



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

March 27, 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, Lora Campbell, Jonathan Fast, Ed Fulford, Cheryl Keddy-Scott, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel

Student Trustees: Joelle Schonberg and Evan Vassalo

Regrets: Dalton Clark

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 7:40 p.m.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest declared.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Ed Fulford

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

CARRIED

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“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 students from Glynn A. Green Public School, Fonthill, sang “O Canada” on video.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Student Trustee Joelle Schonberg opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Ed Fulford

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 28, 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 Sue Barnett**

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

CARRIED

Chair Maves reported that the following motions were carried in Committee of the Whole (Private Session).

Colonel John Butler Public School

“That Board staff be authorized to proceed with the Request for Proposal for the disposal of the Colonel John Butler Public School.”

Don Reilly Resource Centre

“That Board staff be authorized to proceed with the Request for Proposal for the disposal of the Don Reilly Resource Centre.”

Chair Maves also reported that the Board accepted the resignation for retirement purposes of Superintendent Marilyn Hyatt effective August 31, 2012. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Superintendent Hyatt for her contributions to students and to public education and wished her well in her retirement.

Chair Maves reported that the Board accepted the resignation for retirement purposes of Elementary Principal Garry Vanden Beukel effective June 30, 2012. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Principal Vanden Beukel for his years of service to students and wished him well in his retirement.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director's Report and Recognition**

- (a) Director Hoshizaki noted the success of DSBN secondary schools in the recent 2012 Sears Drama Festival. Full details of the awards and winners can be found at <http://www.dsbnschools.org>

(b) **Recognition of Michael Langlois, Health and Safety Officer**

Director Hoshizaki reported that the Niagara Secondary Administrators Council (NSAC) has nominated Michael Langlois, Health and Safety Officer, for recognition for extraordinary contributions to the Board. Director Hoshizaki commended Michael Langlois for his knowledge and availability at all hours of the day and night in supporting secondary schools and staff as they work through Ministry of Labour inspections, and teacher training to ensure the safety of students and staff.

Director Hoshizaki and Chair Maves presented Michael Langlois with a token of appreciation in recognition of his outstanding contributions to the Board.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves added that Michael Langlois is well respected and of great benefit to our Board.

2. Showcase Presentation – Camp IGNITE

Superintendent Sue Greer introduced the presentation which showcased the recent March Break Camp IGNITE for Aboriginal students.

Jennifer Tye, Student Achievement Leader, and Georgie Groat, Aboriginal Education Consultant, addressed the Board and provided highlights of the program which operated at St. Catharines Collegiate, Stamford Collegiate, and Fort Erie Secondary School. The focus of the program was to engage students in technology and remove barriers for future success in the technological industry. IBM and community partners SNC-Lavalin, BMO Financial Group, and Engage Learning Systems were acknowledged for their support of the program. The Trustees viewed video clips of students participating in a variety of Camp IGNITE activities. Videos from the three program sites have been uploaded at <http://www.youtube.com> (see "Camp IGNITE Niagara").

Jen Tye also acknowledged the Board's IT Department under the leadership of Dino Miele, Chief Information Officer; Library/Media Services; the Education Foundation of Niagara, and all the staff who volunteered their time and talents to make the program a success.

Director Hoshizaki and Dino Miele presented representatives from the community partners (Mary Hayes, James McKay and Dave Robitaille) with Certificates of Recognition for their support of students.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Showcase Presentation – Camp IGNITE**

Trustees commended the community partners and staff for their role in giving children a pride in their culture and an opportunity to create a vision for their future.

On behalf of Board, Chair Maves thanked the corporate sponsors, particularly IBM, for their contributions to students and public education through a variety of programs and initiatives. Chair Maves added the Board's appreciation to all the Board's staff for their great work and dedication to students.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS**1. Student Work Study Report**

Superintendent Sue Greer presented a report on the Student Work Study Collaborative Inquiry. Superintendent Greer noted that the initiative began in the Fall of 2009 to identify barriers to student learning and develop strategies that will assist teachers to help students be more successful.

Superintendent Greer led the Board through the Student Work Study Supposition entitled, "*Math Talk*," which included background to the study, a statement of the working supposition, success criteria, methodology, findings, incidental findings, and teacher tips. Superintendent Greer explained for Trustees that the findings and teacher tips are shared with the Supervisory Officers, Principals, and Instructional Coaches who will use the information when working with teachers in schools.

H. DELEGATIONS**John Pula**

In response to Mr. Pula's request for clarification on being denied the opportunity to speak regarding the Niagara Compliance Audit Committee, Chair Maves reminded Mr. Pula that the Board has no jurisdiction over the Niagara Compliance Audit Committee, which was established under the *Municipal Elections Act*, and his comments would have no relevance to the School Board.

Mr. Pula addressed the Board regarding sharing the burden of cut backs that could lead to better financial support of the needs of students. Mr. Pula suggested the following:

- Merging the District School Board of Niagara and the Niagara Catholic District School Board;
- Sharing of school facilities and equipment between the two School Boards;
- Reducing operating costs by requesting the Ministry of Education to conduct performance wage reviews of Senior officials;
- Reviewing administrative cutbacks that impact on classrooms.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

There were no questions of clarification from the Trustees. Chair Maves indicated that the Trustees will be provided with Mr. Pula's written submission.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 0953 to 0971 for the month of February 2012 totalling \$15,357,316.35 be received."

CARRIED

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

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy-Scott

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated March 1, 2012, be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Alex Bradnam provided highlights of the meeting which included a new segment, "Student Voice," where staff and students from Power Glen Public School shared information on their programs for Special Education students. A presentation was also made by Chair Riordon about the programs and services provided by the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre.

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

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee dated March 20, 2012, be received."

CARRIED

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

Trustee Dave Schaubel reported that 11 cases were scheduled to be reviewed by the Committee and strategies developed to address the students' academic and personal needs. An additional meeting has been scheduled in March to ensure that all 11 cases are reviewed. Trustee Schaubel commended the Committee for its work to engage students and he acknowledged the significant role the community partners play in achieving student success.

4. REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

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

“That the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated February 14, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott reported that there was good discussion on a proposed DSNB Trustee Code of Conduct. It was agreed that the Committee would reserve its decision on recommending a DSNB Trustee Code of Conduct until OPSBA's final draft template was received and reviewed by the Committee.

5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Sue Barnett**

**“That the report of the Finance Committee dated March 21, 2012, be received;”
and**

“That the Financial Plan for International Education be accepted and the elements endorsed.”

CARRIED

Trustee Jonathan Fast reported that the Committee received a report on the Financial Plan for International Education which included information on the process for establishing and implementing International Education programs through proposed financial principles and application rules. Trustee Fast added that the Committee also received information on an initiative to facilitate and implement online donations.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**6. VERBAL UPDATE FROM THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE**

Student Trustees Joelle Schonberg and Evan Vassallo provided a verbal update on the analysis of comments and responses on the recent DSBN Student Survey. Student Trustees Schonberg and Vassallo added that the full review of the results is ongoing and recommendations are being drafted by the Student Trustee Senate. A presentation on the survey results has been made to NSAC and another presentation will be made at an upcoming Guidance Heads meeting.

Trustees thanked the Student Trustee Senate and the Student Trustees for their work, dedication and commitment to students and the Board.

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

Prior to the Board meeting the Trustees participated in an Information Session on Technology Use in Classrooms which was presented by Teacher Eric Moccio and IT Technology Consultant Todd Sniezek.

3. Correspondence and Communication

- (a) Letter from Rosehaven Homes regarding potential closure of Thorold Secondary School
- (b) Letter from Metrus Development Inc. regarding potential closure of Thorold Secondary School
- (c) OPSBA Legislative Update on Concussions

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

- (a) Trustee Sue Barnett reported that the *Make Change for Kids* challenge has concluded and results are being tabulated.
- (b) Trustee Sue Barnett reported that the Education Foundation of Niagara is accepting donations of formal wear and accessories in support of its *Prom Project*.
- (c) Trustee Sue Barnett commended all students for their participation in the recent Sears Drama Festival and she gave notable mention to the performance, “Danny in the Basement.”
- (d) Trustee Sue Barnett reported that she recently attended a Rock and Roll Literacy event and she commended staff for facilitating a great event.
- (e) Trustee Sue Barnett commended Board staff who are working on the Welland Public Library initiative.
- (f) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that he attended a recent Citizenship Ceremony at St. Davids Public School and he commended the school's staff and students for presenting a wonderful event.
- (g) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that he attended a recent public speaking contest at Crossroads Public School and he commended all the students on their interesting speeches. Trustee Bradnam acknowledged the winner for a speech on experiences as a new Canadian.
- (h) Trustee Alex Bradnam noted that World Autism Awareness Day will be recognized on April 2nd with a ceremony and reception at Connaught Public School.
- (i) Trustee Alex Bradnam reminded the Board of the upcoming Tech Skills Banquet on April 4th at Club Italia.
- (j) Trustee Alex Bradnam provided an update on fundraising activities and events in support of the Walker Living Campus - Woodend, which has now raised \$1.2 million. Upcoming events will take place from April 30 to May 6, 2012, including the Hike, Ride, Run event on Sunday, May 6th. Further details and information on volunteering on May 6th is available at Director Hoshizaki acknowledged a contribution from the TD Friends of the Environment Foundation in the amount of \$125,000 for the opportunity to name a classroom at Woodend as “*Treehouse Outdoor Classroom – TD Friends of the Environment.*”

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

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

Trustees were provided with copies of newspaper articles reporting on an OISE study reviewing Full-Day Kindergarten.

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott reported that she attended a recent OPSBA Director's meeting where discussion focused on the Provincial budget, labour relations, and OPSBA's priorities. Trustee Keddy-Scott added that she and Trustee Lora Campbell will be attending the upcoming National School Boards' Association meeting in Boston on April 21st. Trustee Keddy-Scott also noted that she has been selected to sit on a Committee to review teachers nominated for excellence awards.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of April 2012 meetings and events was provided.

Superintendent Greer reminded the Board that March 31st is Earth Hour around the world. Friday, March 30th has been designated by the Board as a day for staff at all sites to lower the lights as an opportunity to educate people about the importance of energy conservation.

Superintendent Greer reminded the Board of the upcoming DSNB Elementary Choral Festival.

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 8:50 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer