



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 8, 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, Lora Campbell, Dalton Clark, Jonathan Fast, Ed Fulford, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Cheryl Scott (present for Public Session)

Student Trustees: James Gillespie, Clive Velkers

Regrets: Dave Schaubel

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, Kim Yielding, Rick Werezak, Marian Lamb, Karen Bellamy

Recording Secretary: Irene Foster

Technical Support: Linda Gonschior, 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 7:35 p.m.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Sue Barnett

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

CARRIED

Moved by Alex Bradnam

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

CARRIED

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

A trio of students from West Park Secondary School sang “O Canada” under the direction of Music Teacher Gwen Stickney.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Lora Campbell opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Ed Fulford

“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 January 25, 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 Dalton Clark

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

CARRIED

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. “Down to Earth” 2010 Contest Winners**

Superintendent Carol Germyn introduced the showcase. Superintendent Germyn explained that the Environmental Sustainability Committee was established in 2008 to promote integrated themes of teaching and learning and to strengthen efforts of environmental sustainability.

Principal Joanna Roberto, Chair of the Environmental Sustainability Committee, with the assistance of Committee members Sean Hanna, Consultant – Science, Environmental Education, Outdoor Studies, and Carol Purcer, Principal – Westlane Secondary School, recognized the following winning schools and departments of the DSBN's “Down to Earth” Contest 2010. Principal Roberto added that the activities staff and students participated in demonstrate environmental stewardship and sustainability.

Area 1	Forestview Public School, Niagara Falls
Area 2	Quaker Road Public School, Welland
Area 3	College Street Public School, Smithville
Area 4	Lincoln Centennial Public School, St. Catharines
Area 5	E.L. Crossley Secondary School, Pelham
Alternate Education	Beamsville Bridge Program
Department	Human Resources

Representatives from each school/site were presented with a plaque in recognition of their efforts to promote environmental sustainability.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**“Down to Earth” 2010 Contest Winners**

Trustees will be provided with a summary of the initiatives and activities undertaken at the winning sites.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked all the students and staff who participated in the DSBN “Down to Earth” initiative.

2. CUPE Energy Savings Awards

Director Hoshizaki introduced the showcase which recognized the continued success of the Energy Conservation Program. Director Hoshizaki added that since the Energy Committee was established by CUPE Local 4156 in 2001, significant energy savings have been realized Board-wide. The success of the program also reflects the positive working relationships amongst all the Board’s employee groups.

Doug Durant, Manager of Projects and Maintenance, added that the Energy Committee was established in 2001 when CUPE Local 4156 presented a proposal to conserve energy within the Board. Since then all employee groups are represented on the Committee. The Committee focuses on developing and promoting strategies to conserve energy. Doug Durant added that the program is recognized provincially and used by other School Boards as a model for energy conservation. Doug Durant commended Tony Piuanno, Energy Committee Chair, for being instrumental in the continued success of the program. Doug Durant noted the three initiatives that the Committee focused on this year, including the development of software by Information Services that will be uploaded on all of the Board’s computers to reduce energy consumption. Doug Durant reported that the 2009-2010 year was very successful with seventy sites reducing energy consumption of more than 2 million KW hours and more than \$246,000 in energy savings. Doug Durant noted that this marks a milestone with more than \$1 million in energy savings realized since 2001.

Representatives from the following schools were presented with a plaque in recognition of their schools’ successful participation in the Energy Conservation Program in the 2009-2010 school year.

Most Energy Saved	Elementary - Bertie Public School
	Secondary - Laura Secord Secondary School

Most Improved	Elementary - Sheridan Park Public School
	Secondary - Stamford Collegiate

Chair Maves thanked everyone involved for their ongoing commitment to this program and he commended all schools and work sites for their participation and conscious efforts to reduce energy use. The success of the energy savings initiative is a great example of the cooperation between our schools and employee groups.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS**1. Verbal Report on DSBN Academy**

Superintendent Stainsby provided a verbal update on the DSBN Academy. Superintendent Stainsby explained that the DSBN Academy is an intentional alternative strategy to increase the opportunity for students to access post-secondary schools and prepare them to graduate by providing a culture of success that surrounds students and reinforces in them that they will attend and graduate from post-secondary school. Superintendent added that existing schools will continue to provide supports for all students and support them in many different ways to meet their complex needs. Superintendent Stainsby reminded the Board that the initiative which was approved at the January 25, 2011, Board meeting was brought forward for consideration following more than a year of research, data gathering, a review of like programs in other jurisdictions, including the Model Schools Project in Toronto, and the Pathways to Education program, meetings with community stakeholders, discussions with school administrators and parents, and visits to successful model schools. Superintendent Stainsby explained that the principles and supports that make the Pathways program successful are very similar to the DSBN Academy and some strategies have been incorporated into the DSBN model. The development of this project has been ongoing and updates have been provided to Trustees on discussions with stakeholders and on the progress and status of the project concept and focus. Superintendent Stainsby presented an update on the recent DSBN Academy activities and information sessions and he explained that upcoming activities include information sessions for parents of Grades 5 and 6 students to ask questions and to learn more about DSBN Academy. The parents will also be invited to provide their feedback which will be critical in determining the next steps for implementation of the project. Superintendent Stainsby outlined the location and transportation components of this strategy which will ensure the viability and sustainability of the program and added that all aspects related to staffing and support staff and school resources will be addressed as they are at all DSBN schools. Superintendent Stainsby indicated that attending the DSBN Academy is a personal and voluntary choice for families, and is not about segregation and stigmatization. No student will be forced to attend and families will determine if this strategy fits with their needs. The Board respects the students and their families and the DSBN Academy is an opportunity for them to select an alternative strategy to best meet their needs. The project is about offering hope and opportunity to families so that they will graduate from college or university.

H. DELEGATIONS

Chair Maves reminded the speakers to stay on topic and that speaking time will be limited to ten minutes each.

1. Paolo Miele – DSBN Academy

Paolo Miele opposed the DSBN Academy. Mr. Miele asked that the Board delay implementation of the program for one year to provide an opportunity to explore a variety of options.

Mr. Miele read comments submitted by Linda Crouch who opposed the DSBN Academy.

No questions of clarification were asked.

2. Samantha Battersby, Parent – DSBN Academy

Samantha Battersby opposed the DSBN Academy. Ms. Battersby suggested that the Board consider a variety of options, including the Pathways program, which will provide equal access to education and support to all students.

No questions of clarification were asked.

3. Kevin Gosine, Professor, Brock University – DSBN Academy

Professor Gosine opposed the DSBN Academy and expressed his preference and support for a community based initiative like the Pathways initiative.

Trustee Alex Bradnam asked Professor Gosine to clarify who introduced the Pathways initiative in Regent Park ten years ago and what research was relied upon in assessing its potential success. Professor Gosine indicated that staff from the Regent Park Community Health Centre were involved in implementing the Pathways initiative. A feature of the program is extensive parental involvement and ongoing student input.

Trustee Sue Barnett asked Professor Gosine to clarify how the Pathways community initiative is funded. Professor Gosine replied that approximately 70% of funding comes from government sources and the balance is funded by community and/or private donors. To qualify for a Pathways site, a stable agency must present a proposal and evidence that the site can be supported.

Superintendent Stainsby added that several years ago the Board was asked to review the possibility of implementing the Pathways program in Niagara. A number of challenges and barriers to implementation were identified, including access to sustainable funding to operate the program on an ongoing basis. Funding for the DSBN Academy will come from the Ministry of Education based on student enrolment.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

4. **Betty-Lou Souter, CEO Community Care St. Catharines and Thorold – DSBN Academy**

Betty-Lou Souter encouraged all stakeholders to keep an open mind when discussing opportunities for students that will create self-sufficiency now and in the future.

Chair Maves thanked all the speakers for their comments.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board Recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

There was no report of Old Business.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

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

“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.”

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

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

Director Hoshizaki highlighted the following:

- Brock University and the Board are working together to establish secondment opportunities for DSBN teachers to teach in the Faculty of Education program. This is an exciting project which connects schools with the Faculty of Education and its research.
- Partnerships have been developed with community partners to offer after school programs to students at Plymouth Public School. Students are provided with opportunities to participate in a variety of fun and informative activities.
- The Annual Students Taking Action Today (STAT) Conference took place today at St. Catharines Collegiate. The students participated in challenges and activities that focused on putting character into action.
- January 27 was Family Literacy Day, an annual celebration of the importance of literacy.
- January 27 was Kindergarten Open House day in schools across the Region. The Open Houses were well attended. Director Hoshizaki thanked all schools for creating a warm and welcoming environment.

2. Trustee Information Session

Prior to the Board meeting, Trustees attended an Information Session on "Trustee Municipal Conflict of Interest" presented by Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer.

3. Correspondence and Correspondence

- (a) Copy of letter from Kim Craitor, MPP to the Minister of Education regarding Special Education funding.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Chair Maves reported that on February 3, 2011, 15 and 20 year employees were recognized for their years of service at a celebration in the Board's Atrium. Chair Maves commended Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, former Trustee Marcy Heit, and Trustee Barbara Ness for their 20 years of dedicated service to the Board. Trustee Ness, who was absent from the February 3rd celebration, was presented with a certificate and 20 year pin.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

- (b) Trustee Sue Barnett gave a reminder that planning is well under way for Eastdale Secondary School's 50th anniversary reunion to be held over the 2011 Victoria Day weekend.
- (c) Trustee Barbara Ness congratulated A.N. Myer Secondary School on its 7th consecutive victory at the recent Niagara Falls Review High School Boys Basketball Tournament. Money raised at the tournament will support scholarship awards. Trustee Ness commended the tournament organizers and participants for an excellent job.
- (d) Trustee Dale Robinson reported that she attended today's STAT Conference (Students Taking Action Today) held at the St. Catharines Collegiate. Trustee Robinson commended all the staff and students for hosting and participating in the successful conference.

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

There was no report.

6. Future Meetings

There were no changes to the Schedule of Meetings for February 2011. Trustees were reminded that pursuant to the Board's By-Laws there will be one Board meeting in March (March 22, 2011).

N. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Ed Fulford

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:05 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer

