



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

May 8, 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, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel

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

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 declarations of conflict of interest.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued:

The Board stood for a moment of silence in memory of Occasional Teacher, Chelsea Feddema, who recently passed away in a tragic accident.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Barbara Ness

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

CARRIED

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:15 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as the Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School Choir sang “O Canada” on video.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Lora Campbell opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

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

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated April 24, 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 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 retirement of Elementary Principal Andrea Jack, effective June 30, 2012. Chair Maves recognized Principal Jack for her 30 years of service in public education and, on behalf of the Board, he wished her well in her retirement.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Sue MacTavish, Administrative Assistant, Sheridan Park Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Sue MacTavish for her 16 years of service with the DSN. Ms. MacTavish was commended for supporting the staff, students and Sheridan Park families in a variety of ways through her job responsibilities and through the numerous extras that she does for the school community.

Director Hoshizaki presented Ms. MacTavish with a token of the Board’s appreciation for her service to the Board and to students.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Director's Report and Recognition****(b) Recognition of Saber Lambert and Reuben Pickering, students in the DSN Militia Co-op Program**

Director Hoshizaki recognized students Saber Lambert and Reuben Pickering, for their quick thinking actions recently when they witnessed a serious two vehicle collision on Lake Street, St. Catharines. The students who were walking, acted on their own initiative and immediately checked for injuries, contacted the Niagara Regional Police, and then directed traffic around the accident scene for roughly 10 minutes, until the Police arrived on the scene. Saber, who is one of the youngest candidates in the Militia Co-op Program, assumed a leadership role and attributed his response to the confidence and self esteem that he has developed in the past several months through the Militia Co-op program.

Lieutenant Colonel Allan Stoyka of The Lincoln and Welland Regiment (Lake Street Armoury) was present to support the students in the well deserved recognition.

Director Hoshizaki presented Saber and Reuben with certificates in recognition of their outstanding leadership and character.

(c) DSBN Robotics Team – Governor Simcoe Secondary School

Director Hoshizaki recognized the Governor Simcoe Secondary School's Simbotics Team 1114 for winning The Chairman's Award at the recent 2012 FIRST Robotics World Championship in St. Louis, Missouri. The Simbotics Team 1114 is the first Canadian team to ever receive this prestigious honour and has now been inducted into the FIRST Hall of Fame.

(d) Director Hoshizaki reported that Mohammed Ahmed, a former student at St. Catharines Collegiate, is one race closer to qualifying to represent Canada at the upcoming Summer Olympics after he posted his life-time best in a recent 10,000 meters race in California.**(e) Director Hoshizaki introduced a video presentation which highlighted recent events that have taken place within the Board.**

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves congratulated all of the staff and students on their achievements.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**2. Showcase Presentation****1. Completing the Circle**

Superintendent Sue Greer introduced the presentation which showcased “Completing the Circle” an after school program for Aboriginal students.

Jennifer Tye, Student Achievement Leader; Georgie Groat, Aboriginal Education Consultant; and Cindilee Little Eagle Ecker-Flagg, Cultural Program Support Coordinator; together with the Aboriginal mentors and students, gave an overview of the program. The “Completing the Circle” after school program which began in February 2012 was made possible by an Aboriginal grant from the Ministry of Education. The program ran three nights a week at Fort Erie Secondary School, Stamford Collegiate, and St. Catharines Collegiate, provided academic and social supports and also incorporated traditional Aboriginal cultural activities. Aboriginal mentors Adrienne Smoke, Carissa Gracey, Jenny Stewart, Leigh Hill, and Sara Brady were recognized for supporting the students. Administrative staff of the three high schools were also recognized for their support.

The Board viewed a video presentation which provided highlights of the program.

Trustees expressed their appreciation to the group for sharing their experiences and for everything they do in schools to support students.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves wished the initiative continued success.

2. Power Glen Public School Fundraising Initiatives

Superintendent John Dickson introduced the showcase which recognized the school’s fundraising initiatives throughout the year in support of local charities.

Principal Candi Sitko and a team of staff and students shared the school’s fundraising efforts. Principal Sitko explained that the students voted to be an “orange” school (symbolic for cancer survivors), and donated all funds raised to fight cancer. Tegan and Connor, the school’s Student Council President and Vice-President, addressed the Board and provided highlights of their fundraising initiatives, which included participation by the Niagara Regional Police Service and local firefighters. The students reported that more than \$3,000 was raised for the St. Catharines General Hospital Oncology Department. In addition, staff and students will be participating in the upcoming Rankin Cancer Run. A representative from the Niagara Regional Police Service addressed the Board and he

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**2. Showcase Presentation****Power Glen Public School Fundraising Initiatives**

explained that the fundraising event was a good opportunity for the NRP to continue to enhance the image of police officers within the DSBN.

The Board viewed a video of the school's fundraising initiative which was previously broadcast on the CHCH television evening news.

Trustees commended the students for their efforts and for modeling character that makes a huge difference in the community, particularly in the lives of cancer patients and their families. Trustees also commended the school's leadership for organizing and facilitating the fundraising initiatives.

Chair Maves and Vice-Chair Robinson presented representatives from Power Glen Public School with a plaque in recognition of their outstanding service to the community.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves expressed appreciation to the Niagara Regional Police Service and the Fire Department for supporting staff and students.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no student achievement reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

1. John Murray, Thorold Resident, spoke in support of Thorold Secondary School on behalf of the 250 member Senior Centre. Mr. Murray's remarks included the following:
 - Thorold Secondary School continues to play an important role in the life of Thorold and in maintaining a healthy community balance.
 - Plans are being developed to create a partnership with the high school to make connections that will benefit both the senior residents and students.

2. Karen Thacker spoke in support of West Park Secondary School as a resident and parent. Ms. Thacker's remarks included the following:
 - An analysis of the information provided by the Board does not best serve students and is fiscally questionable.
 - The monetary facts and figures are not consistent between the Accommodation Review Committee recommendations and the Senior Administration recommendations.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

- It is more cost effective to keep West Park Secondary School open than Thorold Secondary School.
- The Board is irresponsible if it does not pursue the most fiscally responsible option.
- Enrolment projections and the future impact on neighbouring elementary schools are questionable.
- French Immersion will have an impact on Sir Winston Churchill's enrolment and its capacity to accommodate the students.
- Future enrolment statistics favour the Accommodation Review Committee's recommendations.
- Moving French Immersion to West Park Secondary School will result in a more balanced enrolment at Sir Winston, St. Catharines Collegiate and West Park without making boundary changes.
- Regardless of boundary changes, and the upheaval and related additional costs to keep Thorold Secondary School open, the enrolment at Thorold Secondary School will not grow beyond half capacity in the long term.
- West Park is an ideally sized school to accommodate students in a variety of academic and extracurricular programs.

Ms. Thacker encouraged the Board not to embrace a plan which creates have and have not schools and to make a decision based on what makes sense fiscally.

3. Justine Hamilton-Arvisais, student, spoke in support of West Park Secondary School. Ms. Hamilton-Arvisais' comments included the following:
 - Closing West Park Secondary School does not make financial sense.
 - West Park offers an outstanding academic program.
 - 34% of all students in the West Park area have chosen to attend alternate schools (including the French Immersion program); Ms. Hamilton-Arvisais suggested that French Immersion be moved to West Park to increase its enrolment.
 - Moving French Immersion to Thorold Secondary School will not sustain its enrolment in the long term.
 - Consideration needs to be given to the transportation costs to bus West Park students to other schools and, that transportation impacts negatively on student achievement.
 - West Park Secondary School also serves as a community centre and is utilized more than Thorold Secondary School.

Justine asked the Trustees to consider the positive impact that West Park has on the students when they render their decision.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

4. Deidra Smith, student, spoke in support of Kernahan Park Secondary School, which included the following remarks:
- Deidra provided a history of Kernahan Park Secondary School since it opened in 1967, noting that the school was planned to provide practical training for non-academic students who would not take full high school courses and who were at risk of dropping out without marketable skills.
 - Kernahan Park represents an alternate choice for students who have different learning needs.
 - Redirecting students to a larger enrolment school will have a negative impact on students and put them at risk of getting lost in the system.
 - Students at Kernahan Park understand and support each other – they “speak the same language.”
 - Kernahan Park has a positive impact on students in terms of achieving academically and socially in the smaller school environment.

Deidra asked that Trustees keep the school open so that other students will have the opportunity to benefit from the Kernahan Park experience.

5. Dave White, parent, spoke in support of West Park Secondary School. His comments included the following:
- Mr. White compared the Accommodation Review statistics and forecasts, and questioned if they are cost effective.
 - Transportation costs will increase; the Senior Administration’s report omitted the cost to transport the West Park and Kernahan Park students to alternate schools.
 - Suggested that DSBN Academy be moved to Kernahan Park Secondary School.
 - There is no enforcement of boundaries, which has negatively impacted on the enrolment of neighbourhood schools.
 - A study indicates that it could be twenty years before Thorold Secondary School sees growth.
 - West Park provides outstanding academic and extracurricular programs and has potential for growth and sustained enrolment in the long term.
 - The amenities at West Park act as an athletic facility for the Board.
 - Thorold Secondary School does not represent a boundary enforcement issue but an enrolment issue.
 - Smaller schools have a positive impact on student achievement.
 - Mr. White suggested that the recommendations are based on boundary realignment and that the Board should enforce current boundaries.
 - Mr. White suggested that there may be a short term gain but questioned what will be necessary in the long term in order for the Board to sustain the super schools.
6. Christine Arsenault - in support of West Park Secondary School sent regrets.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

7. Barry Katzman addressed the Board as a concerned taxpayer and community advocate. Mr. Katzman focused his comments on the business and fiscal aspects of the recommendations. His comments included the following:
- The closure issue has little to do with the curriculum or the educators; regardless of which schools are closed or kept open, all will be intact.
 - The Board must steward the assets of the Board and do what is best for the Corporation (the Board) and the taxpayers in the long term.
 - From an exclusively business perspective, there is no contest; the reality is that West Park is the newest facility and it is located in the fastest growing area in all of Niagara (e.g. the new hospital will bring many new employees looking for housing and schools in the area).
 - Power Glen and Grapeview which are highly sought after elementary schools show potential for West Park's sustainable enrolment.
 - West Park has the most amenities on site, with the opportunity to expand.
 - Taxpayers are adamant that the Board should develop its assets with the greatest potential, i.e. West Park.
 - West Park's potential for growth should be enhanced and it should be made the flagship high school in Niagara.
 - Thorold Secondary School cannot compare in its potential for asset management and growth.
 - French Immersion is a transportable program; students who are serious about French will go wherever it is offered.
8. Michael Charron, former Principal of Thorold Secondary School, spoke in support of Thorold Secondary School. Mr. Charron's comments included the following:
- Spoke of the history of the development and growth of the school, which included enforcing boundaries.
 - Spoke highly of the school's accomplishments and its positive impact on student achievement and on the community.
 - The key issue to sustain schools is boundary enforcement.
 - Thorold can sustain a secondary school with the Board's support.

Mr. Charron confirmed for Trustee Bradnam that a second former high school in Thorold was previously operated by the Catholic School Board.

I. BOARD RECESS

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy-Scott
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

“That the Board recess.”

CARRIED

The Board recessed at 9:20 p.m.

BOARD RECESS – continued:**Trustee Jonathan Fast left the meeting at 9:20 p.m.**

**Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy-Scott**

“That the Board resume the business of the Board.”

CARRIED

The Board resumed the business of the Board at 9:40 p.m.

Prior to resuming the business of the Board, Chair Maves recognized The Standard reporter, Shawn Jeffords, who was recently named Journalist of the Year at the May 5th Ontario Newspaper Awards.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATE LEARNING (SAL) COMMITTEE**

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

“That the report of the Supervised Alternate Learning (SAL) Committee dated April 20, 2012, be received;” and

“That the report of the Supervised Alternate Learning (SAL) Committee dated April 26, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dave Schaubel reported that twenty-two cases were reviewed at the recent meetings. Trustee Schaubel commended the Committee members for working to support students and he expressed his pleasure to be a part of the Committee. Trustee Bradnam also commended all the members of the Committee and the staff who work to provide alternate programming for students.

2. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

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

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated April 25, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

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

Student Trustee Evan Vassallo provided highlights of the meeting which included an update on the Accommodation Review process, a report of the DSBN 2012 Student Survey, and an Around the Table segment. Student Trustee Vassallo also reported that elections took place for Student Trustees and that MacKenzie Ceci (Eastdale Secondary School) and MacKenzie Wiens (Eden High School) were elected as Student Trustees for the 2012-2013 school year.

Trustee Barnett commended the Student Trustee Senate for its decision to support fundraising for the Education Foundation of Niagara.

3. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Sue Barnett**

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated May 1, 2012, be received;” and

“That the report of the Summer H.E.A.T. Learning Program be received with revision;” and

“That the report of the Educational Research Committee of April 23, 2012, be received;” and

“That the Multi-Year Capital Plan – May 1, 2012, be received with modifications suggested and staff authorized to proceed with identified projects up to and including the 2012-2013 year, subject to confirmation of necessary Ministry of Education capital funding approvals;” and

“That the report of the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (L.G.B.T.Q.): Supporting Sexual and Gender Diverse Students in the Learning Environment, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Barbara Ness provided highlights of the report which included:

- a review of the Summer H.E.A.T. Learning Program (Helping Everyone Achieve Together); Trustee Ness commended parents for their support of the program;
- discussion and recommendations of the Educational Research Committee;
- discussion on the Multi-Year Capital Plan up to and including the 2012-2013 year; and
- a report on the development of a resource document which will build awareness of the needs of the diverse population of students in schools dealing with gender identify.

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

Superintendent Weinberg clarified for Trustee Campbell that modifications to the Multi-Year Capital Plan – May 1, 2012, included reference to the new gymnasium project at Gainsborough Public School, as well as some minor revisions to editorial comments.

The next meeting of the Program and Planning Committee is scheduled for June 19 at 7:00 p.m.

4. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy-Scott
Seconded by Ed Fulford**

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated May 2, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott reported on the meeting that was hosted by South Lincoln High School. Trustee Keddy-Scott highlighted that information was presented on the 2012 Student Survey, planning for the November 7th Parent Involvement Conference (Parents in the 21st Century: Raising the Whole Child); and the Connect 2012 Technology Conference being hosted by the Board on May 9/10, in partnership with Audcomp. Trustee Keddy-Scott noted the importance and positive impact of parent involvement on children and she commended members of the PIC Committee for their dedication to parent engagement.

5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated May 8, 2012, be received and the recommendations adopted;” and

“That the low bid received from Aldor Builders, in the amount of \$1,155,900 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Laura Secord Secondary School Renovation Project;” and

“That the low bid received from Bromac Construction, in the amount of \$2,663,239 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Gordon Public School Addition and Renovation Project.”

CARRIED

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

Trustee Dalton Clark reported that the Committee met to consider tenders with respect to the Laura Secord Secondary School Renovation Project, and the Gordon Public School Addition and Renovation Project. Trustee Clark noted that both tenders being recommended for acceptance came in under the projected budget.

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****Deliberations on the Fort Erie Elementary Schools' Accommodation Review**

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Dalton Clark

“That the Report of the Board Administration on the 2011-2012 Fort Erie Elementary Schools' Accommodation Review be received and the recommendations adopted;” and

“That Fort Erie Elementary School be closed for instructional purposes as of August 31, 2013, and that students residing south of the QEW and the Special Needs Program be relocated to Garrison Road Public School and the remaining Fort Erie Elementary School students be redirected to General Vanier Public School;” and

“That Rose Seaton Public School be closed for instructional purposes as of August 31, 2013, and that students be redirected to General Vanier Public School;” and

“That the Parent and Family Literacy Centre currently at Rose Seaton Public School be relocated to General Vanier Public School;” and

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**Staff Reports****Deliberations on the Fort Erie Elementary Schools' Accommodation Review**

“That the current gymnasium at General Vanier Public School be retrofitted into three classrooms, that two classrooms, and a gymnasium with changeroom and storage be added to General Vanier Public School and that the common areas (administration area and staff area) be retrofitted to accommodate the enrolment needs. In addition, work would be completed on the school entrances and the tarmac area. A bus drop off area will be addressed;” and

“That the general purpose room at Garrison Road Public School be retrofitted to accommodate the Special Needs Program;” and

“That facility renewal projects be completed at the same time as the additions and alterations to Garrison Road Public School and General Vanier Public School;” and

“That the boundary change, area R1, of the Rose Seaton Public School boundary become part of the Stevensville Public School boundary effective August 31, 2012. Beginning at the point where Miller Creek enters the Niagara River, south along Miller Creek to Miller Avenue, south along Miller Avenue, including both sides, to Sunset Drive, south along Sunset Drive, including both sides and all properties on the connecting Brook Street and Arcadia Street extensions, to Bowen Road, west along Bowen Road, including both sides, to the Queen Elizabeth Way where it joins to the current Stevensville boundary.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Dave Schaubel spoke in support of the motion noting that the recommendations provide an opportunity for enhanced facilities for students and the community.

AMENDMENT TO MOTION

Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the motion to add a gymnasium at General Vanier Public School be amended to add a double gymnasium at General Vanier Public School rather than a single gymnasium.”

WITHDRAWN

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**Staff Reports****Deliberations on the Fort Erie Elementary Schools' Accommodation Review**

Trustee Clark called a point of order that the proposed amendment must be seconded. Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, reminded the Trustees that a request for an amendment to a motion must be seconded, the amendment is debatable, and it requires a majority vote in favour to amend the motion. Chair Maves clarified that Trustee Fulford's proposal to construct a double similar sized gymnasium as the new Crossroads Public School would substantially change the recommendation and the motion would require an amendment.

Trustee Bradnam seconded the proposed amendment and a discussion followed on the proposal to construct a double sized gymnasium on the General Vanier Public School site rather than the recommended single gymnasium.

Director Hoshizaki clarified that prior discussions included replacing the General Vanier Public School gymnasium with a larger gymnasium and it is the intent of the recommendation to construct a gymnasium which is the size of the existing larger Fort Erie Elementary School gymnasium. Trustee Clark pointed out that the Accommodation Review Committee recognized that the new gymnasium at General Vanier Public School should be larger than what they presently have and the recommendation as presented reflects that. Trustee Clark added that the proposal to construct a double sized gymnasium impacts on the budget projections and would require further discussions to determine the fiscal viability of constructing a double sized gymnasium.

Superintendent Weinberg added that the Ministry of Education supports the conventional gymnasium size of 3500 square feet. Superintendent Weinberg noted that the existing gymnasium at General Vanier Public School is approximately 2210 square feet.

Superintendent Hyatt reiterated that the Ministry of Education supports 3500 square feet for the size of the school and the recommendation allows for 3900 square feet, which is significantly larger than the existing gymnasium at General Vanier Public School. Superintendent Hyatt pointed out that the community expressed its support for the recommended larger gymnasium. Superintendent Hyatt reminded the Trustees that all capital projects must be approved by the Ministry of Education.

Trustees Fulford and Bradnam withdrew the proposed amendment.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**Staff Reports****Deliberations on the Fort Erie Elementary Schools' Accommodation Review**

In response to a question from Trustee Campbell regarding the Board Administration not recommending that transportation be provided from General Public School to accommodate the north end students for extracurricular activities with a late bus, Superintendent Hathaway replied that Senior Staff considered the Accommodation Review Committee's recommendation but following a poll of other schools, it was determined that no other schools provide late bus transportation for extracurricular activities. Superintendent Hyatt added that providing late bus transportation for General Vanier students would be an equity issue for other schools across the Board and could also be a potential cost factor to the Board. Superintendent Dickson pointed out that schools address safety issues and transportation issues for extracurricular activities by communicating with parents or arranging for volunteer drivers to ensure students get home safely.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked the community of Fort Erie for participating in the accommodation review process which provides a solution palatable to the citizens of Fort Erie and will provide enhanced facilities for students. Chair Maves also thanked the Trustees and Senior Staff for their commitment to students.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no Trustee Information Session.

3. Correspondence and Communication**(a) Correspondence from West Lincoln Township regarding Motion Respecting School Closures**

Superintendent Marilyn Hyatt reminded the Trustees that the Report of the Board Administration on the Central and South St. Catharines and Thorold Secondary Schools Accommodation Review included financial estimates for two recommendations of the Accommodation Review Committee. Superintendent Hyatt distributed a copy of the Financial Summary to the Trustees for their reference during deliberations. Superintendent Hyatt noted for the Trustees that transportation costs are provided as a total for each recommendation under the heading "Operating Costs."

In response to a question raised by Trustee Clark regarding transportation costs being factored into the recommendation(s), Director Hoshizaki added that transportation costs will be clarified for Trustees.

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

- (a) Trustee Barnett gave a reminder that the Education Foundation of Niagara's Prom Project Niagara will be accepting donations of prom wear and accessories at Thorold Secondary School on Saturday, May 12th.
- (b) Trustee Barnett reported that she attended a recent ceremony for the signing of an agreement with the City of Welland to locate the Welland Public Library at the new school being built on the Mathews Public School site.
- (c) Trustee Barnett reported that she attended Welland Centennial Secondary School's recent production of "Music Man." Trustee Barnett commended the staff and organizers for presenting an awesome and professional quality production.
- (d) Trustee Barnett reported that she attended a recent Heritage Fair and she commended the students for their work and creative projects.
- (e) Trustee Keddy-Scott gave a reminder of Smith Public School's upcoming 50th anniversary celebration on May 12th.
- (f) Trustee Keddy-Scott gave a reminder of the upcoming Connect 2012 Technology Conference on May 9th and 10th at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort.
- (g) Trustee Ness recognized students from across the Board for participating in "Music Monday" on May 7th, an annual Canada wide event where students join voices to perform the same piece of music on the same day.
- (h) Trustee Schaubel reported that he recently visited the DSBN build site in Stevensville. Trustee Schaubel commended the students on the quality of their workmanship and their safety awareness.
- (i) Trustee Schaubel reported that he attended Dewitt Carter Public School's recent 100th anniversary celebration, noting that it was exciting to see the students' reaction to the history of the school which was on display in the decade rooms.
- (j) Trustee Schaubel reported that he and Trustee Fulford attended South Lincoln High School's recent Farmers Breakfast. Trustee Schaubel noted the great atmosphere in the school and he commended the organizers for hosting a great event.

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

- (k) Trustee Campbell reported that she attended Lincoln Centennial Public School's recent Multicultural Luncheon. The event which began at 6:00 a.m. was taped live by CTV. Trustee Campbell commended the parents, students, and community for hosting a great event. Trustee Campbell noted that Lincoln Centennial Public School has representation from 35 countries and 90 different languages.
- (l) Trustee Campbell commended representatives of Walker Industries for attending and assisting at Woodend during the recent Ride, Hike, Run event in support of the Walker Living Campus – Woodend. The event was very successful and well organized.
- (m) Chair Maves added that numerous emails have been received from Walker Industries commending the Board for organizing a great event which was attended by families of all ages.
- (n) Trustee Bradnam reported that donations in support of the Walker Living Campus – Woodend now total over \$1,228,570 to date.
- (o) Trustee Bradnam reported that he attended Governor Simcoe Secondary School's recent production of "Oliver," and Welland Centennial Secondary School's production of "Music Man." Trustee Bradnam commended the staff and students at both schools for presenting great musicals which included students from elementary schools.
- (p) Trustee Bradnam commended Power Glen Public School's staff and students on its recent musical production of "Together We Are Canada."
- (q) Trustee Bradnam reported that he attended the recent Silver Birch Literacy event. Trustee Bradnam commended the organizers for presenting an amazing and quality event.
- (r) Trustee Bradnam reported that he attended a recent presentation at Carleton Public School entitled, "Think Before You Ink." The presentation provided information to students which gave them an awareness of issues to consider regarding tattoos.
- (s) Trustee Bradnam gave a reminder of the following upcoming events:
- Laura Secord Secondary School's Walk/Run for Miracles on May 9th in support of the Niagara Peninsula Children's Centre;
 - Connect 2012 Technology Conference on May 9th and 10th at the Niagara Fallsview Casino Resort;
 - Niagara Nutrition Partners Breakfast Gala on May 17th;
 - Excellence in Education Banquet on May 17th
 - Laura Secord Secondary School's "Evolution of Internal Dialogue" artwork exhibition on May 22nd;

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

- DSBN Retirement Gala on May 23rd;
 - FJ Rutland Public Schools farewell celebrations on May 31st;
- (t) Trustee Barnett reported that Prince Edward Island MP Mark Eyking will meet with DSBN Academy students on May 17th to learn about their bio fuel / reclaiming ground fuels projects and take information back to his constituency.
- (u) Chair Maves reported that he attended Forestview Public School's recent fundraiser "Trivia Night." Chair Maves commended the organizers for presenting a great event.
- (v) Chair Maves commended the organizers and participants for presenting the successful "Ultimate Gaming Challenge Niagara" on May 5th and 6th. The event which was broadcast on the internet was energetic and well attended.

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

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

Trustee Cheryl Keddy-Scott reminded the Trustees that the survey on the location of the 2013 Annual General Meeting is due by May 11th.

Trustee Keddy-Scott added that Trustees will be provided with a copy of the Ministry of Education's Guidelines for Fundraising which were released on May 4th.

Trustee Keddy-Scott noted that the next Central West Region meeting is scheduled for June 9th.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of events for May and June 2012 were provided.

The following revisions were made:

May 15	Policy Advisory Committee, cancelled (<i>the next meeting will be held in September</i>)
May 16	Finance Committee, cancelled
May 22	Finance Committee (5:00 p.m.)
June 19	Program and Planning Committee

N. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:45 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer