



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

November 27, 2012

6:45 – 7:30 p.m. (Private Session)

7:30 – 11:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Kevin Maves (Chair), Sue Barnett, Lora Campbell, Dalton Clark, Ed Fulford, Cheryl Keddy, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel

Student Trustees: Mackenzie Ceci and Tara Lundy

Regrets: Trustees Alex Bradnam and Jonathan Fast

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), John Dickson, Sue Greer, Wesley Hahn, Cam Hathaway, Sue Mark, Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, Kelly Pisek, Carol Purcer, JoAnna Roberto, John Stainsby, Joe Weinberg, Peter Doan, Brett Sweeney, 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 7:35 p.m.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Chair Maves reported that Trustees Sue Barnett, Ed Fulford and Dale Robinson declared conflicts of interest in Committee of the Whole (Private Session).

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy

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

CARRIED

Moved by Cheryl Keddy
Seconded by Dalton Clark

“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 performed on video clip by students from Gordon Public School, Welland, accompanied by two students playing guitar.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Student Trustee MacKenzie Ceci opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Ed Fulford

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated November 13, 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 Dave Schaubel

“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****(a) Director’s Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Sheryl Pett**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Sheryl Pett for her extraordinary contributions to the Board. Sheryl is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the DSBN Professional Library and she has proven herself to be an essential support for the entire system. She is responsible for keeping all the resources in the collection up-to-date and for informing staff of the latest offerings. Sheryl writes the Professionally Speaking and @Media newsletters, providing ideas for solid resources to support learning. In addition, Sheryl is responsible for creating the records for items that appear in Medianet that allow all staff to find just the right resource for their classrooms. Sheryl goes about her work quietly and efficiently, always willing to help out, and is able to find research on even the most obscure of topics.

Director Hoshizaki and Superintendent Greer presented Sheryl with a token of the Board’s appreciation of her dedication to the Board.

(b) RCT Volunteer of the Year – Dino Miele

Director Hoshizaki commended Dino Miele, Chief Information Officer, for being recognized at a recent *Volunteer of the Year* event hosted by Telus in Toronto. Renewable Computer Technology (RCT) is a not-for-profit organization that relies heavily on volunteers to support its mission. Their recognition is given annually to an individual who selflessly donates time and expertise to further the reuse of technology and skill development. Without Dino’s support, thousands of youth, learners and educators across Niagara would not have had access to renewed

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**Director's Report****RCT Volunteer of the Year – Dino Miele**

technology and enhanced skill development opportunities to further their professional goals and aspirations. Dino has been instrumental in supporting the Computers in Schools and RCTech Outreach Program to provide DSBN students and staff with the tools they need to succeed in the knowledge-based economy.

(c) Woodend - Walker Industries/DSBN Volunteers Paint Woodend

Director Hoshizaki recognized employees of Walker Industries and the District School Board of Niagara who recently volunteered their time clearing out the gardens surrounding the Thomson House at Woodend and painting the ceiling, molding and walls of the main meeting room. Director Hoshizaki commended Walker Industries and the Walker employees for their ongoing support of the Living Campus at Woodend.

(d) Laura Secord Secondary School

Director Hoshizaki recognized Visual Arts students from Laura Secord who recently painted winter scenes on windows at the St. Catharines Public Library. The students were commended for their tremendous talent and for enhancing the neighbourhood with their excellent work.

(e) Special Needs Olympics

Director Hoshizaki reported that six students who participated in the DSBN Special Needs Olympics in June 2012 have qualified to attend the Provincial Special Olympics Summer Games which will be held in York Region from July 11-14, 2013. Director Hoshizaki thanked Andy Dermatas and the DSBN Committee for providing this opportunity for our students.

(f) November is Movember!

Director Hoshizaki noted that in Canada, November is "Movember" - a campaign to raise awareness for testicular cancer. Many schools across the Board are engaged in Movember again this year by growing moustaches to show support and also to raise funds for research. Director Hoshizaki commended all of the participants for their tremendous efforts.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Director’s Report****(g) STAT Conference**

Director Hoshizaki reported on the STAT Conference (Students Taking Action Today) which was held recently at Welland Centennial Secondary School. The Conference featured a keynote address and performances by Aboriginal dancers and singers which focused on messages of cultural pride and positive change.

(h) E.L. Crossley Secondary School Music Video

Director Hoshizaki reported that E. L. Crossley Secondary School is one of five finalists in the high school division of the eInstruction Classroom Makeover Contest. E.L. Crossley is the only video from Eastern Canada to be in the final round of this international competition. The student written, choreographed, filmed, and edited music video parody could bring home a grand prize package of interactive Science technology valued at \$30,000. Trustees viewed a clip of the video. The video and voting is available on [E.L. Crossley’s website](#).

2. Rose Seaton Public School

Superintendent JoAnna Roberto introduced the showcase. Superintendent Roberto explained that the presentation showcases a classroom initiative involving reading the New York Times bestselling book called “Wonder” and the importance of the class’s initiative entitled “Choosing Kind” in all actions. Principal Cindi Kohinski introduced Rose Seaton Public School Teacher Mallory Milton who spoke about the impact the book had on her class and the whole school community. The Board viewed a video which highlighted the importance of “Choosing Kind” in all actions. Ms. Milton thanked students from Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School for putting the video together.

Director Hoshizaki presented Ms. Milton with a token of the Board’s appreciation for her dedication to students.

3. DSBN – Brock University Partnership

Superintendent Sue Greer introduced the showcase which recognized the recent collaboration between the Board, Brock University, and Rodman Hall to support students and provide them with a rich and authentic learning experience in the Visual Arts. Gerda Klassen, Arts Consultant, recognized Teachers Steve Azzopardi, Laura Secord Secondary School, and Larissa Turcotte, Grimsby Secondary School; Dr. Peter Vietgen, Associate Professor for Visual Arts, Faculty of Education, Brock University; Dr. Stuart Reid, Director/Curator of Rodman Hall; and Dr. Jennifer Roswell, Associate Professor, Faculty of Education, Brock University.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**DSBN – Brock University Partnership**

Dr. Vietgen addressed the Board and shared details of the research project between Brock University and the Board which provided students with an opportunity to explore the connection between Visual Arts and Literacy. The students were given disposable cameras to create their own images in the vein of Cindy Sherman, a well known American artist, working around the themes of self-identity and role-play. Students also wrote artists statements expressing how they see themselves as teenagers in an ever changing, complex world. This project was a solid affirmation of multi-literacies and demonstrates their significance in our education system today. Dr. Vietgen recognized Rodman Hall for hosting an exhibition of the students' photographs and for facilitating a panel discussion of their work and findings.

Stuart Reid, Director/Curator, expressed Rodman Hall's pride in participating in this project by hosting the display of the students' work and facilitating the presentation of their artwork to the public. Mr. Reid added that Rodman Hall looks forward to future collaborations with the Board and students.

Teacher Steve Azzopardi commented on the significance of Artist Cindy Sherman's work which reflects her statement that we are all products of what we want to project to the world. Mr. Azzopardi commended Gerda Klassen, Brock University and Rodman Hall for embracing this project which provided students with an opportunity to explore and develop visual, oral and written language skills which demonstrate that Art is a powerful vehicle to communicate an idea.

Director Hoshizaki presented Dr. Vietgen and Stuart Reid with a plaque in recognition of their support of students.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Brock University and Rodman Hall for participating in this project along with DSNB teachers and students. Chair Maves added that the Board looks forward to continued partnerships.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1101-1115 for the month of October 2012 totalling \$13,620,290.89 be received.”

CARRIED

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

Moved by Cheryl Keddy
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated November 8, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Keddy provided a summary of the issues presented and discussed at the meeting which included a presentation from a student’s perspective, a presentation by Special Education Consultants about the process of school and central staff collaboration to meet the needs of Special Education students, and updates from the local agencies.

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 November 7, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dave Schaubel reported that 22 cases were reviewed by the Committee. Trustee Schaubel commended the John Howard Society and the Job Gym for providing opportunities to meet the needs of students.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**4. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated November 27, 2012, be received;” and the recommendations adopted;” and

“That the Schedule of Accumulated Surplus for the year ended August 31, 2012, be approved;” and

“That the Financial Report on International Education 2011-2012 be received;” and

“That \$151,359 be allocated to support the Board’s strategic initiatives as directed by the Finance Committee;” and

“That Policy G-34 and Administrative Procedure 4-16, both entitled *Copyright Provision*, be approved.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dalton Clark reported on the meeting of November 27th noting that the Committee reviewed the Schedule of Accumulated Surplus Report and the 2011-2012 International Education Financial Report. The Committee also reviewed a draft Copyright Policy and Administrative Procedure. Trustees commended the Finance Department for their excellence in bringing information forward to the Finance Committee.

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****(a) 2011-2012 Annual Operational Report**

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

“That the 2011-2012 Annual Operational Report be received.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Sue Mark presented an overview of the 2011-2012 Annual Operational Report (Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement) which included highlights of the key successes and outcomes of the year together with reference to several key projects that have gained significant momentum over the course of the past twelve months. Superintendent Mark noted that as required by the Ministry, as of 2011-2012, both the academic and corporate Board plans are now included and reported as one Board document. Superintendent Mark also gave a reminder that this planning process is cyclical in nature whereby the accomplishments, successes and challenges of one year determine and establish next steps for the upcoming year. The Board Improvement planning process is an ongoing and ever evolving refinement of plans based upon system-wide assessment data and ongoing feedback from all Departments in the Board.

(b) Presentation of 2012-2013 Annual Operational Goals and Objectives Report

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

“That the 2012-2013 Annual Operational Goals and Objectives Report be received and approved.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Mark noted that the development of this year’s Board Improvement Plan began in March 2012 with input from a variety of stakeholder groups. Additional review visits with the Ministry will take place in 2013. The Ministry continues to support the belief that Board Improvement Plans will include detailed strategies and resources that are based on a Board-wide needs assessment perspective, and that the Board Improvement Plans must remain dynamic, living documents which are open to ongoing change and revisions.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**Staff Reports****2011-2012 Annual Operational Report**

Superintendent Mark presented an overview and key highlights of the 2012-2013 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement which focuses on improving student learning by building professional capacity through job-embedded strategies and practices, and professional learning that are based on research.

Superintendent Mark noted that the 2012-2013 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement capitalizes on our most valuable resource - staff, with the one goal of meeting the needs of students. Superintendent Mark added that the Board's Improvement Plan is being given Provincial recognition due to the success of the Board's Professional Learning Communities.

Superintendent Mark thanked School Support Services staff, in particular, Jen Tye, Fred Louws, Cheryl Mancuso, and Kelly Pisek, the Corporate Services leadership and Managers, and the Communications Department who worked diligently to produce the report. Superintendent Mark commended Superintendents Greer and Hathaway for their role in developing the document, and Director Hoshizaki for his focused dedication to provide the best learning opportunities for all students in the District School Board of Niagara.

Trustees thanked Superintendent Mark for delivering an informative report and thanked all the staff involved in putting the document together.

**Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Dale Robinson**

“That the Board do now enter Committee of the Whole.”

CARRIED

The Board returned to Committee of the Whole at 8:55 p.m.

**Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 9:00 p.m.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**2. Trustee Information Session**

Prior to the Board meeting Trustees participated in an Information Session on Section 23 Programs presented by Arlene Tuls-Herfst.

3. Correspondence and Communication**(a) Letter from Keewatin Patricia District School Board regarding Regulation 274/12 – Hiring Practices**

Trustee Lora Campbell suggested that the Board submit a letter which supports the Keewatin Patricia DSB's position hiring practices. There was no objection to the suggestion from the Trustees and Chair Maves directed that a letter be drafted expressing the Board's concern with Regulation 274/12.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Barnett reported that recently she had a conversation with a retired educator who commended the work of the Board.
- (b) Trustee Clark reported that he attended a recent antibullying presentation hosted by the Education Foundation of Niagara where he was impressed by the number of community partners that the Board works with (Niagara Regional Police Service and Pathstone Mental Health, as examples).
- (c) Trustee Schaubel reported that he attended Port Colborne High School's recent Honour Roll Banquet where over 100 students were honoured for their excellence. Trustee Schaubel commended the students on their achievements. Trustee Schaubel also commended Port Colborne High School for its versatility and ability to make connections in the community.
- (d) Trustee Ness reported that she attended Westlane Secondary School's recent Honour Roll Banquet. Trustee Ness commended the students and thanked the school for recognizing students.
- (e) Trustee Robinson reported that material is available in the Trustees' Lounge from a recent conference hosted by the Ontario College of Teachers entitled, *Inspiring Public Confidence in Education*. The conference was well attended with good presentations and messaging for the millennium group of students.
- (f) Trustee Robinson reported that students from E.L. Crossley have submitted an application to the Aviva Community Fund to have a skate park in Pelham named in the honour of student Isaac Riehl – *Riehl Skate Park*. The students' submission has reached the semifinals and everyone

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

Trustee Communications and School Liaison

is being asked to write letters of support outlining the impact the skate park will have on youth and the community. On-line voting is also available commencing December 3rd at <http://www.avivacommunityfund.org/ideas/acf15773>

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

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

There was no report.

6. Future Meetings

The revised calendar of December 2012 meetings was provided.

N. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer