



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

**BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE**

**February 9, 2016**

6:15 – 7:00 p.m. (Private Session)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

**ATTENDANCE:**

**Board:** Jennifer Ajandi, Sue Barnett, Lora Campbell, Diane Chase (Vice-Chair), Linda Crouch, Jonathan Fast, Cheryl Keddy Scott, Kevin Maves, Dale Robinson (Chair), Dave Schaubel

**Student Trustees:** Justin Dubé and Katelynn Hilborn

**Officials:** Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, John Dickson, Wesley Hahn, Paula MacKinnon, Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, Kelly Pisek, Marian Reimer Friesen, JoAnna Roberto, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Bujacz

**Regrets** Trustee Helga Campbell and Superintendent Stacy Veld

**Recording Secretary:** Christina Dero

**Technical Support:** Linda Gonschior

**Chair Robinson opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory.**

**A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD**

**1. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent**

Chair Robinson called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Robinson welcomed students, staff, and parents from Connaught, Harriet Tubman, and Parnall Public Schools who were in the gallery.

Chair Robinson noted the absence of Trustee Helga Campbell.

**COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued****Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent**

Trustee Ajandi spoke to a Notice of Recommended Motion:

Take notice that in accordance with By-Law Q – 2, a recommendation that the following amendment to the By-Laws and Rules of Order of the District School Board of Niagara will come forward for consideration at the next meeting of the Board scheduled for February 23, 2016, with such amendment to take effect thereafter.

G -10 The order of business for regular meetings of the Board shall be:

- A. Commencement of the Meeting of the Board
  1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory
  2. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent
  3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

Explanation:

A reference to an Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory at the commencement of each Board Meeting would include the following:

“Welcome everyone and thank you for being here. Before we begin I would like to first acknowledge that we are on the traditional territory of the Haudenosaunee People.”

**2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

Chair Robinson noted that Superintendent Helen McGregor will be the Acting Director at the meeting as part of the Director’s professional development initiative.

**B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)**

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott  
Seconded by Kevin Maves**

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

**CARRIED**

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

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

**CARRIED**

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:33 p.m.

**C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”**

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed by the Connaught Public School choir, via video.

**D. REFLECTIVE READING**

Student Trustee Dubé opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

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

Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

**CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Board Minutes**

Moved by Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Linda Crouch

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated January 26, 2016 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 Diane Chase  
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

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

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued****Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole (Private Session)**

Chair Robinson reported that in the Committee of the Whole closed session the District School Board of Niagara and Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation, District 22, reached a tentative agreement on February 8, 2016 for a Collective Agreement which covers the period September 1, 2014 - August 31, 2017. Details of the Collective Agreement will be available following ratification which is scheduled to be completed February 17, 2016.

**F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS****1. Director's Report and Recognition****Update from Provincial, Regional and Local Perspective:****(a) Recognition of Joanne Mestek, Youth Counsellor, Harriet Tubman and Connaught Public Schools**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Joanne Mestek for her outstanding contributions as the Youth Counsellor at Harriet Tubman and Connaught Public Schools.

As the role of Youth Counsellor has evolved, so has Joanne Mestek. She has embraced delivering full class, positive and pro-active programs to teach children emotional regulation and conflict resolution. Ms. Mestek can be found in each and every classroom, delivering Roots of Empathy, Zones of Regulation and Friends for Life. At recess, she can be found running her 'skipping' or 'walking' clubs, providing a safe alternative for students during the break.

Joanne Mestek works with staff each year to plan anti-bullying week and has run parent anti-bullying workshops in the evenings. This year, she was a presenter on 'Conflict vs Bullying' at the DSBN Parent Involvement Conference. Joanne regularly says, 'They have to know better to do better' and has committed herself to ensuring kids know better. She demonstrates a growth mindset and believes all children can be successful. Joanne fully endorses the "What's Expected" code of conduct at Harriet Tubman and has helped the school to develop consistent and clear language to describe and learn expected behaviours.

Director Hoshizaki presented Joanne Mestek with a token of the Board's appreciation for her extraordinary contributions to students.

---

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued****(b) Director's Update to Trustees****i. Designated Member of Collaborative Team (DMCT) Training**

The DSBN recently held more DMCT training for all elementary schools on Tuesday, February 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2016.

When a child is concussed there is a team that meets to develop the return to learn/return to physical activity plan for the student. This team consists of the concussed student, parent/guardian, school staff, volunteers, coaches, medical doctor, etc. The role of the DMCT is to communicate with the parents and ensure that staff who provide education to the concussed student are aware of the progression of the plan.

This is an instrumental component of the DSBN's HEADSTRONG concussion management and awareness program.

Dr. K. Swayze and Dr. M. Torigian were presenters for this comprehensive training. DSBN continues to work in partnership with the medical community to ensure each student at the DSBN receives the best care in suspected and diagnosed concussions.

Every elementary school was represented and the DMCT trained representative will be instrumental in creating and implementing a return to learn and return to physical activity plan for a concussed student. Their role in communicating with all members of the team will support students both at home and at school and will ensure essential continuity of care during a recovery process.

The DSBN is now looking forward to providing this same training for our secondary DMCTs in the near future.

**ii. Possibilities: Addressing Poverty in Elementary Schools**

On February 4, 2016, ETFO Niagara sponsored a half day professional development opportunity for teachers which featured first-hand examples of school based innovations and initiatives from ETFO's Poverty and Education Project.

Approximately 40 teachers were in attendance and will share their learning with staff at their home school about practical strategies to address the academic and non-academic needs of students and their families experiencing poverty. Attendees were also provided with a copy of the new ETFO resource book *Possibilities*.

---

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued****Director's Update to Trustees****iii. Technological Design Class Project**

Students taking a grade 11 technological design class at DSBN Academy designed and built a variety of houses for the dog breed of their choice. Some were insulated, some had front decks, and all were very well built. The students learned a variety of design and construction techniques.

They were very proud of their projects, not only because of the final result, but because the houses are being sold on Kijiji with the profits going to a local animal charity.

**iv. Wrestling Provincials**

Jaylin Reyes, student at Laura Secord Secondary School, competed during the last week of January at the Junior Wrestling Provincials. She finished an amazing 3rd place in an age group higher than her own, and has now qualified for Nationals. Congratulations Jaylin!

**v. Frozen themed Gala**

Approximately 200 special education students from across the DSBN, dressed in formal attire, gathered inside the gym of Thorold Secondary School recently, to take part in a semi-formal dance.

Thank you to educational assistant Lindsay Dezeeuw, along with Lorraine Schoonings, coordinator of Thorold Secondary School's special education program, for spearheading this event in an effort to give the students this high school experience. As well, the school's grade 12 leadership class helped organize the event and make it a memorable day!

**vi. Business Education Council Breakfast**

On February 5, 2016, the Business Education Council held their annual Partners Breakfast. Director Hoshizaki, Chair Robinson, and Vice Chair Chase were in attendance. Student Trustee Hilborn sang "Oh Canada" and Connie Dove, Business Program Leader at Westlane Secondary School, was recognized for her leadership in the practice of school-community partnerships.

**vii. Math AQ Courses**

The DSBN will once again be partnering with Brock University to offer primary/junior Math AQ courses. The program has now been extended to all DSBN contract teachers and occasional teachers at no cost. The DSBN will have over 600 teachers qualified in math.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued****Director's Update to Trustees****viii. Harriet Comes Home**

On February 9, 2016, a life-size bronze statue of Harriet Tubman was unveiled in the courtyard of Harriet Tubman Public School. The event was well attended with staff, students and many community members on hand to celebrate.

Chair Robinson thanked Joanne Mestek for presenting an information session on Anti-bullying and Conflict Resolution to Trustees prior to the Board meeting, and congratulated her on receiving the Director's Recognition Award for Extraordinary Contributions.

**2. Educational Showcases**

There were no educational showcases.

**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 SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE**

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott  
Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated February 3, 2016 be received.”

**CARRIED**

**OLD BUSINESS – continued****REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE**

Trustee Keddy Scott reported that 11 cases were reviewed and approved by the committee and strategies were developed for students' success.

**2. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Jennifer Ajandi  
Seconded by Sue Barnett**

**“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated February 3, 2016 be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Ajandi provided a summary of the Parent Involvement Committee held on February 3, 2016. Highlights of the meeting included a presentation and discussion of the revised Health and Physical Education Curriculum and discussion of an upcoming School Council Chair Networking Meeting being held on March 2, 2016 at Harriet Tubman Public School. Trustee Ajandi added that the new Pupil Accommodation Guideline Review for Parents has been released by the Ministry of Education.

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

There were no questions asked of or by Board members.

**L. NEW BUSINESS**

There was no new business.

**M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS****1. Staff Reports****a) Report on Supporting Newcomers from Syria**

Superintendent Dickson shared information regarding newcomer families from Syria. The DSBN has been working with the Ministry of Education and other government organizations. Superintendent Dickson explained that the DSBN has not been identified as a landing site, but students are coming from Hamilton and Oakville if they cannot be supported there.



**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued****Report on Supporting Newcomers from Syria**

Syrian families are directed to the DSBN Welcome Centre for Newcomer Families, where English language learners get the support they need. To date, 23 Syrian newcomer students have been registered at the Welcome Centre. DSBN social workers and youth counsellors are available to support students and the Niagara Refugee Assistance Committee is available to help families outside of school hours.

Since the Welcome Centre for Newcomer Families opened in 2007, the DSBN has registered, assessed, and placed over 3,000 students in schools.

**2. Trustee Information Session**

Prior to the Board meeting, Trustees attended an information session on Anti-bullying and Conflict Resolution presented by Ronna Lockyer, Principal, and Joanne Mestek, Youth Counsellor, at Harriet Tubman Public School.

**3. Correspondence and Communication**

- a) Correspondence from the Minister of Education, Liz Sandals, regarding the Aboriginal Education Strategy was provided to the Board.

**4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

- (a) Vice Chair Chase reported that she will be attending the 6<sup>th</sup> Annual Women and Wellness event on February 18, 2016 at Club Roma. Women and Wellness is an annual event hosted to educate guests and provide information on mental health and mental illness.
- (b) Vice Chair Chase reported that she will be attending a free parenting workshop called Respectful Communication, Developing Relationships with Teens, at South Lincoln High School on February 24, 2016.
- (c) Trustee Barnett reported that the Education Foundation of Niagara has completed their move to St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School and will be holding an open house on February 19, 2016 from 11:30 a.m. – 2:00 p.m.
- (d) Trustee Barnett reported that the Denim, Diamonds, and Diplomas fundraiser will be held on February 20, 2016 at Club Roma in support of the DSBN Academy bursary fund.
- (e) Trustee Crouch reported that Laura Secord Secondary School will be presenting their play *Anything Goes* on February 25-27 and March 3-5, 2016. Tickets can be purchased through the school.
- (f) Chair Robinson reported attending the statue unveiling ceremony at Harriet Tubman Public School on February 9, 2016. Chair Robinson expressed feeling proud of students, staff, the new building, and of the statue.

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

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

Trustee Ajandi reported attending OPSBA's Public Education Symposium and provided highlights of key events:

- Minister Liz Sandals opened the conference with key points including the importance of collaboration and public confidence, a focus on the math action plan, and investing in teachers' additional qualification courses in math.
- The Ministry of Education will be conducting a consultation regarding expanding opportunities for students to engage in experiential learning and the importance of connecting students with the community.
- The need to ensure equity in our schools - looking at increasing graduate rates for marginalized students and closing achievement gaps for Aboriginal students, single parents and other disadvantaged groups,
- Professor Carol Campbell from OISE spoke about leadership of and for learning, with a focus moving from a discussion of equality into a more critical and progressive discussion of equity.
- Attendees participated in a feedback session looking at reflecting on the process and experience of the School Boards Collective Bargaining Act.
- During the Regional meetings, feedback was collected regarding OPSBA's development of a Code of Conduct for its trustees.

Trustee Ajandi reported that the OPSBA Board meeting will be held on February 19 & 20, 2016, and the OPSBA Annual General Meeting will take place on June 9, 2016 in Ottawa.

Information published by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association is available at [www.opsba.org](http://www.opsba.org).

**6. Future Meetings**

**The calendar of February 2016 meetings was provided.**

February 23	Program and Planning Committee Meeting	<b>5:45 p.m.</b>
-------------	--	------------------

**The calendar of March 2016 meetings was provided.**

March 22	Program and Planning Committee Meeting	6:00 p.m.
----------	--	-----------

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Dave Schaubel  
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned 7:32 p.m.

---

**DALE ROBINSON**, Chair

---

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