



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

February 28, 2012

6:45 – 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, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave-Schaubel

Student Trustees: Joelle Schonberg and Evan Vassalo (both present for Public Session)

Regrets: Trustees Lora Campbell and Cheryl Keddy-Scott

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), John Dickson, Sue Greer, Wesley Hahn, Cam Hathaway, Marilyn Hyatt, Sue Mark, Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, John Stainsby (Acting Director of Education), Joe Weinberg, Peter Doan, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Kim Yielding, 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 7:35 p.m.

Chair Maves noted that Superintendent John Stainsby is the Acting Director of Education at tonight's meeting.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued:**2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no conflicts of interest declared. Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, reminded the Trustees that her role is not to provide individual Trustees with advice regarding potential Municipal Conflict of Interest issues and that they must be guided by independent legal advice.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

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

CARRIED

Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:25 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was sung on video by Brittany Noonan, soloist from Beamsville District Secondary School, accompanied on piano by Betsy Tauro.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Student Trustee Evan Vassallo opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

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

Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

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

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Dalton Clark

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 14, 2012, 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)

Moved by Dale Robinson
Seconded by Ed Fulford

“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) Student Achievement Awards**

Acting Director John Stainsby introduced Janet Lancaster, Teacher at West Park Secondary School, and Chair of the Excellence in Education Committee. On behalf of the Board, Acting Director Stainsby thanked the Ontario Secondary School Teachers’ Federation (OSSTF) for supporting and recognizing student achievement and he also thanked teachers who inspire students to excel.

Janet Lancaster explained that the Student Achievement Awards is a writing and creative arts competition which is open to all public secondary school students in Ontario. The awards were established in honour of Marion Drysdale, a secretary at OSSTF/FEESO Provincial Office for twenty-two years, for her dedicated work. The competition is meant to encourage the intellectual development of students and an interest in society. This year’s theme was *The Right to Speak The Responsibility to Listen*.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Student Achievement Awards**

Janet Lancaster introduced the following winners of the OSSTF Student Achievement Awards who were recognized for their achievements at the Regional and Provincial level. The teacher mentors were commended for supporting the students.

Jessica Oxford, Stamford Collegiate (Regional winner); Lynda Mills, Teacher

Sara LeBlanc, Grimsby Secondary School (Regional winner); Lori Vasko, Teacher

Lindsay Dorder, Eden High School (Regional winner); Susana Nagy, Teacher

Amanda Fragnito, A.N. Myer Secondary School (Regional winner); Michelle Pope, Teacher

Chair Maves and Vice-Chair Robinson presented the students with Certificates of Recognition for their accomplishments.

(b) Teacher Vince De Luca

Director Warren Hoshizaki recognized Teacher Vince De Luca, Program Leader at Laura Secord Secondary School, who was recently named Co-Sportsman of the Year by the City of St. Catharines. Director Hoshizaki commended Mr. De Luca for his long standing service and dedication to students and the community through his involvement in a variety of school and community activities, events and community organizations.

Director Hoshizaki and Superintendent Cam Hathaway presented Mr. De Luca with a Certificate of Recognition for his outstanding support of students and his community.

(c) Volunteer Barbara Rigg, Simcoe Street Public School

Director Hoshizaki introduced Barbara Rigg who was recognized for her dedication to students and the school for over 30 years in a wide variety of volunteer roles. Director Hoshizaki and Superintendent Hathaway presented Barbara Rigg with a Certificate of Recognition for her outstanding service and contributions to the school.

Trustee Barbara Ness commended the students and staff of Simcoe Street Public School on their recent successful fundraising efforts in support of students' needs.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves congratulated everyone on their accomplishments and for their support of students.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**(d) Leading Educators Around the Planet (LEAP)**

Superintendent Jim Morgan introduced Bill Klassen, Vice-Principal at Beamsville District Secondary School, who recently participated in the Leading Educators Around the Planet (LEAP) program. Superintendent Morgan added that the District School Board of Niagara together with a number of other Boards in Ontario have worked together to facilitate teacher exchanges to Australia.

Bill Klassen provided highlights of his recent exchange trip to New South Wales, Australia, as part of the LEAP Program. Mr. Klassen noted that the focus of his visit was on Australia's strategies and policies for inclusive education, particularly Aboriginal education.

Bill Klassen explained for Trustee Bradnam that educationally, Australia has taken steps to embrace and support the Aboriginal population, which also reflects the steps taken by Australian society in general to support the Aboriginal population.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Bill Klassen for his interesting presentation. Chair Maves added that Aboriginal inclusion is a topic that the province recognizes must be addressed.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no Student Achievement Reports.

H. DELEGATIONS**Mark Brooks – Parent, Rose Seaton Public School**

Mr. Brooks read statements from Rose Seaton Public School's School Council regarding the current Fort Erie Elementary ARC recommendations. The School Council's statements and concerns included the following:

- applaud the work of the DSBN and the work it is doing with children
- agree that necessary school closures are for the benefit of children and make sense financially
- the recommended closing of Rose Seaton Public School is a tragedy; Rose Seaton is the newest facility under review and it has the capacity to accommodate the students in the future
- Rose Seaton houses the Family Literacy Centre in a dedicated classroom
- the option to keep Rose Seaton open was not publicly discussed
- the recommendation to keep General Vanier Public School open will require significant and costly facility upgrades at the school to accommodate all of the students; and will require the bussing of students which will also impact on after school programs

DELEGATIONS – continued:

- the north end of Fort Erie will be barren of any elementary schools
- Fort Erie Elementary School is now close to capacity
- the Rose Seaton School Council believes that the process was far from a public process; the School Council feels ignored, muzzled, and helpless
- the November 16th ARC meeting was cited as an example of the School Council's opinion that there was general confusion in the room about the format and number of questions asked, and that the participants received little or no answers from Board staff; the minutes of the November 16th meeting do not reflect the public's theme to keep Rose Seaton open

In conclusion, Mr. Brooks added that the School Council has obtained an 800 signature petition to keep Rose Seaton Public School open and he implored the Trustees not to make a hasty decision and spend dollars needlessly. Mr. Brooks explained for Student Trustee Vassallo that a community organization uses classroom space at the school to operate the Family Literacy Centre which supports children and families through literacy programs.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Mr. Brooks for his presentation and he indicated that the Trustees will be provided with a copy of the School Council's letter and the community petition.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 0938 to 0952 for the month of January 2012 totalling \$17,323,198.36 be received.”

CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

Moved by Evan Vassallo
Seconded by Joelle Schonberg

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated February 22, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:

Student Trustee Evan Vassallo presented a summary of the report, noting that discussion focused primarily on the Student Survey. Student Trustee Joelle Schonberg introduced students Sophie Helpard and Nyle Collins, students from Welland Centennial Secondary School and members of the Student Trustee Senate, who presented an overview of the results from the recently conducted 2012 DSBN Student Survey. The students noted that 4,074 participants responded to ten yes or no questions. The data will be analyzed further and a more detailed report will be presented to the Trustees at a future Board meeting.

Trustees Sue Barnett and Alex Bradnam commended the students for their work in putting the survey together and for gathering and assimilating the information.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked the students for the report.

3. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

**Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Ed fulford**

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated February 9, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Alex Bradnam provided a summary of the report which included discussion and presentations on a variety of issues. Trustee Bradnam highlighted the upcoming Aboriginal IGNITE March Break Camp for Aboriginal students from Grades 4-8. Trustee Bradnam thanked the Board, the Education Foundation of Niagara, and IBM for supporting and facilitating the camp. Trustee Bradnam read the Committee's letter addressed to the Minister of Education in response to the recent review of School Health Support Services in Ontario.

4. REPORT OF THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Moved by Dale Robinson
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

“That the report of the Policy Advisory Committee dated February 21, 2012, be received;” and

“That Policy D-1: Internet, Email and Intranet Access and Use by Students be approved as amended and adopted;” and

“That Policy D-8: Cooperative Education/Experiential Learning be approved as presented and adopted;” and

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

“That Policy F-6: Video Security Surveillance be approved as presented and adopted;” and

“That Policy G-23: Transfer of Students from Grade 8 to Secondary Schools be brought back to the next Policy meeting in April.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dale Robinson provided a summary of the recommended motions. Trustee Robinson noted that the proposed change in the name of Policy D-1 to “Digital Technology Use by Students” reflects that many advances and changes have taken place with electronic communication devices.

5. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (SAL) COMMITTEE

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Barbara Ness**

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee dated February 22, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dave Schaubel reported that thirteen cases were reviewed by the Committee and strategies were developed to address the students’ academic and personal needs. Trustee Schaubel acknowledged the significant role the community partners play in achieving student success.

Superintendent Helen McGregor explained for Student Trustee Evan Vassallo that “School- in-a Bag” includes credits that can be obtained through independent learning, iLearning and eLearning.

6. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated February 28, 2012, be received and the recommendations adopted.”

“That the low bid received from T.R. Hinan Construction, in the amount of \$528,748 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Greendale Public School Kindergarten Addition and Alteration Project.”

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

“That ByLaw Number 2012-01 authorizing a loan from the Ontario Financing Authority, in the amount of \$18,197,526, pursuant to the execution of a loan agreement under Ontario Regulation 41/10 be approved.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dalton Clark provided a brief summary of the report. Trustee Clark noted that the construction project at Greendale Public School is necessary to accommodate the early learning program.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Sue Barnett asked for an update on the status of the Mathews Public School project. Superintendent Joe Weinberg responded that the project is proceeding on schedule; Site Plan Agreement approvals are moving forward; design and working drawings are being sketched; and it is anticipated that the construction project will be tendered in April 2012.

Superintendent Sue Greer confirmed for Trustee Barnett that the following number of applications have been received to date for the French Immersion programs at Gordon and Princess Elizabeth Public Schools.

Gordon Public School – Grade 1, 15 applications; Grade 4, 24 applications; Grade 5, 16 applications. The closing date is February 29th.

Princess Elizabeth Public School – 23 applications. The closing date is March 8th.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

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

There were no staff reports.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no Information Session scheduled.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**3. Correspondence and Communication**

There was no correspondence and communication.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Sue Barnett gave a reminder of the *Make Change for Kids* challenge and she commended students for their creative fundraising activities.
- (b) Trustee Sue Barnett commended School Support Services for providing the well received TRIBES training for teachers.
- (c) Trustee Sue Barnett commended School Support Services for supporting students with special needs to achieve their potential.
- (d) Trustee Alex Bradnam commended the students and staff of Laura Secord Secondary School for presenting an excellent and outstanding musical performance of “The Drowsy Chaperone.”
- (e) Trustee Alex Bradnam updated the Board on the ongoing and successful fundraising activities in support of the Woodend Walker Living Campus.
- (f) Trustee Alex Bradnam commended all the participants on their performances at the Sears Drama Festival which is currently taking place at Welland Centennial Secondary School.
- (g) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that the School Council of Dalewood Public School will be hosting a motivational speaker, Eldon Law, on April 17, 2012, at Bethany Community Church. Tickets are available through the school.
- (h) Chair Maves introduced Kim Yielding, Manager of Public Relations and Communications, who reported that DSBN Education Week (April 23-27, 2012) will kick off on April 23, 2012, with an interactive event that will focus on this year’s theme of health and well-being.
- (i) Trustee Jonathan Fast thanked Superintendent Helen McGregor for facilitating a recent tour of the Lifetime Learning Centre which supports over 350 adult students who are working towards successfully completing their graduation diploma and other certificate programs.
- (j) Vice-Chair Robinson reported that she recently visited Lincoln Centennial Public School where a presentation involving therapy dogs was made to the students. The presentation and interaction with the dogs was enjoyed by the students.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

5. Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) Report

There was no report.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of March 2012 meetings and events was provided.

Superintendent Sue Greer reminded the Board of the upcoming annual DSBN Tech Skills celebration on April 4, 2012. Trustees were reminded to confirm their attendance.

N. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer