



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

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**BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE**

**September 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, Lora Campbell, Jonathan Fast, Ed Fulford, Cheryl Keddy-Scott, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel

**Student**

**Trustees:** Student Trustees Joelle Schonberg (arrived at 7:55 p.m.), Evan Vassallo

**Regrets:** Dalton Clark

**Officials:** Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), John Dickson, Carol Germyn, Sue Greer, Cam Hathaway, Marilyn Hyatt (arrived at 8:40 p.m.), Sue Mark (arrived at 8:40 p.m.), Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, John Stainsby, Brenda Stokes Verworn (arrived at 8:40 p.m.), Peter Doan, Kim Yielding, Rick Werezak, Marian Lamb, Karen Bellamy, Doug Durant (present for Public Session)

**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 7:55 p.m.

2. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

3. **Welcome to new Student Trustees**

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves welcomed new Student Trustees Joelle Schonberg and Evan Vassallo for the 2011-2012 school year.

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

**Moved by Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

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

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Jonathan Fast**

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

**CARRIED**

The Board returned to open meeting (Public Session) at 7:50 p.m.

**C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”**

The Board stood for a minute of silence to commemorate DSBN students and staff who passed away over the summer.

Following the minute of silence, the Board stood and sang “O Canada” accompanied on tape by students from Ferndale Public School, St. Catharines.

Chair Maves welcomed the Brock University Faculty of Education students who were observing the Board meeting.

**D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING**

Trustee Sue Barnett opened the meeting with a reflective reading from a booklet called “A Flame of Fire.”

**E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

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

**“That the Agenda be adopted.”**

**CARRIED**

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

Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy-Scott

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated June 27, 2011, be confirmed as submitted.”

**CARRIED**

**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)**

Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole (Private Session) was deferred to follow the business of the open meeting (Public Session).

**F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS****(a) Welcome Back to DSBN Schools!**

Kim Yielding, Manager of Communications and Public Relations, presented video highlights of DSBN students and staff as they started the 2011-2012 school year. Superintendent Morgan reported that early enrolment figures in the elementary and secondary panels exceed the projected enrolment. Superintendent Morgan noted that this can be attributed to the hard work of staff to provide programs and build community relationships.

Chair Maves thanked staff for the video which reflects the Board's focus on students.

**(b) Joan Crowe Award**

Superintendent Carol Germyn introduced the showcase.

Kelly Pisek, Student Achievement Leader – Special Education, Frank Ventresca, President – Local CUPE 4156; and Deb Dennis, daughter of Joan Crowe, presented the showcase. The Board viewed a slide show prepared by Christine White which highlighted the close relationship between students and Educational Assistants and Child Care Workers.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****Joan Crowe Award**

Frank Ventresca explained that this is the 10<sup>th</sup> year the Joan Crowe Award is being presented. The Award is given annually to an Educational Assistant or Child Care Worker at the DSBN who demonstrates outstanding commitment to their profession and the students they serve and who exemplifies the qualities of Joan Crowe, a former Educational Assistant with the District School Board of Niagara. Deb Dennis, daughter of Joan Crowe, spoke of her mother's commitment and passion and she commended this year's winner for his tireless work, effort and commitment to helping students achieve success. Frank Ventresca and Ms. Dennis expressed their appreciation to the Board, the Joan Crowe Award Selection Committee, Jim and Nancy Gallacher (former teachers who worked with Joan Crowe), and to CUPE for their continued support of the Joan Crowe Award.

Kelly Pisek introduced Chris Streisslberger, Educational Assistant at Grapeview Public School, as the 2010-2011 recipient of the Joan Crowe Award. Chris Streisslberger thanked Allison Sadowski for her nomination, the Grapeview Public School staff for their support, the Board, and CUPE for this honour.

Deb Dennis, Frank Ventresca, and Kelly Pisek presented Chris Streisslberger with the 2010-2011 Joan Crowe Award.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves congratulated Chris Streisslberger and thanked all the Educational Assistants and Child Care Workers for all their work to support students.

**Trustee Barbara Ness left the meeting at 8:25 p.m.**

**G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS**

There were no Student Achievement Reports

**H. DELEGATIONS**

1. **Paolo Miele** - DSBN expenditures related to the new sign for the head office, media expenditures, and student activity card fees.

Mr. Miele questioned the need for a new sign at the Education Centre. Mr. Miele expressed concerns that the fee charged to students for student activity cards is not consistent across the Board and suggested that the Board should have a policy for student activity card fees to ensure consistency across the Board.

Mr. Miele then expressed concerns that comments allegedly made by Trustee Dalton Clark last year during a visit to a Grade 10 Civics class at West Park Secondary School regarding the future of the school, suggests that the outcome

**DELEGATIONS – continued:**

of Accommodation Reviews is predetermined.

Chair Maves cautioned Mr. Miele to keep his remarks to his requested topic or he would be asked to leave. Mr. Miele continued to focus his remarks on the upcoming Accommodation Review and the alleged disclosure of information regarding a future event, and he suggested that Trustee Clark has breached trust by disclosing information prior to the Accommodation Review taking place.

Chair Maves directed Mr. Miele to sit down. Chair Maves asked if Trustees had any questions of clarification.

Trustee Barnett noted that it is unlikely that an experienced Trustee like Trustee Clark would make such a statement. Trustee Barnett noted that Mr. Miele has maligned Trustee Clark and this Board and she asked what recourse was available to the Board. Trustee Fulford asked how to stop Delegations from making these kinds of allegations and suggested Delegations provide their written comments in advance.

**I. BOARD RECESS**

There was no Board recess.

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

Moved by Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Sue Barnett

**“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 0832 to 0860 for the months of June 2011 and July 2011, totaling \$32,388,031.46, 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 September 7, 2011, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott presented the report of the Parent Involvement Committee. Trustee Keddy-Scott thanked the Director for attending the meeting.

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

There were no questions asked of and by Board members.

**L. NEW BUSINESS****Declaration of School Surplus to Board Needs**

Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That, in accordance with Section 194(3) of the Education Act, Battlefield Public School be declared surplus to the needs of the District School Board of Niagara effective September 14, 2011, and that staff be authorized to dispose of the property in accordance with Ontario Regulation 444/98.”

**CARRIED**

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

Director Hoshizaki highlighted the following:

- The Director thanked all staff for an excellent opening to the school year and for all their work to ensure that schools were ready.
- The Director visited approximately ten schools since the start of the school year and they all reported a very successful opening.
- A Delegation of educators from Denmark visited Forestview Public School and A.N. Myer Secondary School last week; the Delegation was very impressed with our schools, including their cleanliness, and the kinds of things happening in technology.
- Enrolment is reported to be higher than projected and staff will be added as necessary to ensure that classrooms are staffed appropriately.

Trustee Sue Barnett commended the Director and the Communications Department staff for being present for the opening of the DSBN Academy to ensure the focus was on students. Chair Maves commended all the staff for a very successful opening of the DSBN Academy.

**Board Lawyer Brenda Stokes Verworn, and Superintendents Marilyn Hyatt and Sue Mark arrived at 8:40 p.m.**

**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:****(b) Staff Report on International Education**

Superintendent Carol Germyn presented a report on International Education. Superintendent Germyn reported that by invitation from a group of investors from China who are interested in pursuing the development of Anshan International Academy in China, delegates from the Board visited Anshan during the summer for the purpose of exploring a partnership with them. Discussions resulted in entering into the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. Next steps include reviewing a business development plan which will be submitted to the Board by the investors.

**(c) Update on Summer Construction Projects**

Doug Durant, Manager of Projects and Maintenance, presented an update and highlights of summer construction projects. Doug Durant noted that there were a record number of construction projects this past year. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves commended all staff on their work, particularly over the Labour Day weekend, to ensure that schools were ready for students. Chair Maves also commended staff on the opening of the new Crossroads Public School.

**2. Trustee Information Session**

There was no Information Session scheduled.

**3. Correspondence and Correspondence****(a) Letter from Grand Erie District School Board**

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott noted that further discussion will take place on the issue at the upcoming OPSBA Board of Directors meeting in Toronto.

**4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

- (a) Trustee Sue Barnett noted the recent presentation of “Famous Sons and Daughters” hosted by the Welland Museum. The presentation showcased Kelly Haines, a children’s entertainer and puppeteer who has Tourette’s Syndrome, and whose success can be attributed in part to the support and encouragement of her former teachers and Educational Assistants.
- (b) Trustee Lora Campbell reported that she attended Pine Grove Public School’s Open House where students, parents, and staff expressed their excitement regarding the newly renovated facilities.

**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:****5. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report****(a) Summary of OPSBA Initiatives and Events**

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott reported that she and Trustees Fulford and Bradnam attended the July Annual General Meeting in Ottawa. Many informative and interesting sessions were presented by excellent guest speakers on a variety of issues. Trustees will be provided with more detailed information on the sessions and issues presented. OPSBA also addressed a number of governance issues.

Trustee Fulford thanked Director Hoshizaki for attending a number of the sessions.

**6. Future Meetings****Calendar of Meetings for September 2011**

There were no amendments to the calendar of meetings. Chair Maves asked Trustees to note the dates of the upcoming Accommodation Review meetings.

**BOARD RECESS**

**Moved by Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy-Scott**

**“That the Board recess.”**

**CARRIED**

The Board recessed at 8:55 p.m.

The business of the Board resumed at 9:10 p.m.

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

**“That the Board do now enter Committee of the Whole.”**

**CARRIED**

The Board returned to Committee of the Whole (Private Session) at 9:10 p.m.



**Moved by Alex Bradnam**

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

**CARRIED**

The Board returned to open meeting (Public Session) at 9:45 p.m.

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

**Moved by Dale Robinson  
Seconded by Sue Barnett**

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

**CARRIED**

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

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

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

**CARRIED**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:46 p.m.**

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**KEVIN MAVES**, Chair

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