



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

May 24, 2011

6:00 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 (by teleconference for Public Session), Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel, Cheryl Scott

Regrets: Lora Campbell

Student

Trustees: James Gillespie, Clive Velkers

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

Recording

Secretary: Irene Foster

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 7:35 p.m.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Cheryl Scott

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

CARRIED

Moved by Cheryl Scott

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

CARRIED

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as students from Queen Mary Public School sang “O Canada.” The students performed additional pieces.

Trustees commended the students on their performance and for sharing their talents.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Cheryl Scott opened the meeting with a reflective reading on the importance of education and a short video entitled “*Shannen’s Dream*.”

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

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated May 10, 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 noted the retirement of Elementary Principal Betty Ann Pastushchyn. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves wished Principal Pastushchyn well in her retirement.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. “Hitori”**

Superintendent John Dickson introduced the showcase.

Principal Janice Agnew introduced students from Oakridge Public School who sang the “59th Street Bridge Song” and a Japanese Folk Song entitled “Hitori.”

Trustees commended the students on their performance and encouraged the students to continue singing. Vice-Chair Robinson acknowledged staff for their support and dedication to students

2. Carousel Players

Superintendent Carol Germyn introduced the showcase. Superintendent Germyn commended Carousel Players for its dedication to students.

In recognition of its 40th year anniversary, Deborah McLaughlin, Executive Director of Carousel Players, thanked the Board for its outstanding support and long time community partnership. Deborah McLaughlin noted that the Carousel Player’s primary mandate is to create theatre which inspires, challenges, entertains and enlightens students. Deborah McLaughlin noted a variety of outreach activities available to school staff and community members. Ms. McLaughlin invited everyone to attend the 40th anniversary celebration in downtown St. Catharines on June 3, 2012. Corey Miles, of Carousel

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:

Players, presented the Board with a plaque in recognition of its 40 year partnership. Carousel Players was also presented with a plaque on behalf of the Board in recognition of its partnership with the Board and dedication to students. Trustees congratulated Carousel Players on its 40th anniversary and thanked Carousel Players for their dedication and support of students and educators.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no Student Achievement Reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

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 0808 to 0823 for the month of April 2011, totaling \$14,792,677.61 be received.”

CARRIED

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

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Cheryl Scott

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated May 12, 2011, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Alex Bradnam presented the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Trustee Bradnam noted that the Committee was provided with a very informative presentation which highlighted the positive impact of inclusive

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

education. The Committee was also provided with an update on the Budget process, Educational Assistant allocations, and the Accessibility Working Plan Group.

Acting Director Sue Greer clarified for Trustee Ness that the Board's Summer H.E.A.T. program will be offered again at a cost to participants of \$80 for the four week program and financial assistance may be available on an as needed basis.

3. REPORT OF THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Moved by Dale Robinson
Seconded by Cheryl Scott**

“That the report of the Policy Advisory Committee dated May 17, 2011, be received;” and,

“THAT Policy F-2: Accommodation Review Guidelines for the Planning of School Program and Facility Needs, be approved with revisions and adopted by the District School Board of Niagara;” and,

“THAT Policy G-32: Fees for Learning Materials and Activities, be approved as presented and adopted by the District School Board of Niagara;” and,

“THAT Policy E-16: Electronic Social Media, be approved as presented and adopted by the District School Board of Niagara;” and,

“THAT Policy G-10: Use of Identification Badges by Non-School Based Staff and Non-School Board Personnel, be approved as presented and adopted by the District School Board of Niagara;” and,

“THAT Policy D-14: Assessment and Evaluation and Reporting, be approved with revisions and adopted by the District School Board of Niagara;” and

“THAT Policy D-10: Outdoor Education, be approved as presented and adopted by the District School Board of Niagara;” and,

“THAT Policy D-11: Arts Program, be approved with revisions and adopted by the District School Board of Niagara.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dale Robinson presented the report of the Policy Advisory Committee.

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

Superintendent Hyatt clarified for Trustee Fulford that where two or more municipalities are the subject of an Accommodation Review, every effort will be made to obtain a municipal and a community representative from each municipality to sit on the ARC Committee.

4. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Trustee Ness asked that the Educational Research Committee recommendations be considered separately.

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

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated May 16, 2011, be received and the recommendations adopted;” and,

“That the Program and Planning Committee approve the recommendations outline in the report of the Educational Research Committee of April 18, 2011.”

CARRIED

Trustee Barbara Ness presented the recommendations outlined in the report of the Educational Research Committee of April 18, 2011.

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

“That the Board accept the Facility Planning Report dated May 16, 2011;” and

“That the Board Direct Senior Administration to begin September 2011, the Accommodation Reviews indicated in Phase 1 of the Facility Planning Report dated May 16, 2011.”

CARRIED

Trustee Barbara Ness reported on the recommended motions and she provided a brief summary of the rationale for implementing the Facility Planning Report, which includes addressing changing enrolment patterns and facility utilization, aging facilities, and enhancing educational opportunities for students.

Trustee Fulford agreed that Accommodation Reviews are necessary, however, Trustee Fulford indicated that he was opposed to the proposed phasing in of the Accommodation Reviews over the next three years for the following reasons. The proposal does not consider future capital funding issues that may arise and there may be residential

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

development over the next decade in the Port Colborne area. In addition, the proposed Mid-Peninsula Highway will provide for development in West Lincoln and Wainfleet when the highway is built. Trustee Fulford suggested that the Board should start in areas where the enrolment is already low because capital funding is not currently available. Further, Trustee Fulford did not agree with some of the numbers relied upon in the report.

5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Clark asked that the renovation project recommendations be considered separately from the policy recommendations.

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

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated May 18, 2011, be received and the recommendations adopted;” and,

“That up to \$2,719,084 be transferred from the Board’s Accumulated Surplus – Major Capital for the River View Public School Addition and Renovation Project, subject to Ministry of Education approval;” and,

“That the low bid received from Bromac Construction, in the amount of \$3,060,000 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the River View Public School Addition and Renovation Project;” and,

“That up to \$47,984 be transferred from Accumulated Surplus – Major Capital for the James Morden Public School Addition and Renovation Project, subject to Ministry of Education approval;” and,

“That the low bid received from TRP Construction, in the amount of \$2,555,000 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the James Morden Public School Addition and Renovation Project.”

CARRIED

Trustee Clark reported on the renovation projects for James Morden Public School and River View Public School, which will provide enhanced facilities for students. Trustee Clark noted that the James Morden Public School project exceeds the budgeted amount by \$47,984, and the River View Public School project exceeds the budgeted amount by \$284,669. Ministry of Education approval will be required to allocate additional funding for both projects. A request to increase the transfer amount has been submitted to the Ministry of Education and it is anticipated the Ministry will approve the Board’s request. Trustee Clark pointed out that overall the Board’s funding sources are well in the black. Past projects have come in well under budget and projects exceeding the budget have been seldom.

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

Trustee Clark indicated for Trustee Bradnam that the increased project costs could be attributed to a number of factors which reflect the current economy and cost of business. Staff will continue to anticipate increased costs in the future. Trustee Clark clarified for Trustees that TRP Construction is a Hamilton firm. However, under the new procurement guidelines, the Board is not permitted to retain service providers on the basis of their location. Further, although the Board is not bound to accept the lowest tender bid, companies are preapproved, and provided that the bids include the work outlined in the request for proposal, and the companies have the background to complete the projects, it would be difficult to rationalize not accepting the lowest bid.

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

“That new Policy B-5 *Segregation of Duties and Signing Authority* be approved and adopted;” and,

“That Policy B-1 *Purchasing Policy*, with revisions, be approved and adopted;” and,

“That Policy F-1 *Selection of Architect and Engineers for Capital Projects*, with revisions, be approved and adopted;” and,

“That Policy F-5 *Playspace Equipment*, with revisions, be approved and adopted.”

CARRIED

Trustee Clark reported on the proposed policy recommendations. Trustee Clark noted each policy reflects the new Broader Public Sector (BPS) Directives as well as housekeeping matters but does not change current procedures and practices.

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

“That the cost of \$67,133 to complete the work identified in the attached safety inspection reports be funded from the Accumulated Surplus-General Operating account.”

CARRIED

Trustee Clark explained that the proposed recommendations reflect the one-time cost of completing school safety inspections and resulting repairs and equipment replacement between October 2010 and April 2011 in the program areas of culinary arts, auto shops and welding shops.

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

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

“That the information report on the Changes to Financial Accountability, Budgeting and Reporting be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Clark reported that the changes reflect Public Sector Accounting Standards (PSAB) newly implemented by the Ministry of Education.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Ed Fulford asked for an update on energy savings and consumption. Acting Director Sue Greer replied that the Board’s average cost of hydro energy of \$60 per kw hour is calculated on costs from nine sources, from which the Board applied for energy saving monies. Staff are currently working with the Purchasing Department and looking into reinvestigating the source of the Board’s energy.

L. NEW BUSINESS

Appointment of OPSBA Director and Alternate Director and the OPSBA Voting Delegate and Alternate Delegate

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

“That Trustee Cheryl Scott be appointed to serve as OPSBA Director for the 2011-2012 school year, and that Trustee Sue Barnett be appointed as the Alternate OPSBA Director for the 2011-2012 school year;” and,

“That Trustee Cheryl Scott be appointed to serve as OPSBA Voting Delegate and that Trustee Sue Barnett be appointed as the Alternate Voting Delegate for the 2011-2012 school year.”

CARRIED

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Trustees Scott and Barnett for taking on the additional responsibilities of these roles.

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

Acting Director Greer highlighted the following:

- Through the Brock Teacher Secondment initiative, Brock University and the Board continue to build relationships and connections in education. Nine DSBN teachers will have the opportunity to support the Brock University teacher education program in a number of areas.
- Prince Philip Public School in Niagara Falls scored well at the recent local Math Olympics. The students will represent the region at the Ontario Association of Mathematics Education (OAME) provincial championships in June.
- Students and staff from Forestview Public School will collectively attempt to walk a distance equivalent to a trip around the world. The students and staff will be equipped with pedometers provided by Brock University in order to track how many steps they walk throughout the day. This program is an excellent way for students to increase their physical activity in a non-competitive way.
- Safe Schools Teams from Eastdale Secondary School and Grimsby Secondary School have been awarded the Premier's Safe Schools Award in recognition of the exceptional and innovative work they have done in creating a safe and inclusive school environment.
- A project is being implemented provincially to pilot a new Supervisory Officer Performance Appraisal process. The process aligns with the DSBN's current process.

Trustee Alex Bradnam commended Kevin Graham and the Board for hosting a delegation of educators from England a couple of years ago when they visited some of our Specialist High Skills Major Programs. As a result, one educator from England was inspired to apply for funding and recently initiated a work experience and apprenticeship program in the construction trades. Trustee Bradnam noted that this is reflective of the success of our Board's programs and the global recognition it brings to the Board.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no Information Session scheduled.

3. Correspondence and Correspondence

- (a) Letter from Minister of Education Leona Dombrosky.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

- (a) Trustee Fulford commended the Communications Department for their assistance in dealing with questions from the media.
- (b) Trustee Fulford noted that this is the season for school fun fairs and graduation ceremonies. Trustee Fulford reported that Winger Public School hosted a spaghetti dinner to fundraise for playground equipment; College Street Public School is hosting a fun fair on Friday, May 27; and Caistor Central Public School will be holding a garage sale on Saturday, May 28.
- (c) Trustee Sue Barnett commended the four students who won the challenge to build a machine that can drill through several layers of styrofoam.
- (d) Trustee Sue Barnett reported that she and Superintendent Stainsby attended the recent memorial service for teacher Lynn Lambert which was highlighted by the unveiling of a tree in her memory.
- (e) Trustee Sue Barnett reported that she and Superintendent Stainsby attended Eastdale Secondary School's 50th Reunion this past weekend. The very successful event was well attended.
- (f) Trustee Sue Barnett reminded Trustees that Empire Public School is celebrating 90 years on Wednesday, May 25. Many events are planned for the celebration which starts at 2:30 p.m.
- (g) Trustee Barbara Ness reminded Trustees that Prince Philip Public School in Niagara Falls will be hosting its 50th anniversary on June 3-4, 2011.
- (h) Trustee Cheryl Scott reported that she attended Grand Avenue Public Schools fundraiser in support of the Grade 8 graduation.
- (i) Trustee Dalton Clark reported that he attended AFSSN's recent fundraiser gala. Trustee Clark commended the Adolescent and Family Support Services of Niagara's commitment and support of young mothers who wish to continue their education.
- (j) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that he attended the recent Lifetime Learning Centre Conference. Trustee Bradnam commended the staff and adult learners for organizing an excellent and well attended conference.
- (k) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that he attended Virgil Public School's recent Heart Health Day. It was a well attended and excellent event.
- (l) Trustee Alex Bradnam commended the Student Trustees for initiating the fundraiser in support of the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre. A cheque will be presented to the NPCC at tomorrow's meeting of the Student Trustee Senate.

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

- (m) Student Trustee James Gillespie reported that he attended the recent Ontario Student Trustees' Association Annual General Meeting. The AGM was well attended and speakers addressed a variety of topics such as technology, equity, and Aboriginal issues. Student Trustee Gillespie encouraged Trustees to read the Spring 2011 edition of OSTA's magazine which contains articles written by Student Trustees on a variety of issues. Student Trustee Gillespie also noted that a second survey has been launched for students as well as a survey for parents and educators on a variety of issues (see <http://studentsurvey.ca/>).
- (n) Chair Kevin Maves noted that last Thursday's Excellence in Education banquet recognized an outstanding group of students. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked OSSTF for sponsoring the event and he thanked staff who contributed to its success.

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 information are available in the Trustees Lounge.

6. Future Meetings**Schedule of Meetings for June 2011**

Trustees were provided with a schedule of meetings for June 2011. Trustees were asked to confirm their graduation commitments with the Director's Office.

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

