



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

April 10, 2012

6:45 – 7:30 p.m. (Private Session)

7:30 – 11:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Kevin Maves (Chair), Sue Barnett, Alex Bradnam, Lora Campbell, Dalton Clark, Jonathan Fast, Ed Fulford, Cheryl Keddy-Scott, Dale Robinson

Student Trustees: Joelle Schonberg and Evan Vassallo

Regrets: Trustees Barbara Ness and Dave Schaubel

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), John Dickson, Sue Greer, Wesley Hahn, Cam Hathaway, Marilyn Hyatt, Sue Mark, Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, John Stainsby, Joe Weinberg, Peter Doan, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Kim Yielding, Marian Lamb, Karen Bellamy

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.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Sue Barnett

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

CARRIED

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Dalton Clark

“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 as the Lakeview Public School Choir, Grimsby, sang “O Canada” on video accompanied by a student on saxophone.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Sue Barnett opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy-Scott

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated March 27, 2012, 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 Dalton Clark

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

CARRIED

Chair Maves reported that the Board accepted the resignation for retirement purposes of Elementary Principals Janice Agnew, Arlene Garrett, Kathy Siamro and Fay Vanden Beukel effective June 30, 2012. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked the Principals for their years of service to students and public education and he wished them well in their retirement.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Cathy Barker, Caretaker at Westmount Public School, Thorold**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Cathy Barker for her extraordinary contributions within the Westmount Public School community. Cathy was recognized for the diligence and pride she demonstrates in her role as Caretaker. Of special note, Cathy was recognized for the connections she makes every day with students, in particular those who face challenges in their lives. Director Hoshizaki added that Cathy exemplifies the "CARE" in Caretaker through excellence in her role as Caretaker, and for her exemplary contributions to the students and staff of Westmount by building positive relationships that have made notable differences in the lives of the students, and for initiating and promoting a variety of programs within the school that meet the needs of students.

Vice-Chair Robinson commended Ms. Barker for making a difference in the lives of all the children and staff at Westmount Public School.

Director Hoshizaki presented Cathy with a token of the Board's appreciation in recognition of her outstanding contributions to students.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Director's Report and Recognition****(b) Gerda Klassen – DSBK K-12 Arts Consultant, School Support Services**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Gerda for her outstanding service to students and the Board to ensure that the Arts is integral to the complete education of every child. Gerda was acknowledged for being a passionate and dedicated advocate of Arts education, which is evident in her commitment to enriching the lives of our students, staff and the entire community through the Arts. Gerda was also commended for being an innovative leader who displays exceptional communication skills, an abundance of creativity and who values and honours the use of critical thinking. Gerda's most notable accomplishment is the implementation of the Cappies Niagara "Critics and Awards Program" in 2008. Gerda also supports teachers by sharing her knowledge and expertise with her Arts Learning Groups. In addition to her role as the Board's Arts Consultant, Gerda is a valued and respected member of the Arts community sitting on many committees and working closely with a number of local organizations whose programming enriches students' learning in the Arts.

Director Hoshizaki presented Gerda Klassen with a token of the Board's appreciation in recognition of her outstanding contributions to students and the Board.

(c) Recognition of Student Trustee Evan Vassallo

Director Hoshizaki recognized Student Trustee Evan Vassallo as a recipient of the "Loran Award," which is a prestigious scholarship program that involves a rigorous and thorough selection process to recognize young people of exceptional, overall promise. Only 15 university bound students from across the country are chosen as national Loran scholarship winners. Candidates for the prestigious award must show a firm commitment to character, service, and leadership, and possess strong academic abilities, broad extracurricular interests, and possess a high level of personal autonomy. Director Hoshizaki commended Student Trustee Vassallo on his impressive accomplishments which include meeting the demands of being a Student Trustee for the Board, and for having been a contributing member of the Mayor's Youth Advisory Council for the City of St. Catharines. Student Trustee Vassallo also contributes to his school community in a variety of roles and extracurricular activities. Student Trustee Vassallo contributes to the local community as an active volunteer at a number of local food banks and cancer fundraisers, all while maintaining an impressive 95% overall academic standing.

Director Hoshizaki presented Student Trustee Vassallo with a token of the Board's recognition of his outstanding accomplishments.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Director's Report and Recognition****(c) Recognition of Student Trustee Evan Vassallo**

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves expressed the Board's pride and he congratulated Student Trustee Vassallo on his accomplishments.

2. Showcase Presentation**Artist in Residency**

Superintendent Sue Greer introduced the showcase which recognized the unique partnership between the Board and the Shaw Festival through the "Artist in Residency" program. Superintendent Greer also thanked the Shaw for securing funding from the HALO Foundation which provided an opportunity for students from six secondary schools to participate in a variety of in-class workshops run by the Shaw Festival.

Gerda Klassen, Arts Consultant, explained that the "Artist in Residency" program provided an opportunity for students at two elementary schools to augment classroom learning through Drama under the co-instructional leadership of the classroom teacher and the artist. The program culminated with a performance by the students which demonstrated their learning.

Susanne Merriam, Senior Education Manager, Shaw Festival, added that the Arts provides students with the opportunity to learn through doing. Ms. Merriam acknowledged the support and collaboration of Gerda Klassen in contributing to the success of the program.

Philip Kelcey, Gracefield Public School teacher, shared the experiences of the Grades 7 and 8 students who participated in the program. The Board viewed a video prepared by the students entitled, "The Cruise Ship Disaster." Mr. Kelcey thanked Anthony Malarkey, Resident Artist, Gerda Klassen, and Susanne Merriam for making this learning experience available to the students.

Student Bridgett Gaines addressed the Board and shared her thoughts and experiences on the positive outcomes of participating in the program.

Director Hoshizaki and Vice-Chair Robinson presented Susanne Merriam with a certificate in recognition of the Board's valued partnership with the Shaw. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked the Shaw Festival for supporting students. Trustee Clark added that the program is a wonderful example of how the Arts can be integrated into teaching other subjects.

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. REPORTS OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (SAL) COMMITTEE**

Moved by Ed Fulford

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the reports of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee dated March 27 and April 3, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Helen McGregor reported that 13 cases were reviewed by the Committee and strategies were developed to address the students' academic and personal needs. An additional April meeting of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee has been scheduled.

2. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moved by Dale Robinson

Seconded by Ed Fulford

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated April 3, 2012, be received and the recommendations adopted;” and

“That the report of the Educational Research Committee of February 27, 2012, be received;” and

“That the report of the French Immersion Program for September 2012 be received;” and

“That the Board direct Senior Administration to send the response letter to the City of Port Colborne regarding the closure of Thorold Secondary School, with revision.”

CARRIED

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

Vice-Chair Robinson highlighted the report of the French Immersion Program for September 2012. Vice-Chair Robinson reported that the number of applications received will result in 46 classes being created, with approximately 100 new students registering from outside the Board. Parents will be asked to confirm participation in the program by returning the Letter of Acceptance by April 18. Vice-Chair Robinson added that the expansion of the French Immersion program will have an impact on English language classes, particularly in smaller schools, however, the Board will continue to meet the needs of all students in English and French Immersion programs.

3. REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy-Scott
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

“That the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated March 27, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott reported that the Committee reviewed the Ontario Public School Boards Association's (OPSBA) final draft template on a Trustee Code of Conduct, which included the Ministry of Education's anticipated wording for the Regulation (which the Ministry has still not released), and enforcement provisions as required under the *Education Act*. Trustee Keddy-Scott expressed the Committee's appreciation to Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, for creating a schematic which outlined the Informal and Formal process for investigating alleged breaches of the Trustee Code of Conduct. The Committee also expressed their appreciation to OPSBA for drafting the template Code of Conduct. As part of the review of the final draft template, the Committee also took into consideration earlier feedback from fellow Trustees that having a Code of Conduct was discretionary and not mandatory, and that the statutory enforcement provisions could potentially create costs. Trustee Keddy-Scott reported that the Committee agreed that discussion on adopting a Trustee Code of Conduct would be tabled at this time. Trustee Keddy-Scott reminded the Trustees that in the absence of a Code of Conduct being adopted there are provisions both in the *Education Act* and the Board's By-Laws which address Trustee behaviour and demeanour and our Chair and Vice-Chair can facilitate resolving any alleged concerns informally by virtue of good governance.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**4. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE**

Moved by Evan Vassallo

Seconded by Joelle Schonberg

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated April 10, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Evan Vassallo provided an overview of the 2012 Student Survey Official Report dated April 10, 2012. Student Trustee Vassallo thanked Superintendent John Stainsby, Administrative Assistant MaryLou Crevier, and School Administrators for their support of the initiative, and he thanked all the students who responded to the survey. Student Trustees Evan Vassallo and Joelle Schonberg presented the recommendations of the Student Trustee Senate which were developed for each of the ten survey questions. The recommendations were directed specifically to Senior Administration, and/or Trustees, and/or Principals, and/or Teachers, and/or Guidance Staff, and/or Students, and/or School Staff, and/or Student Trustee Senate, and/or Health and Physical Education Teachers.

The Trustees commended the Student Senate for an excellent job in presenting and reporting on the Student Survey.

Superintendent Stainsby added that the Student Survey Official Report and recommendations will be shared with School Support Services and it will also be reviewed by the Senior Team for further action and implementation where feasible.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

- (a) Trustee Sue Barnett asked that consideration be given to having an Education Foundation of Niagara (EFN) representative at every school in order to promote and support the initiatives of the EFN.
- (b) Trustee Dalton Clark noted that the Ontario School Boards' Insurance Exchange (OSBIE) recently released its report on the audit review of the Human Element Loss Program. Trustee Clark pointed out that all the schools selected for an audit received glowing reports with respect to the professionalism and hard work of our custodial staff. At each school, auditors reported that custodians were well organized and provided OSBIE with all the information they required. One OSBIE representative commented that conditions were the cleanest ever seen, including boiler and electrical rooms.

Trustee Clark requested that letters of congratulation be sent to the audited schools in recognition of the glowing reports.

Director Hoshizaki replied that the caretaking staff will be acknowledged for their exceptional work. Director Hoshizaki noted that the audit is conducted annually at randomly selected sites.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**1. Staff Reports****(a) Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars (2012-2013)**

**Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Ed Fulford**

“That the report of the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars (2012-2013) be received.”

With the consent of the Mover and Seconded, the motion was amended to read:

“That the report of the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars (2012-2013) be received and approved.”

CARRIED

Superintendent John Dickson reported that the School Year Calendars were developed through an extensive consultative process with input from all stakeholders.

(b) Report of the Central and South St. Catharines and Thorold Secondary Schools Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) (dated April 10, 2012)

**Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

“That the Final Report of the Central and South St. Catharines and Thorold Secondary Schools Accommodation Review Committee dated April 10, 2012, be received by the Board.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Hyatt reminded the Board that enrolment in the Board's secondary schools has declined over the last ten years and it will continue to decline over the next ten years. Projected enrolment from now to 2016 is expected to decline by approximately 1,125 students.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**Report of the Central and South St. Catharines and Thorold
Secondary Schools Accommodation Review Committee (ARC)
(dated April 10, 2012)**

Superintendent Hyatt presented background information on the school accommodation reviews and she reminded the Board that at its meeting of May 24, 2011, the Board accepted the Facility Planning Report dated May 16, 2011, and passed a motion that staff conduct an Accommodation Review for Planning Areas 05B and 09 in Central and South St. Catharines and Thorold, which includes Kernahan Park Secondary School, Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School, St. Catharines Collegiate Institute and Vocational School, West Park Secondary School, and Thorold Secondary School. Superintendent Hyatt also presented an overview of the final report which included information on the accommodation review process, school programming, school facilities, demographics and housing, ARC meeting highlights, Public meeting highlights, and the findings and recommendations of the Accommodation Review Committee. Superintendent Hyatt pointed out that although the Committee did not reach a consensus on all of the recommendations under consideration, the majority agreed to put two recommendations forward for the Board's consideration.

The Trustees were provided with a binder of detailed information for their review to assist them in their future deliberations and decision-making on the recommended motions.

Chair Maves reminded the Trustees that the Trustees are only receiving the report tonight and that Trustees will have an opportunity to ask questions of clarification during the next 60 day period. Superintendent Hyatt invited Trustees to direct their questions of clarification to her office to ensure that they are fully informed prior to rendering a decision. Superintendent Hyatt also suggested that Trustees consider any information submitted by Delegations. Superintendent Hyatt added that the Trustees' first opportunity to publicly deliberate on the recommended motions and render a decision cannot take place prior to June 12, 2012.

(c) **Report of Senior Administration on the 2011/12 Central and South
St. Catharines and Thorold Secondary Schools Accommodation
Review dated April 10, 2012.**

Moved by Cheryl Keddy-Scott
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

**“That the Board receive the report of Senior Administration on the
Accommodation Review of Central and South St. Catharines and
Thorold Secondary Schools dated April 10, 2012.”**

CARRIED

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**Report of Senior Administration on the 2011/12 Central and South St. Catharines and Thorold Secondary Schools Accommodation Review dated April 10, 2012.**

Superintendent Jim Morgan presented an overview of the Report of Senior Administration and recommendations, which included:

- background information on population/demographics; declining enrolment data; school boundaries; and facility use and related costs
- what research reveals with respect to school size; program implications; and student achievement
- the recommendations of the Senior Administration on the 2011-2012 Central and South St. Catharines and Thorold Secondary Schools, together with a detailed summary of the estimated costing, rationale, and implications for students and the Board of the Senior Administration recommendations

Chair Maves thanked Superintendents Hyatt and Morgan for presenting the reports. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves expressed appreciation to the community stakeholders and municipal partners for their participation in the Accommodation Review process.

2. Trustee Information Session

Prior to the Board meeting the Trustees participated in an Information Session on the Student Success School Support Initiative presented by Superintendent Helen McGregor.

3. Correspondence and Communication

- (a) Correspondence from Minister of Education Laurel Broten regarding Amendments to Ontario Regulation 357/06 “Honoraria for Board Members.”
- (b) Letter from Mathews/Crowland/Princess Elizabeth Public Schools requesting permission to initiate naming of the new school (per Policy A-9: Naming/Renaming of Schools).

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

“That Mathews, Crowland, and Princess Elizabeth Public Schools be authorized to initiate the process for naming of the new Welland Elementary School.”

CARRIED

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

- (a) Trustee Barnett reported that she and Trustee Bradnam participated in the recent World Autism Awareness Day at Connaught Public School. Trustee Barnett commended the organizers and presenters for providing excellent information.
- (b) Trustee Keddy-Scott recognized Grade 7 Central Public School student, Brayden Wenzel, for being the recent winner of Brock University's Earth Science Award.
- (c) Trustee Keddy-Scott reported that students from across the Board will be participating at the Annual DSBN Chess Tournament tomorrow, April 11th, at the CAW Hall, St. Catharines. Trustee Keddy-Scott commended students from Smith Public School on demonstrating their skills recently at the school's Chess Tournament.
- (d) Trustee Clark commended students on their achievements at the recent Sears Drama Festival. Trustee Clark also commended the staff and students of Laura Secord Secondary School on the school's production of "The Drowsy Chaperone" which was reflective of the school's outstanding musical program.
- (e) Trustee Bradnam reported that he attended the recent Tech Skills Awards Banquet. Trustee Bradnam thanked everyone involved in the technology program, particularly parents and staff, for supporting and recognizing excellence in technological education.
- (f) Chair Maves added that the Tech Skills Awards Banquet also recognized the corporate sponsors who support technological education in Niagara. The success of the technology program is reflective of the valued corporate partnerships that have been developed.
- (g) Trustee Bradnam gave a reminder of the upcoming Hike, Ride, Run event on Sunday, May 6th in support of the Walker Living Campus – Woodend.
- (h) Trustee Barnett encouraged Trustees to attend the Thorold Music Festival being held Wednesday and Thursday, April 11 and 12, at the St. Catharines Collegiate.
- (i) Chair Maves gave a reminder of the upcoming "Ultimate Gaming Challenge Niagara" being held in Niagara Falls on May 5-6, 2012. The event is an opportunity to showcase the vendor/sponsors as well as the skills of the student participants.

Further information on events and news happening within the Board can be found at <http://www.dsbni.org> and/or on the schools' websites.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS - continued:**5. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report**

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott reported that she and Trustee Lora Campbell will be attending the upcoming National School Boards' Association meeting in Boston on April 21st and she will report to the Board thereafter. Trustee Keddy-Scott gave a reminder of the upcoming June Annual General Meeting in Thunder Bay.

Trustee Keddy-Scott thanked the Communications Department for distributing brochures to schools on the safe use of technology and electronic communication devices. Kim Yielding, Manager of Public Relations and Communications, acknowledged the Board's Information Technology Services Department for preparing the brochures.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of April 2012 meetings and events was provided.

Superintendent Sue Greer noted the upcoming "Spoken Word Festival" being held on April 17/18, 2012. Events include Model UN Debating, Theatre Sports, Scenes and Monologues, and Reader's Theatre.

Superintendent Sue Greer also noted that Trustees are invited to attend the upcoming Visual Arts Show from April 3-27, 2012, at the Education Centre, and the Performing Arts event on April 27, 2012, at the Laura Secord Secondary School Auditorium.

Chair Maves reminded the Board of the Education Week Kick-Off Breakfast on April 23, 2012. Kim Yielding, Manager of Public Relations and Communications, added that the theme of Education Week is "THRIVE," which will focus on health and physical education.

N. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.