



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

May 10, 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, Dave Schaubel, Cheryl Scott

Regrets:

Student

Trustees: James Gillespie, Clive Velkers

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, Rick Werezak, Marian Lamb, Karen Bellamy

Recording

Secretary: Marian Lamb

Technical

Support: Linda Gonschior

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 7:45 p.m.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Trustee Lora Campbell
Seconded by Trustee Barb Ness

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

CARRIED

Moved by Trustee Dave Schaubel

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

CARRIED

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as students from the Niagara Elementary Instrumental Music Program Jazz Band performed “O Canada”, followed by another jazz piece, under the direction of Music Instructor Craig Inglis.

Trustee Fulford and Chair Maves both thanked the students and Music Instructor for their excellent performance and wished them continued musical success.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Dave Schaubel opened the meeting with a reflective reading, entitled Miracle of Love.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved by Trustee Barb Ness
Seconded by Trustee Sue Barnett

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Trustee Scott
Seconded by Trustee Fulford

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated April 26, 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 Vice Chair Dale Robinson
Seconded by Trustee Alex Bradnam**

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

CARRIED

Chair Maves noted the retirement of Elementary Principal Paulene Holmes following a career that spanned 21 years. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Principal Holmes for her years of service and wished her well in her retirement.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. “It Takes a Village to Raise a Child”**

Superintendent John Dickson introduced the showcase.

Principal Candi Sitko and staff from Power Glen Public School discussed the teamwork of support from within and outside the school to support Roman, a Grade 2 student.

As a child who was not expected to live and who has had numerous surgeries, Roman arrived at Power Glen P.S. at age 4 to begin Junior Kindergarten. At that time Roman was non verbal and non mobile. Thanks to the Power Glen Village of support Roman has received from the school and the community, Roman is now walking and talking. Roman sang “Amazing Grace” to the delight of everyone in attendance.

Director Hoshizaki noted that it takes a special village to help to raise a child and thanked everyone involved for their outstanding support. The Director presented Principal Candi Sitko and the Power Glen Staff and Community with a certificate of recognition of their great work in Achieving Success Together.

2. Youth for Change – Thorold Secondary School

Superintendent John Stainsby introduced Krista Miller, Principal of Thorold Secondary School. Krista welcomed Teacher Advisor Heather Laily and four students from Thorold SS and discussed how a few students can reach out to help locally and globally and make a difference.

Students from Thorold Secondary School shared the accomplishments of their Youth for Change initiative which has been active for four years since attending a Me to We Day in 2007. Through a series of fundraising events, students have raised thousands of dollars to build a school in Sierra Leone, gathered 900 lbs of food through their Halloween for Hunger campaign for the local Community Care and have supported the Sock it to Poverty and Help for Haiti campaigns, to name a few. Principal Miller and Ms. Laily both praised the students for their commitment and support of those less fortunate.

The Chair and Trustees expressed their thanks for this tremendous work and Director Hoshizaki presented a certificate of recognition to the students and staff.

3. Stamford Collegiate Secondary School Concert Band

Superintendent John Stainsby introduced the showcase.

The Stamford Collegiate Concert Band, under the direction of music teacher Paul Taylor, performed a piece entitled “Dinosaurs” which they played at the Golden Horseshoe Music Fest in February 2011 and received a Gold standard award. The students will be travelling to perform at the National Music Fest in Richmond, B.C. at the end of May.

Superintendent Stainsby thanked the students for their outstanding performance and wished them good luck in the national Music Fest competition.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

Superintendent Sue Greer and Assistant Superintendent John Dickson provided an update on the processes and timelines for Grade 3 and 6 EQAO tests, as well as Grade 9 Mathematics and Grade 10 OSSLT.

Primary and Junior students participate in a mid-year practice EQAO session and grade 8 students participate in a math test at the end of the school year that mirrors the format of the Grade 9 EQAO test. These tests allow students to demonstrate the level of work they can do and enables teachers to review instruction where required.

School Support Services initiated a Grade 9 Math Coaching Project where consultants work with grade 9 teachers to implement research-based best instructional practices that help prepare students for the test. Grade 9 students also write an OSSLT practice test which is modeled on the previous year’s Grade 10 OSSLT test.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board Recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Trustee Dalt Clark
Seconded by Trustee Lora Campbell**

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated April 20, 2011, be received and the recommendations adopted”.

CARRIED

Trustees agreed to hear each motion individually to allow opportunity for discussion.

**Moved by Trustee Dalt Clark
Seconded by Trustee Lora Campbell**

“That the Board contribute \$88,589 received from Electrical Retrofit Incentive Program to the Woodend Environment project, subject to operating results for the 2010-2011 fiscal year resulting in a surplus sufficient to cover the grant amount.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dalt Clark reported that many schools have participated in energy efficiencies and retrofits for which the local hydro utility company offers energy rebate incentives. As a result, DSBN will receive \$88,589 in unexpected revenue. The recommendation is to transfer these funds to support the revitalization of the Woodend Environmental Campus.

**Moved by Trustee Dalt Clark
Seconded by Trustee Lora Campbell**

“That the new cost of \$15,000 to provide transportation service for Grade 2 students to the Children’s Safety Village, based on the service model, be approved.”

CARRIED

DSBN students have been visiting the Children's Safety Village for many years, but schools have always had to pay the transportation costs from school budgets. As a result, some schools were unable to participate. Senior Staff advises that all grade 2 students would benefit from visiting the Children's Safety Village and recommends that these visits become part of the Grade 2 program with transportation costs paid from the central transportation budget. This will provide equitable opportunities for all students.

Moved by Trustee Dalt Clark

Seconded by Trustee Lora Campbell

“That the Student Transportation GPS Report and the first time cost of equipping vehicles used to transport students with GPS devices be approved, subject to the approval of the 2011-2012 budget.”

CARRIED

The Ministry will conduct an Effectiveness & Efficiency review of DSBN Transportation Services in 2012 to reevaluate services. One leading practice identified by the Ministry is the installation of GPS systems in buses to facilitate more efficient and improved route planning and service delivery. Following the E&E review, the Ministry resets transportation funding based on current expenditures, so this cost would be recovered if GPS systems are implemented this year. Trustees noted the number of students using school buses will increase with the implementation of yellow school buses for St Catharines/Thorold students.

Trustees discussed the pros and cons of implementing GPS systems and Trustee Fulford requested a recorded vote.

Recorded Vote

In Favour: Trustees Barnett, Clark, Ness, Fast, Schaubel, Campbell, Robinson, Maves

Opposed: Trustees Scott, Fulford, Bradnam

Moved by Trustee Dalt Clark

Seconded by Trustee Barb Ness

“That the St. Catharines and Thorold Area Yellow School Bus Transportation Report with the bell change options be approved.”

CARRIED

Secondary school students in St Catharines/Thorold have historically used public transportation but a review of costs reveals that providing school buses will result in significant savings. The use of schools buses would allow DSBN to offer the same transportation services as the co-terminus Board. These cost savings will require that bell times change. The savings will enable NSTS to provide late buses for all secondary schools across the region.

**Moved by Trustee Dalt Clark
Seconded by Trustee Lora Campbell**

“That transportation services for students who choose to participate in after school activities by connecting students from their school to their home community be approved.”

CARRIED

Currently, only NOTL students have access to late buses. Because of the cost savings in moving to school buses in St. Catharines/Thorold, late buses can be offered across the region and allow equitable services to all secondary students.

“That the information report on the 2011-2012 Grant announcements be received.”

CARRIED

The Board just recently received its budget figures from the Ministry and staff will begin to develop the 2011-12 budget based on these figures.

The Ministry has indicated that Special Education funding will be renewed, but there is no information as to what the outcome might be.

Trustees discussed some of the implications of the 2011-12 budget figures and full budget discussions will begin in June once staff has prepared the budget document.

2. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

**Moved by James Gillespie
Seconded by Student Trustee Clive Velkers**

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated April 27, 2011, be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustees James Gillespie and Clive Velkers presented the report of the Student Trustee Senate. Student Trustee James Gillespie thanked Superintendent Marilyn Hyatt for her informative presentation to the Student Trustee Senate on Accommodation Reviews. James noted students learned a lot from the process.

Student Trustee Clive Velkers reported that seven submissions have been received for the “See the Change” Video competition. Judging will take place on May 18th. The Student Trustee Senate is supporting Niagara Peninsula Children’s Centres through fundraising initiatives.

Three applications were received for Student Trustee positions for the 2011-12 school year. One applicant withdrew and both remaining candidates made presentations to the Student Trustee Senate and were then acclaimed. The Student Trustees are Evan Vassallo from Sir Winston Churchill and Joelle Schonberg from Stamford Collegiate. The new Students Trustees will be introduced at the June 14th Board meeting.

3. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (SAL) COMMITTEE

**Moved by Trustee Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Trustee Ed Fulford**

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee dated May 3, 2011, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dave Schaubel presented the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee. Five cases were heard and Trustee Schaubel noted he is impressed by level of dedication and commitment from this team led by Superintendent John Stainsby who deal compassionately with each student. The ultimate goal of the committee is get students who are at risk to graduate with a secondary school diploma.

4. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

**Moved by Trustee Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Trustee Cheryl Scott**

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated May 6, 2011, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Fast presented the report of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC). The PIC meeting was held at Queen Mary P.S. and was well attended. This was an excellent opportunity to see the “school within a school” working at Queen Mary/ St. Catharines Collegiate.

Work is continuing to prepare for the PIC Conference this Fall. Lorraine Randall, Visual Communications Designer, is helping to design a logo and provide updates to the website. Lorraine’s talents are much appreciated. Speakers for the conference are being contacted.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Fast asked about windstorm damage at DSBN schools across the region and what the response was.

Director Hoshizaki replied that the roof was blown off Lockview P.S. in St. Catharines. Staff reacted immediately by implementing the emergency procedures protocol and emergency services were contacted. Students were safely evacuated to Holy Cross H.S. and Superintendent Marilyn Hyatt was at the school to support the staff. Doug Durant assessed the damage and advised repairs would take some time. As a result, Director Hoshizaki made the decision to close the school the following day. Parents were kept informed of the events through a series of “blaze” messages.

The gym roof at Gracefield P.S. had some damage, but there was no danger to students. Some schools were without hydro and those without water had water delivered by Facilities staff.

A transformer outside St. Catharines Collegiate was badly damaged and the school implemented a lock down procedure at the request of police to keep the students safely inside while repairs were made. Superintendent Jim Morgan was at the school to provide assistance to staff and to ensure students and staff were all safe.

Repairs to all schools affected were completed in a timely manner.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

(a) Director's Report

Director Hoshizaki highlighted the following:

Students from DSBN schools raised an incredible \$104,789 from their participation in the 2010 Terry Fox Run.

Two DSBN students have been selected for the Minister's Student Advisory Council: Max Campere from Fort Erie P.S. and Allison Fehrman from Sir Winston Churchill S.S.

Director Hoshizaki also announced the names of the DSBN winners of the Ontario Skills Competitions.

2. Trustee Information Session

Prior to the Board meeting, Trustees participated in an Information Session on the Educational Assistant allocation and transfer process.

3. Correspondence and Correspondence

- (a) Trustees received a copy of the letter to the Minister of Citizenship, Immigration and Multiculturalism, in support of the Ottawa Carleton DSB's request not to reduce funding for services for Immigrant Children, Youth and Families.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

Trustee Ness reported that the Westlane S.S. Robotics Team has been highlighted in Popular Mechanics.

Trustee Clark thanked Trustees and staff for their support of his walk for Multiple Sclerosis.

Trustee Scott attended Nelles P.S. production of the Wizard of Oz which was wonderful and every student in the school was involved in some way.

Trustee Barnett attended an excellent production of Annie Junior at Princess Elizabeth P.S.

Trustee Fulford attended track and field events at Winger P.S. and will attend the upcoming spaghetti dinner to raise funds for a playground.

Trustee Fast attended the dedication of the Habitat for Humanity home in Grimsby that was built by DSBN students. He praised students and the community for their great community effort.

Chair Maves encouraged staff and Trustees to get involved in the EFN Golf Tournament on May 27th. This event has raised approximately \$100,000 for EFN since 2007 with all proceeds going to support students.

Student Trustee James Gillespie will be attending the annual Ontario Student Trustee Association Annual General Meeting in Toronto on May 13 and 14th.

Director Warren Hoshizaki thanked staff and Trustees for their support of the Ride for Heart. The team rode a 24-seater bike through Niagara-on-the-Lake and raised \$2,700 for the Heart and Stroke Foundation.

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

(a) Summary of OPSBA Initiatives and Events

Trustee Cheryl Scott advised Trustees of upcoming OPSBA events copies of all information is available in the Trustee Lounge.

6. Future Meetings

Schedule of Meetings for May 2011

Trustee Ness reminded the Board that the Program and Planning meeting will be held on **Monday 16th** to receive the report Trustees have asked for. Trustee Ness encouraged everyone to attend.

The May 24th Board meeting, private session, will begin at **6:00 pm**.

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Trustee Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Trustee Lora Campbell**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:50 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer