



**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**

**October 25, 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, Cheryl Keddy-Scott, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel

**Student Trustees:** Joelle Schonberg and Evan Vassallo

**Officials:** Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), John Dickson, Sue Greer, Cam Hathaway, Marilyn Hyatt, Sue Mark, Helen McGregor, John Stainsby, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Peter Doan, Rick Werezak, Karen Bellamy, Marian Lamb

**Recording Secretary:** Irene Foster

**Technical Support:** Linda Gonschior and Wendy Coit

**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.

Chair Maves welcomed students from Brock University's Faculty of Education who were in the gallery.

**2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

**B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)**

**Moved by Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Barbara Ness**

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

**CARRIED**

**Moved Cheryl Keddy-Scott**

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

**CARRIED**

The Board returned to open meeting (Public Session) at 7:00 p.m.

**C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”**

The Board stood and sang “O Canada” accompanied on tape by the West Park Secondary School choir.

**D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING**

Trustee Dalton Clark opened the meeting with a reading and reflection on the past and present challenges and achievements of the Board in addressing the needs of students.

Chair Maves concurred that this Board has proudly addressed the learning needs of students by implementing a variety of programs and initiatives.

**E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

**Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy-Scott**

**“That the Agenda be adopted.”**

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:****2. Approval of Board Minutes**

Moved by Lora Campbell  
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated October 11, 2011, be confirmed as submitted.”

**CARRIED**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Dialling 911 using phones within DSBN buildings

As a follow up to a question raised at the October 11, 2011, Board meeting Superintendent Sue Greer reported that any school can dial “9” “911” or “911” to reach the emergency call centre.

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

Moved by Dale Robinson  
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the business transacted in Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board.”

**CARRIED**

Chair Maves reported that in Committee of the Whole the Board approved the appointment of Joe Weinberg to the position of Superintendent of Business Services, effective November 8, 2011. The Board also accepted the resignation of Ross Cole, Supervisor of Maintenance Services, and wished him well in his future endeavours.

**F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS****(a) Mental Health and Well Being**

Superintendent Helen McGregor introduced the presentation which showcased programs and initiatives which reflect the importance of a team approach in supporting students.

1. Barb Eade, Student Achievement Leader, outlined the Board’s role and the strategies that have been implemented to support students in the areas of mental health and well being through a wide variety of internal and community based initiatives. Barb Eade showcased the Student Support Leadership Initiative (SSLI) which is a shared responsibility

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****Mental Health and Well Being**

amongst four Ministries. Barb Eade commended and acknowledged the dedicated staff who are committed to the program.

Christine Dernederlandan, author of the H.U.G.S. program (Helping Understand Grief Sessions), explained that the H.U.G.S. program was developed to address an identified need to help students who are struggling as a result of their feelings of loss and grief. Ms. Dernederlandan commended Barb Eade, Tracy Hofland, and Julie Densham for moving the program forward. Ms. Dernederlandan also thanked school staff who courageously listen to the stories of children who are experiencing grief.

Tracy Hofland explained the components of the H.U.G.S. kit, now totalling 26 kits used throughout the Board.

Julie Densham, Executive Director, Education Foundation of Niagara (EFN) provided examples of ways in which the Board and the EFN support and respond to the needs of DSNB students and their families. Ms. Densham explained that the 26 H.U.G.S. kits were fully funded by community partners and fundraising efforts which raised \$20,000 to deliver the program at the elementary school level. Plans are underway to develop the H.U.G.S. program at the secondary school level.

Christine Dernederlandan and Bill Mozina, EFN President, presented the community partners with a plaque in recognition of their support of the program. The following partners were recognized.

- Benner Funeral Services (Darren Flagg)
- Niagara Community Foundation (Executive Director Liz Palmieri)
- Morgan Funeral Homes / Morse and Son Funeral Homes (Glen Burkeholder)
- Matthew Hofland Legacy Foundation (Tracy Hofland and Quin Hofland)
- Butler Funeral Home Niagara (Doug and Laurie Bielby)
- Butler Funeral Home Downtown (Mike Guttin)
- School Support Leadership Initiative (represented by Barb Eade)
- Wise Guys Foundation
- Niagara Regional Fire Chiefs Association

Further information on the Education Foundation of Niagara can be found at [www.facebook.com/educationfoundationofniagara](http://www.facebook.com/educationfoundationofniagara) or [www.efnonline.ca](http://www.efnonline.ca).

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****Mental Health and Well Being**

Ms. Densham confirmed that H.U.G.S. kits can be sponsored for use in organizations other than the DSNB by contacting Christine [Dernederlandan](#) or the Education Foundation of Niagara. Trustee Ness suggested a donation of a H.U.G.S. kit for the upcoming EFN Gala Silent Auction. Trustee Barnett added that tickets for the Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup> EFN Gala are available and that the EFN is accepting donations for the Silent Auction.

Trustees Sue Barnett, Alex Bradnam, and Dave Schaubel expressed their support for this valuable resource.

Chair Maves added that he and Trustee Schaubel attended at Garrison Road Public School when the program was launched and it was moving to see the responses of children. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked all the donors and staff for supporting this worthy initiative. Chair Maves also indicated that the Board looks forward to the program being implemented in the secondary panel.

**G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS****1. Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Operational Plan 2011-2012**

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

**“That the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Operational Plan 2011-2012 be approved.”**

**CARRIED**

Superintendent Cam Hathaway explained that the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Operational Plan is required to be submitted to the Ministry of Education on an annual basis and that the development of this year's Board Improvement Plan began in March 2011 with input from a variety of stakeholder groups. Superintendent Hathaway reminded the Board that Board improvement planning is a collaborative effort between School Boards and the Ministry of Education. The Ministry's expectation is that the plan is a dynamic document and open to change throughout the year. Superintendent Hathaway presented an overview of the 2011-2012 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Operational Plan, which includes an academic focus and which reflects improved EQAO results, and a detailed report on literacy, numeracy and student success. The plan outlines next steps in enhancing student achievement and success and sets out strategies and actions to target the SMART Goals identified in the document, including assisting students in identifying their individual learning needs. Superintendent Hathaway explained that a new component of the Board Improvement Plan is the inclusion of priorities and goals

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS – continued:****Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Operational Plan 2011-2012**

for improving and supporting student achievement to be implemented by Corporate Services. Superintendent Hathaway recognized members of the working team which included Shirley Scott, Kelly Pisek, Jen Tye, Fred Louws, Kim Yielding and Cathy Martin, for their dedication and commitment to the development of the plan.

Trustees Alex Bradnam and Jonathan Fast commended staff on developing an excellent document. Trustee Bradnam noted that EQAO testing is a snapshot and only one of numerous steps in achieving and measuring student success. Trustee Bradnam commended all staff who deliver programs to students on a daily basis.

Superintendent Hathaway clarified for Trustee Robinson that it is anticipated the Ministry will focus on providing additional support for math instruction.

Trustee Fast reported that some concern has been expressed by parents that students' multiplication skills may not be as strong as prior generations. Superintendent Hathaway explained that there is more focus on developing the students' problem solving skills and abilities and developing a collaborative inquiry approach. Superintendent Greer added that there are programs to assist students in enhancing basic skills through a differentiated program approach.

The Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and Operational Plan 2011-2012 will be available on the Board's website at [www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org).

**H. DELEGATIONS**

There were no Delegations.

**I. BOARD RECESS**

There was no Board recess.

**J. OLD BUSINESS****1. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS**

Moved by Dalton Clark  
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 0876 to 0890 for the month of September 2011 totalling \$18,453,802.42 be received.”

**CARRIED**

**2. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

Moved by Cheryl Keddy-Scott  
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated October 5, 2011, be received.”

**CARRIED**

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott provided a summary of the report which focused on the upcoming Parent Involvement Committee conference on November 2<sup>nd</sup> where it is anticipated that over 450 registrants will attend. Trustee Keddy-Scott commended the organizing committee under the direction of Superintendent Sue Mark for organizing a great conference at Eden High School.

**K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS****(a) Request for Trustees to participate in Principal/Vice-Principal interviews**

Elementary Vice-Principal Interviews – November 18, 2011  
Elementary Principal Interviews – November 23 and 25, 2011

Trustees Sue Barnett, Alex Bradnam, Cheryl Keddy-Scott, and Barbara Ness volunteered to participate in the Principal/Vice-Principal interviews.

**L. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

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

Director Hoshizaki highlighted the following:

- Boris Shostak, Information Services, was recognized for developing an automated process to assist the Board's Benefits Administrators.
- Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, was recognized for being a major participant in developing the new Police Protocol and for presenting a training session to school Administrators and staff from Niagara Regional Police Service and the local French Boards.
- Superintendent Marilyn Hyatt, Board Lawyer Brenda Stokes Verworn, and Student Achievement Leaders Barb Eade and Fred Louws were recognized for their role in organizing the recent Circle of Care Conference in collaboration with the Early Childhood Community Development Centre, Family and Children's Services Niagara, Pathstones, and The Niagara Catholic District School Board.

Trustee Clark expressed his support for continuing to recognize the exemplary work and contributions of staff. Trustee Fast congratulated Boris Shostak on this recognition.

**2. Trustee Information Session**

There was no Trustee Information Session prior to the Board meeting.

**3. Correspondence and Communications**

There was no correspondence and communications.

**4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

- (a) Trustee Sue Barnett reported that she attended the recent "Next Niagara" conference in Niagara Falls. The purpose of the conference was to connect the participants and facilitate dialogue on encouraging future generations to live, work and stay in Niagara. Trustee Barnett added that the Board's Robotics Team 1503 shared their perspective on the future employment options in the area of technology.
- (b) Trustee Alex Bradnam gave a reminder of the upcoming STAT Conference on October 26 and 27 at Welland Centennial Secondary School.
- (c) Trustee Alex Bradnam noted that a Community Living workshop will be presented at the Four Points Sheraton on November 26. Further information will be available at a later date.
- (d) Trustee Alex Bradnam noted that donations to support Woodend - The Living Campus can now be made through the United Way.



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

- (e) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that he and Trustee Fast attended the recent fundraising event at Coppola's where \$10,000 was raised in support of Eden High School's Spiritual Life Centre.
- (f) Chair Maves reported that he attended a recent Ice Dogs hockey game where students from Forestview Public School's Junior Choir did a great job in performing the Canadian and American National anthems.

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

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott reported on the Central West Region meeting which was held at the Education Centre on Saturday, October 15<sup>th</sup>. Trustee Keddy-Scott reported that the meeting was well attended and there was good discussion on a variety of issues, including mental health, labour, transportation, and the recent provincial elections. Trustee Keddy-Scott thanked Marian Lamb and Karen Bellamy in the Director's Office for their support and assistance in organizing the meeting. Trustee Keddy-Scott recognized the Central West Region for being in the forefront in discussing mental health issues.

**6. Future Meetings**

The following revisions were made to the calendar of meetings for November 2011:

November 8	<u>Program and Planning Committee</u> – rescheduled from November 1 to November 8 at 5:30 p.m. (light supper at 5:00 p.m.)
November 21	<u>Audit Committee</u> at 5:30 p.m.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Dalton Clark**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.