.

**Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

“That the Board resolution of January 25, 2011, which reads as follows:

“That the Program and Planning Committee receive the information report of the DSBN Academy and approves the following recommendations:

- a. Opening of the school for September 2011;
- b. Temporary location at Empire Public School in Welland;
- c. Initial school structure of Grades 6 and 7 with no more than 75 students in each Grade; and
- d. Transportation of students for the DSBN Academy as outlined in this report.”

be rescinded.”

DEFEATED

Trustee Jonathan Fast asked that the motion which carried on January 25, 2011, be rescinded in order to provide an opportunity to hold extensive consultation and public debate on the DSBN Academy.

Trustee Ed Fulford requested a recorded vote.

NEW BUSINESS – continued:

The Trustees discussed the proposed recommendation and the rationale for bringing the recommended motion forward as well as the impact any potential delay in implementing the DSBN Academy may have on students.

Sue Barnett	Opposed	Kevin Maves	Opposed
Alex Bradnam	In Favour	Barbara Ness	Opposed
Dalton Clark	Opposed	Dale Robinson	Opposed
Jonathan Fast	In Favour	Dave Schaubel	Opposed
Ed Fulford	Opposed	Cheryl Scott	Opposed

Chair Maves noted that the recommended motion required a two-thirds majority vote to carry. Chair Maves declared that the recommended motion was defeated by a vote of 8 opposed / 2 in favour.

Chair Maves reminded the Board that implementation of the program will be assessed further when more data is available following the last scheduled information sessions for parents.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**1. Staff Reports****(a) Director's Report**

Director Hoshizaki highlighted the following:

- Teacher Bryce Honsinger's class (Applewood Public School) was recently videotaped by "TVO Parents" as they demonstrated the use of technology during their history lesson.
- The DSBN Technological Skills Challenge is currently in its 13th year of showcasing the talents, knowledge and creativity of students.
- College Street Public School and central Administrative staff were commended for their team work in responding to a recent evacuation of the school due to smoke from a neighbourhood fire.

(b) Community/Council Information Sessions on DSBN Facilities

Superintendent Marilyn Hyatt presented a schedule of information sessions for local municipalities for the purpose of providing municipalities with information on the impact of declining enrolment and facility planning.

Chair Maves clarified for Trustee Fulford that these sessions are specifically for municipalities and that public meetings will be scheduled for future dates. Chair Maves clarified for Trustee Fast that this is the first year this initiative has taken place. The purpose is to keep municipalities fully apprised prior to any future accommodation reviews.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**2. Trustee Information Session**

Prior to the Board meeting, Trustees attended an Information Session on Media Relations presented by Kim Yielding, Manager of Communications and Public Relations, and Brett Sweeney, Media Relations Officer.

Trustees were asked to contact the Director's Office with suggested topics for future Information Sessions.

3. Correspondence and Correspondence

- (a) Letter from Minister of Education to MPP Kim Craitor regarding Special Education funding.

Director Hoshizaki indicated that he will clarify the Ministry's position on increased Special Education funding to the Board during an upcoming meeting with the Deputy Minister of Education.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Ed Fulford encouraged Trustees to attend the upcoming Technological Skills Challenges.
- (b) Trustee Ed Fulford reported that he acted as a judge at a recent public speaking event and he was impressed by the students' presentations.
- (c) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that Superintendent Mark recently took him on a tour of five elementary schools in his area. Trustee Bradnam commended the staff and students on the great things happening in our schools. Trustee Bradnam also commended the students for their involvement in a variety of character education initiatives. Trustee Bradnam encouraged Trustees to visit their local schools.

Chair Maves suggested that Trustees who are interested in visiting their local schools contact the Area Superintendent who will facilitate the visit.

5. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

Trustee Cheryl Scott reminded the Trustees of the upcoming Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium in Toronto (March 31 – April 2, 2011).

6. Future Meetings

Trustees were reminded that pursuant to the Board's By-Laws there will be one Board meeting in March (March 22, 2011).

Revisions to the Schedule of Meetings for March 2011:

Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) – changed to March 24, 2011

Finance Committee, March 16 – Trustee Dalton Clark invited interested Trustees to provide the Committee with written submissions of items they want included in the budget deliberations. Trustee Clark clarified for Trustee Bradnam that it would be more appropriate to bring requests to remove previously approved budget items or programs from the budget forward to the Board as a separate motion.

Program and Planning Committee, March 1st (5:30 p.m.) – Trustee Barbara Ness noted the information session on the Watson Report will come forward as a timed item at 6:00 p.m.

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Cheryl Scott
Seconded by Ed Fulford**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer