



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

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**BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE**

**November 22, 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

**Regrets:** Trustee Dalton Clark, Student Trustee Joelle Schonberg

**Student Trustees:** Student Trustee Evan Vassallo

**Officials:** Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), John Dickson, Carol Germyn, Sue Greer, Cam Hathaway, Marilyn Hyatt, Sue Mark, Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, John Stainsby, Joe Weinberg, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Peter Doan, Kim Yielding, Marian Lamb, Karen Bellamy, Rick Werezak (present for Private 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 7:30 p.m.

**2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

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

Moved by Dave Schaubel  
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“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 at 7:10 p.m.

**C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”**

The Board stood and sang “O Canada” accompanied on tape by students from Burleigh Hill Public School, St. Catharines.

**D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING**

Trustee Ed Fulford opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

**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 Lora Campbell  
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated November 8, 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 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**

- (a) Brad Digweed, Instructional Coach, was commended for being awarded the 2011 *Smarter Science Advanced Technology Educator’s Award* in recognition of his outstanding contributions in the development of inquiry-based Science education in Ontario. Mr. Digweed received this honour as a result of his work pioneering the use of remote data sensing probes in elementary schools, and for demonstrating how he has integrated this technology in the classroom and at various Science camps. Brad Digweed was presented with a Certificate in recognition of his achievements.
- (b) On a recent visit to Eastdale Secondary School, Minister of Education Laurel Broten presented students and staff of Eastdale Secondary School and Grimsby Secondary School with the *Premier’s Safe Schools Award*. Eastdale and Grimsby Secondary Schools were two of ten schools across the province to receive this recognition. On behalf of Eastdale Secondary School and Grimsby Secondary School Principals Ed Stavnitzky and Jim Heywood; Vice-Principals Erin Lotherington and Ann Gilmore, and students accepted a Certificate of Recognition presented by Chair Maves and Director Hoshizaki. Director Hoshizaki commended the students under the leadership of Principals Ed Stavnitzky and Jim Heywood on receiving this award which highlights the importance of the meaning of safe schools.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves commended all the students and staff who were recognized for their achievements.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****2. Prince of Wales Public School (St. Catharines) – Environmental Committee**

Superintendent Sue Mark introduced the presentation which highlighted the school's amazing students and parents under the leadership of Principal Pam Voth and Vice-Principal Gerry Winger. Prince of Wales Public School students, parent Jodie Taylor, and staff shared the school's environmental and energy conservation initiatives and the students' visit to Woodend.

On behalf of the Board, Director Hoshizaki presented the students with a Certificate of Recognition.

**3. Recognition of 2011 DSBN Down to Earth Challenge Winners**

Superintendent Carol Germyn introduced members of the Board's Eco Sustainability Committee, Carol Purcer, Principal of Westlane Secondary School; and Sean Hanna, Science and Technology Consultant.

Carol Purcer and Sean Hanna presented the showcase which recognized the winning schools for their environmental accomplishments in the 2011 DSBN Down to Earth Challenge. Carol Purcer outlined the initiatives that each winning school/work site participated in.

Student and staff representatives accepted a plaque on behalf of their schools/work site in recognition of their accomplishments.

Area 1	Greendale Public School
Area 2	Steele Street Public School
Area 3	Jacob Beam Public School
Area 4	Alexandra Public School
Area 5	Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School
Education Centre	Payroll Services Department

Director Hoshizaki thanked Carol Purcer and Sean Hanna for championing this environmental program within the Board.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves congratulated all the winners and thanked the students and staff for their presentations and for their environmental awareness and affirmative action on environmental issues.

**G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS****1. Report on Aboriginal Education**

Superintendent Carol Germyn presented a report on Aboriginal Education within the DSBN which reflects the Ontario government's 2005 position paper "Ontario's New Approach to Aboriginal Affairs." The Ministry's focus is to improve achievement among First Nation, Métis and Inuit students, and to close the gap between Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal students in the areas of literacy and numeracy, retention of students in schools, graduation rates, and advancement to post secondary studies. Superintendent Germyn outlined the Board's initiatives and programs which support the academic achievement of Aboriginal students, which include:

- The establishment of the Aboriginal Educational Advisory Committee in March 2008;
- The development of an Aboriginal Student Self-Identification Policy;
- Native Studies currently offered at St. Catharines Collegiate and Fort Erie Secondary School;
- A Secondary School Aboriginal Career Day on November 26<sup>th</sup>;
- An Aboriginal After-School program which will run from January to May 2012.

Other supports provided by the Board for Aboriginal students include an Aboriginal Education Consultant; Youth Counsellor with Aboriginal Specialization; Aboriginal Youth Liaison Worker; Aboriginal Tutors in the Classroom and BASIC Tutoring.

Superintendent Germyn explained for Trustee Fulford that the Aboriginal Career Day will provide students with an opportunity to participate in a variety of sessions with Aboriginal presenters where they will have opportunities to explore future career options.

**H. DELEGATIONS**

There were no Delegations

**I. BOARD RECESS**

There was no Board recess.

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

Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 0891 to 0902 for the month of October 2011, totaling \$16,637,428.39, be received.”

**CARRIED**

**2. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (SAL) COMMITTEE**

Moved by Dave Schaubel  
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee dated November 7, 2011, be received.”

**CARRIED**

Trustee Dave Schaubel reported on the meeting of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee.

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

Chair Maves reminded the Board that the recommendations of the Program and Planning Committee were approved at the November 8, 2011, Board meeting.

**4. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)**

Moved by Cheryl Keddy-Scott  
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated November 10, 2011, be received.”

**CARRIED**

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott presented a summary of the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) which included an informative presentation on the TRIBES program.

**OLD BUSINESS – continued:****5. REPORT OF THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Moved by Dale Robinson  
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Policy Advisory Committee dated November 15, 2011, be received;” and

“That Policy E-5: E-Mail, Internet and Intranet Use by Staff be approved with revisions and adopted;” and

“That Policy E-17: Performance Appraisal be approved as presented and adopted;” and

“That Policy I-3: Interprovincial/International Teacher Exchange be approved as presented and adopted;” and

“That Policy G-5: Weapons be approved as presented and adopted.”

**CARRIED**

Trustee Dale Robinson spoke briefly to the recommendations of the Policy Advisory Committee.

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

(a) Trustee Alex Bradnam asked that consideration be given to preserving the historical significance of the Battlefield Public School site, Niagara Falls, with respect to the War of 1812, in any discussions regarding the future sale of the school. Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, reminded the Board that Battlefield Public School was previously declared surplus by the Board and in accordance with Ontario Regulation 444/98 the property was offered to preferred agencies for a 90 day period, during which time the preferred agencies have an opportunity to express their interest in the property. The Board will be updated at a future date regarding the disposal of Battlefield Public School as information becomes available. Director Hoshizaki added that preparations and planning for ceremonies at schools significant to the War of 1812 are underway and municipalities and the Region will also be involved.

Chair Maves reported that in a published newspaper article, the City of Niagara Falls recently publicly declared its interest in the Battlefield Public School site together with the Region of Niagara. Discussion will take place with the City regarding the school's local and national historical importance. Chair Maves reminded the Trustees that the Board must comply with the legislation when disposing of any property.

**QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS – continued:**

- (b) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that an increase in playground incidents across the province has gained national attention. Trustee Bradnam asked if the Board's insurer, the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE), has released any guidelines or directives to the Board to heighten safety awareness on school playgrounds.

Superintendent Morgan replied that OSBIE has not reported an increase in playground incidents within our Board. This can be attributed to the schools' excellent leadership in ensuring adequate supervision and monitoring the condition of playground equipment. Superintendent Morgan added that our Board has already taken proactive steps to increase playground safety and to teach students appropriate playground games and activities. These include the Niagara Recess Project, which is a collaborative initiative with community partners such as Brock University, and the Peaceful Playgrounds initiative which introduces students and staff to the many choices of activities available on playgrounds.

Superintendent Sue Greer added that schools also conduct routine safety checks of the playground equipment and instruct students on being aware of safety hazards such as shoelaces. Superintendent Sue Mark noted that the Balanced School Day provides an opportunity to be flexible in scheduling students on the playground during nutritional breaks.

**L. NEW BUSINESS****1. Ad Hoc Committee for Negotiations**

Chair Maves reported that Trustees Lora Campbell and Dave Schaubel will sit on the Ad Hoc Committee for Negotiations and he thanked all the Trustees who volunteered.

**2. Organizational Board Meeting – Tuesday, December 6, 2011 – 5:30 p.m.**

Chair Maves noted that the Organizational Meeting of the Board is scheduled for December 6, 2011. Chair Maves reminded the Trustees of the process set out in the Board's By-Laws for submitting written nominations for the positions of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

**By-Law F-6**

- i) The Secretary of the Board shall receive written nominations of members of the Board for the position of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.
- ii) Nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary from December 1<sup>st</sup> until 12:00 noon on the day of the Organizational Meeting and may be submitted only by members of the Board.



**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 Lora Campbell reported that the Garden City Optimist Club is holding the Optimist Essay Contest. Entries are due by February 3, 2012, and students have an opportunity to win a \$2,500 scholarship. Applications and information is available at [www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships3.cfm](http://www.optimist.org/e/member/scholarships3.cfm)

At Trustee Campbell's request, information on the contest will be shared with schools.

(b) Trustee Lora Campbell gave a reminder of the Education Foundation of Niagara's Holly Jolly Gala at Club Italia this Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>.

(c) Trustee Lora Campbell gave a reminder of the Human Resources Department's upcoming Annual Pancake Breakfast on December 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Education Centre in support of the Board's Adopt-a-Family program.

(d) Chair Maves added that the Adopt-a-Family program is supported by Departments throughout the Education Centre and School Support Services. Chair Maves commended staff for supporting students and their families. Due to the increased need in the community Chair Maves asked the Trustees to assist by supporting the program which reaches out to families across the Region.

(e) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that he attended the Remembrance Day ceremonies at Crossroads Public School. Trustee Bradnam commended the students and staff and representatives from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake for organizing and presenting the ceremony.

(f) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that the Lifetime Learning Centre will be hosting its annual Bake Sale on December 8 from 10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., and its Buffet event on December 15<sup>th</sup>. Both events raise funds in support of Community Care.

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

- (g) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that he will be judging a Spelling Bee at Prince Philip Public School, St. Catharines, this Friday, November 25<sup>th</sup>.
- (h) Trustee Alex Bradnam reminded the Board of the December 7<sup>th</sup> Staff Recognition Night.
- (i) Trustee Alex Bradnam noted that the Niagara Region Labour Council is hosting a dinner to raise funds to erect a monument at the Region of Niagara headquarters in honour of all workers injured or killed on the job.
- (j) Trustee Alex Bradnam provided an update on the Woodend Living Legacy fundraising activities. Trustee Bradnam commended all the supporters and community partners together with Kevin Graham and his dedicated committee for all their work in raising close to \$500,000 to date.
- (k) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that the St. Catharines Mennonite Church will be presenting a concert of Christmas music on Saturday, November 26<sup>th</sup>. Elaine Epp will be the feature soloist.
- (l) Trustee Sue Barnett commended Ross Public School and Welland Centennial Secondary School for collaborating on their recent successful fundraising event.
- (m) Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott reported that the DSBN Academy choir performed at the recent Living in Niagara event. Superintendent Hyatt explained that Living in Niagara is a collaborative initiative which provides an opportunity for community agencies in Niagara to support and promote their community.

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

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott noted that she will attend the upcoming Directors' meeting and will report to the Board thereafter.

**6. Future Meetings**

Trustees were provided with an updated calendar of meetings for December 2011.

November 30 Superintendent Germyn distributed a flyer with information on the *Students Taking Action Today* (STAT) Conference for junior level students. Student, Wesley, will be the first speaker of the day. Wesley was motivated after hearing "Me to We" speaker Spencer West and he made a commitment to raise money for playgrounds at every Aboriginal community around James Bay.

**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**

**Future Meetings**

Trustees will be provided with details on the upcoming DSBN Academy Open House.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

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**KEVIN MAVES**, Chair

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