



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

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**BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE**

**December 13, 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, Cheryl Keddy-Scott, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel
- Regrets:** Trustee Lora Campbell, Superintendent Marilyn Hyatt,
- Student Trustees:** Student Trustee Joelle Schonberg and Evan Vassallo
- Officials:** Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), John Dickson, Carol Germyn, Sue Greer, Cam Hathaway, Sue Mark, Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, John Stainsby, Joe Weinberg, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Peter Doan, Kim Yielding, 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 7:33 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 Robinson  
Seconded by Trustee Barnett

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

**CARRIED**

Moved by Trustee Ness

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

**CARRIED**

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”**

The Board stood for “O Canada” accompanied on tape by student Dylan DeVries from Beamsville District Secondary School playing the trumpet.

**D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING**

Student Trustee Joelle Schonberg opened the meeting with a reflective reading called the Starfish Story.

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

Moved by Trustee Bradnam  
Seconded by Trustee Schaubel

“That the Agenda be adopted as revised.”

**CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Board Minutes**

Moved by Trustee Fast  
Seconded by Trustee Ness

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated November 22, 2011, be confirmed as submitted;” and

“That the Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 6, 2011, be confirmed as submitted.”

**CARRIED**

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

**“That the Don Reilly Resource Centre located at 13227 Lundy’s Lane, Allanburg, be declared surplus to the Board’s needs effective November 23, 2011, and that Board staff be authorized to dispose of the property in accordance with Ontario Regulation 444/98.”**

Chair Maves reminded the Board that the above motion was approved by the Board in its Committee of the Whole meeting of November 22, 2011.

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

**Moved by Trustee Robinson  
Seconded by Trustee Barnett**

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

**CARRIED**

**F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS****1. Director’s Report and Recognition**

Director Warren Hoshizaki commended Anna Balenovich, Kim Della Valle and Roxanne Porter, Benefits Specialists in the Human Resources Department, for their exemplary commitment to employee service. They work closely with the unions through the Benefits Review Committee to discuss and resolve issues that may arise. During their school visits they have met with employees individually or as groups and have volunteered in classrooms helping directly with students.

The Director presented Anna, Kim and Roxanne with a certificate recognizing their outstanding service and commitment to DSBN.

The Director also recognized Vanessa Verworn, daughter of Board Lawyer, Brenda Stokes Verworn, on receiving an OASBO Scholarship for 2011, and Steven Wright, son of Jim Wright, Supervisor of Student Data Systems and student at E.L. Crossley SS who won a competition to be “Mayor for a Day” at the Township of Wainfleet.

The Director highlighted the excellent “Students Taking Action Together “(S.T.A.T.) Conference, noting that DSBN student Wesley Prankard, from Prince Philip Public School in Niagara Falls was a keynote speaker. Wesley spoke of his efforts raising funds for a northern Aboriginal community on James Bay. To date, Wesley has raised \$10,000.00 to build a playground for the community

Pen Financial and Silverstri Sports in Welland were recognized for their generous donation of 45 uniforms to Plymouth Public School. A letter of thanks will be sent out on behalf of the Board.

2. **SPARK Program**

Superintendent John Stainsby introduced Erin Lotherington, Vice-Principal of Eastdale Secondary School and Laurie Columbus from Niagara Region Public Health, along with teacher Tracy Garratt and students Cory Avery, Ryan Curtis, Robbie Dilts and Dean Smith.

Laurie Columbus noted Niagara Region Public Health is pleased to partner with Eastdale SS on this health and wellness program that looks at the effects of exercise on the brain and advised that the Associate Medical Officer of Health is leading this study. Laurie thanked the Eastdale administration and teachers for their tremendous support.

Teacher Tracy Garratt said she was thrilled to be asked to participate in this program. Although she knew it would be a challenge, the end result is impressive in that participating students have significantly improved their focus. Levels of anxiety have been reduced, their confidence has sky rocketed and students are completing assignments and showing amazing progress. She noted it is hard to believe that one simple solution to making students more successful is as easy as exercising.

Trustees viewed a CBC video clip highlighting the SPARK program at Eastdale.

Student Robbie Dilts noted that working out for 30 minutes is not difficult and everyone can do it. He gets motivated by his teacher and classmates and thinks the program is awesome.

Trustees thanked the Eastdale students, staff and Niagara Region Public Health for their support of this initiative.

3. **Director's Holiday Card Contest**

Kim Yielding, Manager of Communications and Public Relations presented the showcase which recognized the winners of the Director's Holiday Card Contest.

The winner's of the 2011 competition are:

Alexandra Public School, Farah Bouley – Grade 2

Connaught Public School, Mingyi (MeiMei) Yang, – Grade 6

Crowland Central Public School, Haylea Zaborowski – Grade 3

E.L. Crossley Secondary School, Christian Lange – Grade 10

Fort Erie Elementary School, Kamia Ndimande – Grade 2

Glynn A Green Public School, Christie Hoang Thuang Tran – Grade 7

Grapeview Public School, Olivia White – Grade 2

Jacob Beam Public School, Grace Christie – Grade 8

Lifetime Learning Centre, Young Mom's Outreach – Stephanie Goodman –Gr 12

Meadowvale Public School, Harley Doucette and Jordan Lewies – Special Needs  
Princess Elizabeth Public School, Johnathan Cerone – 8e Special Needs  
Princess Margaret Public School, Dakota Shawana – Grade 3  
Queen Mary Public School, Felix Schober – Grade 8  
Ridgeway Public School, Giles Lamb – Grade 3  
Vineland Public School, Alysia Lounsbery – Grade 6

Students were asked to submit a drawing that incorporates one of the eight Character Attributes that form part of the DSBN Character Education program.

Each student received a plaque in recognition of their work as well as a set of Holiday Cards of their winning entries. Trustees also received a set of Holiday Cards. Kim Yielding noted that trustees and parents can access the student artwork to send e-cards by logging on to [www.dsbnschools.org](http://www.dsbnschools.org) and clicking on the holiday cards link.

Kim Yielding thanked the students, parents and teachers for their support of this initiative. Chair Maves noted this particular showcase has become a favourite for trustees and congratulated the students on their success.

**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. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS**

**Moved by Trustee Clark  
Seconded by Trustee Ness**

**“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 0903 to 0918 for the month of November 2011, totaling \$16,077,345.78, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

**2. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE**

**Moved by Student Trustee Schonberg  
Seconded by Student Trustee Vassallo**

**“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated November 23, 2011, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustees Joelle Schonberg and Evan Vassallo presented a verbal summary of the report.

Student Trustee Joelle Schonberg noted that, following the November meeting, the Student Trustee Senate is planning to conduct a survey of all DSBN students, similar to the province-wide survey, to enable all DSBN student voices to be heard on issues affecting students, such as bullying and social media. A committee will be established to develop a total of 10 questions for the student survey. Evan and Joelle will present the survey questionnaire to principals in the New Year.

Evan noted there will be a student presentation on the Minister’s Student Advisory council at the December Senate Meeting.

**3. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Trustee Barb Ness  
Seconded by Trustee Bradnam**

**“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated December 6, 2011, be received and adopted;” and**

**“That the Program and Planning Committee approve the recommendations outlined in the report of the Educational Research Committee of November 28, 2011;” and**

**“That the Program and Planning Committee approve the recommendations outlined in the report of the Expansion of French Immersion Program;” and**

**“That the Program and Planning Committee review a further study regarding the expansion of French Immersion in elementary schools encompassing East Welland, Fort Erie and West Lincoln (Mountain) areas. This report is to be brought to January 10, 2012, Program and Planning meeting;” and**

**“That the Program and Planning Committee approve, with one revision, the recommendation as outlined in the report of the Secondary School Program Review for the Current Year, 2011-2012;” and**

**“That the Program and Planning Committee approve, with two revisions, the recommendation as outlined in the report of the Secondary School Program Review for the Subsequent Year, 2012-2013;” and**

**“That the Program and Planning Committee approve the recommendation outlined in the report of the Update on the Fort Erie Elementary Accommodation Review Process;” and**

**“That the Program and Planning Committee approve the recommendation outlined in the report of the Update on the Central and South St. Catharines and Thorold Secondary Schools Accommodation Review Process.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Barbara Ness presented a summary of the report of the Program and Planning Committee. Trustee Ness thanked the seven trustees who attended this meeting and reported that each topic on the agenda was thoroughly discussed and debated.

Trustee Ness reviewed the report of the Educational Research Committee, noting four of the five proposals received committee approval.

Trustee Ness noted there was a long and thorough discussion on the proposed expansion of French Immersion programs across DSBN schools. Entry at grade 4 will be added, along with a pilot of Grade 1 entry at five sites across the region. Trustees have asked staff to look at areas in the region where the expanded French Immersion is not available to determine if programs may be viable. A report will come to the Program and Planning meeting on January 10<sup>th</sup>.

Trustee Ness reported that the Secondary School Program Review (3 column chart) report was approved with some minor revisions.

Trustees received an update on the Fort Erie Elementary Schools and St. Catharines/Thorold Secondary Schools Accommodation Review process. Trustees support the process to date and thanked staff for the great work on both the Fort Erie Elementary Schools and St. Catharines/Thorold Secondary Schools Accommodation Reviews.

In response to a question from Student Trustee Vassallo, Trustee Ness advised that the intent of the Design Literacies-in-Action research proposal is to find ways to measure if the use of technology in education has an effective impact on student learning.

**K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS**

**L. NEW BUSINESS**

1. January 17, 2012, is the date for interviews for Educational Superintendent of Elementary Schools position. Trustees were asked to confirm their availability to the Chair or the Director’s Office. Trustees Barnett, Bradnam, Fulford, Keddy Scott and Robinson volunteered to participate if required.
2. Trustee representatives were invited to participate in an Ad Hoc Committee on Governance to discuss Trustee Code of Conduct. Trustees Barnett, Bradnam Fulford and Keddy Scott agreed to participate.

**M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS****1. Staff Reports**

There were no staff reports.

**2. Trustee Information Session**

There was no Information Session scheduled.

**3. Correspondence and Communication**

There was no correspondence and communication.

**4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

- (a) Trustee Clark noted many trustees attended the grand opening of the DSBN Academy. He sent accolades to the many people who were instrumental in the successful start up of this program, but in particular, thanked Director Warren Hoshizaki for his vision and strong leadership noting it was the Director who was instrumental in making this initiative a reality.

Following a visit to a San Diego school in 2008, the Director discussed his belief that some DSBN students could benefit from a program to support students being the first in their family to graduate from College or University. He established a DSBN committee to gather input and data on the viability of this initiative which was brought to the Board for discussion during the Strategic Planning meeting in March 2009. The Board decided it was worth pursuing. Trustee Clark, along with Federation representatives, principals, teachers, and Brock University partners, visited the San Diego school to determine if it could be the basis for the development of a similar program tailored to DSBN needs. Trustee Clark noted that, even in the face of some adversity, the Board continued to support this vision, but that it would never have been possible without the Director's vision and in ensuring the right people were involved.

Trustee Clark publicly recognized Director Warren Hoshizaki for his dedication in establishing this initiative noting the Board is very proud of this program which will be a lasting, and very important legacy. He thanked Director Hoshizaki for guiding the Board and staff through this process and for a successful start-up.

- (b) Trustee Barnett recognized a student teacher in Welland for her innovative approach to creative writing. Students took a list of ingredients and created a recipe for good health. Sue thanked the student teacher for her great work and for the school staff who supported and mentored her.



- (c) Trustee Bradnam was a judge at a Spelling Bee competition held in the Ed Centre Atrium in November. A number of elementary students participated and parents and staff were in attendance. Trustee Bradnam congratulated staff and students on a great job.
- (d) Trustee Bradnam thanked the students and staff choir from Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School for their participation in the 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Civic St. Catharines Christmas Sing. He noted the school contribution is greatly appreciated by the community and asked that a letter of thanks be sent to students and staff for bringing Christmas spirit to the City of St. Catharines.
- (e) Trustee Ness participated in the Niagara Falls Candlelight Stroll and was delighted to see students and staff from Stamford Collegiate were in attendance, even although it was a very cold night. Trustee Ness thanked the staff and students for going above and beyond to support their school and community.
- (f) On behalf of Trustee Campbell, Trustee Ness reminded Trustees and Staff to remember to vote for Lincoln Centennial's playground funding through Aviva.
- (g) Trustee Jonathan Fast asked that the Eden HS Senior Boys Volleyball team be recognized at the January 10<sup>th</sup> meeting on their sixth OFSAA victory in a row.
- (h) Vice-Chair Robinson thanked all staff and students who appear in public places at this time of year. Their participation in local events has a tremendously positive impact on the community and people appreciate what they do.

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

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott reported on the November 25-26 OPSBA meeting in Toronto where many directors were in attendance. A template for a Trustee Code of Conduct was discussed. Trustee Keddy-Scott noted it was a contentious issue and this template will be discussed by DSNB trustees during the Ad Hoc Committee on Governance meetings. Trustee Keddy-Scott encouraged all trustees to attend, if possible.

Trustee Keddy-Scott noted that the Federal Government has a bill before them for discussion – Bill C-300, Suicide Bill. The intent is to establish a Federal Framework, and designate an entity to take responsibility for this and to consult with non-government agencies to share information.

Many OPSBA members attended Violence in the Media Conference and suggested that all trustees would find this information very useful. OPSBA hopes to bring this conference to Toronto.

The OPSBA Symposium will be held from January 26–28 where additional discussions on Trustee Code of Conduct will be discussed based on feedback from participating boards. Additional information on the symposium is in the Trustee Lounge.

**6. Future Meetings**

The calendar of January 2012 meetings and events was received and reviewed.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Trustee Bradnam  
Seconded by Trustee Fulford**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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**KEVIN MAVES**, Chair

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**WARREN HOSHIZAKI**, Director of Education  
and Secretary/Treasurer