



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

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**BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE**

**January 10, 2012**

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 (arrived at 6:55 p.m.), Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel

**Student**

**Trustees:** Student Trustee Joelle Schonberg and 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

**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.

Chair Maves welcomed students from Brock'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 Ed Fulford  
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 Maywood Public School, St. Catharines.

The Board observed a minute of silence in memory of two students who passed away during the Winter Break.

**D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING**

Trustee Barbara Ness opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

**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 Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 13, 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)**

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;” and

“That the Service Centres Review Report dated December 2011 be received and the **recommendations adopted.**”

**CARRIED**

**F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS****1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Volunteers Recognition - Parnall Public School and Sheridan Park Public School**

Volunteer Rosemary Armitage was recognized for her 36 years of outstanding service at Parnall Public School in a variety of roles.

Volunteer Mehru Nakhoda was recognized for almost 25 years of outstanding service at Sheridan Park Public School in a variety of roles.

On behalf of the Board, Director Hoshizaki presented the volunteers with a plaque in recognition of their service and contributions to students and staff.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****Director's Report and Recognition**

- (a) Volunteers Recognition - Parnall Public School and Sheridan Park Public School

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves commended the volunteers for their outstanding contributions to students and staff.

2. **Carousel Players Norah Morgan Award**

Superintendent Carol Germyn introduced the presentation which recognized the Board's valued partnership with Carousel Players, who have brought theatre to students of the Board for more than 40 years.

Candi Sitko, Principal of Power Glen Public School, introduced Teacher Nancy Gill, the recipient of this year's Carousel Players Norah Morgan Memorial Award for Outstanding Arts Teacher. Principal Sitko provided a summary of Ms. Gill's outstanding contributions to students, the school community, and the Arts.

Gerda Klassen, Arts Consultant, introduced Debra McLaughlin, Director of the Board of Carousel Players. Ms. McLaughlin spoke highly of Norah Morgan and her contributions to students through the Arts. Ms. McLaughlin explained that the Norah Morgan Memorial Award celebrates the commitment and achievements of teachers who have made a strong contribution to the Arts in Niagara area schools. Ms. McLaughlin presented Nancy Gill with the Norah Morgan Memorial Award.

Gerda Klassen introduced Pablo Felices-Luna, Artistic Director of Carousel Players. Mr. Felices-Luna shared information on a three year project developed in partnership between Brock University, the District School Board of Niagara, and Carousel Players, involving secondary school students. The project provides students with an opportunity to address teen issues through theatre. Mr. Felices-Luna presented a plaque to Director Hoshizaki, who accepted on behalf of the Board, in recognition of the Board's partnership with Carousel Players.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves commended Nancy Gill. Chair Maves indicated that the Board values its ongoing partnership with Carousel Players for the benefit of students.

3. **EDEN OFSAA Volleyball Champions**

Superintendent John Stainsby introduced the showcase which recognized the students and coaches of Eden's Senior Boys' Volleyball Team for their sixth consecutive win at the OFSAA Championships. Superintendent Stainsby commended Coach Pereira for his tremendous character and dedication to students.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****EDEN OFSAA Volleyball Champions**

Coach Albino Pereira presented the members of the team and commended the students for their hours of work and dedication to the sport. Coach Pereira also thanked the volunteer drivers for transporting the students to their games throughout the season. Coach Pereira shared information on fundraising initiatives in support of the Senior Boys and Senior Girls Volleyball teams' upcoming cultural trip and tournament in Cuba.

On behalf of the Board, Director Hoshizaki presented the team with a plaque in recognition of their outstanding achievement.

Trustees commended the students, parents and coaches for their dedication to the sport.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves commended the students and staff on their achievement and for bringing recognition to the Board.

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

Moved by Cheryl Keddy-Scott  
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated December 8, 2011, be received.”

**CARRIED**

Trustee Alex Bradnam presented the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC). Trustee Bradnam highlighted the informative presentation by

**OLD BUSINESS – continued:****REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)**

Sandra Steeprook, an Aboriginal Child & Youth Mental Health Worker with the Niagara Regional Native Centre. Trustee Bradnam added that Ms. Steeprook's position focuses on family violence and student mental health issues. Native and non-native students are welcome to contact the Niagara Regional Native Centre to take advantage of the services available.

**2. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

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

**“That the report of the Finance Committee dated December 13, 2011, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Dalton Clark presented the report of the Finance Committee which included information on long term financing for capital projects. Further information will come to the Finance Committee at a later date. The Finance Committee report also included an update on the status and discussions with the Ministry regarding Good Places to Learn funding. The Ministry has approved the Board's request to use approximately \$9.85 million of the remaining GPL funding on a variety of renewal projects with the requirement that the projects must be completed by August 2013. Trustee Clark commended Director Hoshizaki and Board staff for their work in successfully obtaining Ministry approval.

Trustee Fulford thanked Trustee Clark for bringing forward the report and he thanked Board staff for successfully securing the funding.

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

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

**“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee dated December 14, 2011, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Dave Schaubel presented the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee. Trustee Schaubel noted that 14 cases were reviewed and plans were approved to meet the significant individualized needs of each student. Trustee Schaubel commended the community partners for their involvement and key role in supporting students.

**OLD BUSINESS – continued:****REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (SAL) COMMITTEE**

At Trustee Ness' request, Superintendent McGregor will provide Trustees with information on the services provided by the Job Gym.

Trustee Bradnam commended Trustee Schaubel and the Committee for supporting students and their families.

Superintendent McGregor clarified for Trustee Keddy-Scott that students who are working on credits through correspondence continue to have a close connection with their school.

**4. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE**

**Moved by Joelle Schonberg  
Seconded by Evan Vassallo**

**“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated December 14, 2011, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Evan Vassallo presented a verbal summary of the report. Student Trustee Vassallo noted the Minister's Student Advisory Council presentation, the distribution of Senate t-shirts; and the lengthy review of the DSNB student survey questions.

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

**Moved by Barbara Ness  
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy-Scott**

**“That the verbal report of the Program and Planning Committee dated January 10, 2012, be received and the recommendations adopted.”**

**French Immersion**

**“That the Program and Planning Committee direct the Senior Team to have an information session to investigate interest for Grade 4 entry for French Immersion at College Street School. A report is to be brought back to Program and Planning in February.”**

**And**

**“That the Program and Planning Committee expand the Grade 1 French Immersion Pilot Program to include Princess Elizabeth should the number of registered students be 23 or greater.”**

**OLD BUSINESS – continued:**

**REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

And

**“That the Program and Planning Committee receive the French Immersion Program Expansion Report dated January 10, 2012.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Barbara Ness reported that there was good attendance and discussion at the meeting which took place prior to the Board meeting.

Trustees agreed to vote on the recommended motions together.

Trustee Bradnam commended Trustee Ness, the Board, and Superintendent Germyn for giving consideration to suggestions from the Trustees.

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

There were no questions asked of and by Board members.

**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.

**3. Correspondence and Communication**

(a) Letter from Region of Niagara regarding recommendations from their Integrated Community Planning Committee.

There was no objection from the Trustees on Chair Maves' suggestion that this matter be forwarded to the Program and Planning Committee for review.



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

- (a) Trustee Jonathan Fast noted that Crossroads Public School's grand opening ceremony is scheduled for February 9<sup>th</sup>. Further information and formal invitations will follow at a later date.
- (b) Trustee Sue Barnett commended students from Glendale Public School on their fundraising initiative of raking leaves to raise funds to build wells in Africa. The students successfully raised over \$900 which will fund the building of three wells.
- (c) Trustee Sue Barnett commended the Centennial Secondary School Arts Department on its successful fundraising event prior to the Winter Break. The staff and students raised approximately \$1,600 for its next production at the school.
- (d) Trustee Alex Bradnam complimented the Communications Department and the Continuing Education Department on its recent informative publications (Secondary School Open Houses and Continuing Education Courses).
- (e) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that he attended a recent event hosted by The Honourable David C. Onley, Lieutenant Governor of Ontario, which highlighted upcoming 1812 commemorative events.
- (f) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that prior to the Winter Break he attended a meeting of the Accessibility Committee which featured an informative and heartfelt presentation by the Canadian Hearing Society on accessibility issues and barriers. Participants were provided with a package of materials which included information on the Society's services and programs.
- (g) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that prior to the Winter Break he attended Parnall Public School for their carol sing. Trustee Bradnam commended the students and staff for organizing the great event which was filled with lots of community spirit.
- (h) Trustee Ed Fulford reported that prior to the Winter Break he and Trustee Schaubel toured Crossroads Public School. Trustee Fulford commended the Board for constructing a beautiful and efficient school.
- (i) Trustee Dave Schaubel reported that prior to the Winter Break he enjoyed listening to a number of choirs sing at Meridian Credit Union in Virgil. Trustee Schaubel noted that positive community support for the new Crossroads Public School was evident.

**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS - continued:**

**Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

- (j) Trustee Dave Schaubel reported that prior to the Winter Break he attended Fort Erie Elementary School where all the students enjoyed a full turkey dinner. Trustee Schaubel encouraged all the Trustees to get involved in similar programs which benefit students.

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

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott reminded Trustees of the upcoming Public Education Symposium on January 26-28, 2012; and the Labour Relations Conference on March 29-31, 2012.

**6. Future Meetings**

The revised calendar of January 2012 meetings and events was amended to include the January 24<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:40 p.m.

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**KEVIN MAVES**, Chair

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