



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

May 24, 2016

5:30 – 7:00 p.m. (Private Session)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Jennifer Ajandi, Sue Barnett, Helga Campbell, 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, Stacy Veld, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Bujacz

Recording Secretary: Christina Dero

Technical Support: Linda Gonschior

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. **Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory**

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

2. **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 guests who were in the gallery.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued

Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent

There were no members absent.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

Chair Robinson noted that Student Trustee Dubé would be unable to attend the Board meeting scheduled on June 27, 2016. Chair Robinson thanked Student Trustee Dubé for his service and positive leadership throughout the year and wished him best of luck in the future.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

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

CARRIED

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Kevin Maves

“That this portion of Committee of the Whole (Private Session) adjourn.”

CARRIED

The Board recessed at 6:13p.m.

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Sue Barnett

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

CARRIED

The Committee of the Whole meeting resumed at 6:22 pm

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded Linda Crouch

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:26 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed by the Westlane Secondary School choir, via video. The Board remained standing for a moment of silence in honour of Fort Erie Secondary School student Tristen Bredin, who recently passed away.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Vice Chair Chase opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

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

Moved by Linda Crouch
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated April 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 Kevin Maves

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

CARRIED

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director's Report and Recognition****Update from Provincial, Regional and Local Perspective:****(a) Recognition of Max Ingrao, Drama Teacher, Stamford Collegiate**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Max Ingrao for his dedication to students, the DSBN, and challenging perceptions about mental health.

Last year, Mr. Ingrao worked with his grade 9 drama class to write and direct Stamford's Sears Drama Festival Entry, *Invisible Wounds*. The play won the coveted top prize and was invited to the next level of competitions. Mr. Ingrao placed less focus on the competitive component of the play and more on the purpose of the play - which was to help end the stigma around mental health, particularly Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Mr. Ingrao reached out to the Niagara Falls Community and was able to arrange a free public performance at the Scotiabank Convention Centre. The play was seen by an organizer for the Southern Ontario Youth Theatre Festival and after connecting with Mr. Ingrao, the students were on the road to perform for a larger audience in Windsor. Mr. Ingrao then organized a special evening titled, *Mental Health Awareness*, and invited all DSBN staff, youth counsellors and social workers to see the play at no cost. It was an incredible journey that ended with a twist at Stamford's 2015 Remembrance Day Assembly.

Invisible Wounds was a physical performance piece inspired by a book of poetry written by a Canadian soldier who was honourably discharged due to PTSD and is now living in British Columbia. The project went beyond just a performance when the students were able to connect with the soldier/author (Ed Brown) over Skype. Mr. Brown sent free copies of his poetry to sell as a fundraiser at every performance - but he wished with all of his heart that he could afford to travel to Niagara Falls to see the play. Mr. Ingrao took up that challenge and reached out to a charity organization titled, *Wounded Warriors*. *Wounded Warriors* paid for Mr. Brown's flight and accommodations and Stamford was able to have a very special guest at their Remembrance Day assembly this past November. Mr. Brown was able to see the play and meet the students face to face.

Director Hoshizaki presented Max Ingrao with a token of the Board's appreciation for his extraordinary contributions to students.

Student Trustee Hilborn thanked Mr. Ingrao for the opportunities that he has given, and will continue to give, the students at Stamford Collegiate.

Trustee Helga Campbell commended thanked Mr. Ingrao for bringing the community together and bringing an awareness to mental health and post-traumatic stress disorder.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**(b) Director's Update to Trustees****i. CONNECT 2016**

CONNECT is about developing partnerships, showcasing products and making real connections between education and technology leaders. It supports and encourages innovative technology solutions for the classroom that enhance student learning.

Thank you to Dino Miele, DSBN's Chief Information Officer, and his team for their outstanding efforts in organizing and presenting the conference.

ii. EXITE (Exploring Interests in Technology and Engineering)

During the week of CONNECT 2016, over 100 grade 6-8 girls participated in EXITE, a Girls for Tech Camp, aimed at sparking their interest in math and science and raising their awareness of the exciting possibilities a career in IT can present.

iii. CONRAD Spirit of Innovation Challenge

Yoon Shin, a grade 12 student at St. Catharines Collegiate, has received high accolades for an innovative project that he and his team (Team Noodle) entered into the CONRAD Spirit of Innovation Challenge 2016.

Yoon, the lead engineer of Team Noodle, an aerospace team composed of five students from South Korea and Canada, developed a space helmet called the "Sixth Sense Helmet."

Yoon and his team are the proud gold medal winners in the Aerospace and Aviation category and are also recipients of the Pete Conrad Scholarship. Team Noodle placed first in a field of 300 international teams. Congratulations to Yoon Shin!

iv. 2016 Graduate Visual Arts Exhibition

Winners of the art exhibition:

Best in Show:

Ben Kruck, *Suffocation*, Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School

Best Drawing:

Dyani Hay, *People's Bodies*, A.N. Myer Secondary School

Best Painting:

Noah Hoffman, *Untitled Abstract*, Stamford Collegiate Secondary School

Best Mixed Media:

Eric Block, *#27*, Governor Simcoe Secondary School

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Director's Update to Trustees****2016 Graduate Visual Arts Exhibition**

Best Sculpture:

Skylar Allati and **Wynne Reicheld**, *Cultural Transistor*, Welland Centennial Secondary School

Best New Media:

Kim Desharnais, *Breaking Point*, Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School

(Adjudicators from Brock University: Shawn Serfas and Peter Vietgen)

v. DSBN Giving

Children, no matter how big or small, have a tremendous capacity to make a difference in the world. Whether it's organizing a community walk to help raise mental health awareness, or organizing a school pep rally to help raise funds for new playground equipment, the student leadership shown within our schools is always inspiring. Recent examples include:

Orchard Park Public School Students Raise Funds for Fort McMurray Residents

In an effort to help those affected by the wildfires in Fort McMurray, Alberta, staff and students at Orchard Park Public School organized a car wash at the school to help raise money for the Red Cross, knowing the federal government plans to match any funds raised.

Congratulations to Orchard Park Public School for their team building efforts and for giving back to a community in need.

Helping Syrian Refugees

On Friday April 22, 2016 Governor Simcoe Secondary School hosted a grade 7/8 fundraising dance for Syrian refugees.

Several members of the "Simcoe Outreach Society" and the "Helping Syrian Refugee Committee" organized the dance to help families in our community.

Fundraising for Leukemia

Two grade six students at Cherrywood Acres Public School, Mackenzie and Mariah, took the initiative to raise funds and spread awareness about Leukemia amongst their school community. These two students created and implemented a school-wide fundraiser for Leukemia and raised \$459.88 for the Canadian Cancer Society.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Director's Update to Trustees****vi. Ontario Association for Mathematics Education (O.A.M.E.) Math Olympiad**

On April 21st, 2016 intermediate students from across the DSBN represented their schools in co-ed teams of four to compete in O.A.M.E.'s Math Olympiad at Club Roma.

The team from Grapeview Public School represented by grade 8 students Elsa McKnight and Peter Pilling, and grade 7 students Juhee Park and Nathan Little were successful in finishing first in both the Paired and Relay competitions!

Best of luck to the team as they compete at the Provincial Math Olympiad at the University of Toronto on May 27-28, 2016.

2. Educational Showcases

There were no educational showcases.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS**a) DSBN and Provincial Graduation Rate**

Superintendent McGregor presented a report of the DSBN and Provincial Graduation Rate. Superintendent McGregor noted that this is the second year the Ministry of Education has released graduation rates for each School Board and the rates are calculated by the Ministry based on the tracking of students who entered Grade 9 in any school in Ontario in the 2010-2011 school year.

Superintendent McGregor added that the DSBN graduation rate for this student cohort is 85%, one percent higher than the previous year. Superintendent McGregor explained that 8% of these students are still attending a secondary school in Ontario and the remaining 7% are considered early school leavers.

Superintendent McGregor recognized DSBN staff for the implementation of a wide variety of strategies and programs that are leading to student improvement.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1729 to 1742, for the month of April 2016 totalling \$17,776,678.79 be received.”

CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated May 4, 2016 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell provided highlights from the Parent Involvement Committee meeting which included a tour of the Walker Living Campus, a presentation from Education Foundation of Niagara Executive Director Cindy Paskey, and discussions around the Parent Involvement Committee Conference which will take place on November 4, 2016. Trustee Helga Campbell noted that Melissa Rypstra is the new Community Representative on the committee.

3. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Linda Crouch

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated May 12, 2016 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Keddy Scott reported that 13 cases were reviewed and approved by the committee.

4. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated May 12, 2016 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Ajandi provided highlights of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, which included a student voice presentation from a St. Catharines Collegiate student who recently competed in a skills competition. Trustee Ajandi provided a reminder of the upcoming DSNB Special Olympics that will take place on June 14, 2016.

5. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

**Moved by Justin Dubé
Seconded by Katelynn Hilborn**

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated May 17, 2016 be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Dubé introduced a video that captured highlights from the Step Past the Stigma Walk on May 7, 2016.

Student Trustee Hilborn reported that over 300 participants took part in the event that featured a 2km walk, live music, and information booths set up by community partners. Student Trustee Hilborn thanked Trustees and senior administration for supporting the event.

Student Trustee Dubé added that long term goals of the Step Past the Stigma Walk include bringing the community and students together, providing resources and supports, and raising awareness for mental health.

Vice Chair Chase thanked volunteers for helping throughout the day and community partners for sharing the supports that are available to students.

OLD BUSINESS – continued

6. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy Scott

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated May 17, 2016 be received; and

That the report of the Educational Research Committee of April 14, 2016 be received; and

That the Board direct Senior Administration to prepare an Initial Staff Report and School Information Profile Reports for the group of schools that includes Beamsville District SS, Grimsby SS, and South Lincoln HS, for presentation to the Board of Trustees.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Trustee Schaubel provided a brief summary of the report and recommended motions.

7. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated May 18, 2016 be received; and

That the low bid received from TRP Construction, in the amount of \$2,126,000 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Addition and Renovations Project at Oakridge Public School; and

That as a condition of site plan approval for the Oakridge Public School Addition and Renovations Project, approximately 1.7 acres of identified Conservation/Natural Area lands be dedicated to the City of St. Catharines in accordance with the Garden City Plan; and

That a purchase order be issued to the Construction Manager, Mountainview Homes, for an overall value not to exceed \$550,000 for general conditions and various tendered work packages to sub-trades; and

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

That the low bid received from TAT Construction, in the amount of \$582,925 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Accessibility Improvements Project at Princess Margaret Public School; and

That the low bid received from Scott Construction, in the amount of \$699,450 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Accessibility Improvements / Boiler Replacement Project at Prince Philip Public School, Niagara Falls; and

That the low bid received from STF Construction, in the amount of \$584,295 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Science Labs Renovation Project at Westlane Secondary School; and

That staff be directed to increase the annual budget allocation for sports fields in the 2016-17 Multi-Year Capital Plan, to support an investment in synthetic turf fields and tracks, in the amount of \$2,500,000. The construction must include a capital partnership with the municipality or community organization; and

That the Multi-Year Capital Plan, dated May 18, 2016, as amended to include the investment of \$2,500,000 to support the installation of identified synthetic turf fields in 2016-17, be received and that staff be authorized to proceed with all identified projects up to and including the 2016-17 year.”

CARRIED

Trustee Maves provided a brief summary of the report and commended Bob Dunn, Manager of Projects & Maintenance, and his department for their hard work.

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) DSBN Academy Advisory Committee**

Superintendent Pisek reported that on Friday May 13, 2016, members from the DSBN, Brock University, Niagara College, EFN, United Way, Niagara Nutrition Partners, Niagara Public Health, YMCA of Niagara and Port Cares met to hear and discuss updates from the DSBN Academy.

The DSBN Academy Advisory Committee was originally formed in 2011 to further support the learning needs of its' students. The Academy's vision, values, advisory program and extended school day assist students in setting and achieving high academic goals. In June 2017, the DSBN Academy will celebrate its first grade 12 graduation.

The goal of the committee will be to meet twice a year to support and contribute ideas and information to the DSBN Academy. All agreed that continued community engagement will enhance both the supports being offered and the overall success of our students.

Trustee Lora Campbell added that EFN has raised \$20,000 to be used towards bursaries for the DSBN Academy.

Chair Robinson thanked Trustees for supporting the DSBN Academy.

b) Renovated/Expanded West Pelham Elementary School Naming

Trustees were provided a handout prior to the start of the Board meeting.

Superintendent Hahn reported on the process to name the renovated/expanded elementary school in West Pelham and explained that following the consultation process, the committee made the following recommendation:

That the three choices as determined by the School Naming Committee be received and that the Trustees vote by ballot to choose the name for the renovated/expanded Public School in West Pelham.

1. Wellington Heights Public School
2. E.W. Farr Memorial Public School
3. Maple Acres Public School

Superintendent Hahn spoke to the significance of the proposed names and requested that Trustees vote by ballot to decide the name of the school.

In response to a question by a Trustee, Director Hoshizaki clarified that it is normal practice for Trustees to receive a handout prior to voting on school names.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**Staff Reports****Renovated/Expanded West Pelham Elementary School Naming**

Karen Bellamy, Executive Assistant to the Director, and Cheryl Bujacz, Administrative Assistant to the Director, distributed the ballots to the Trustees.

Chair Robinson appointed Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, and Stacy Veld, Superintendent of Business, as scrutineers.

Following a vote by ballot, which were collected and counted by the scrutineers, Chair Robinson reported that the Trustees voted to adopt the name Wellington Heights Public School.

**Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

“That the new renovated/expanded Public School in West Pelham be named Wellington Heights Public School, effective May 25, 2016.”

CARRIED

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

“That the ballots be destroyed.”

CARRIED

Director Hoshizaki provided further clarification for Trustees by referencing Policy A-09: Naming/Renaming of Schools.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no Trustee information session.

3. Correspondence and Communication

There was no correspondence or communication.

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

- a) Trustee Barnett reported attending Welland Centennial Secondary School's production of *Guys and Dolls*. Well respected Director Mr. Neufeld will be retiring at the end of this year.
- b) Trustee Barnett reported that Ross Public School recently implemented the Walk to School program. Part of the program includes a walk around the neighborhood to look for drop off and pick up points. The school received many suggestions.
- c) Trustee Barnett reported that she recently attended bowling and jump rope for heart events.
- d) Trustee Barnett reported attending the Rotary Bootleg BBQ along with Superintendent Hahn on May 4, 2016. The Rotary Club has been supportive of schools in Welland through a variety of programs.
- e) Trustee Barnett reported that she attended the Gordon Public School Fun Fair on May 12, 2016. Student Trustee Dubé volunteered at the event.
- f) Trustee Barnett reported attending *Heart of Rock and Roll* at Diamond Trail Public School.
- g) Trustee Barnett reported that she recently attended the Eastdale Secondary School Reunion.
- h) Trustee Barnett reported that Welland Centennial Secondary School has a reunion scheduled on October 7-8, 2016.
- i) Trustee Lora Campbell reported attending the official grand opening of Harriet Tubman Public School on May 16, 2016.
- j) Trustee Lora Campbell reported attending the DSBN Retirement Gala on May 16, 2016. Trustee Lora Campbell thanked DSBN staff for recognizing employees.
- k) Trustee Keddy Scott reported attending Grimsby Secondary School Positive Space Café on May 12, 2016.
- l) Trustee Helga Campbell reported attending the grand opening of Harriet Tubman Public School on May 16, 2016 and commended students for showing Harriet Tubman spirit.
- m) Trustee Helga Campbell reported attending the Niagara Physical Literacy Summit on April 27, 2016.
- n) Trustee Helga Campbell reported attending Orchard Park Public School's production of the *Sound of Music*.
- o) Trustee Helga Campbell thanked those involved in organizing the CONNECT Conference and for the opportunity to hear keynote speaker Chris Hadfield.
- p) Vice Chair Chase reported attending a presentation by Dr. Stan Kutcher on May 7, 2016 and added that free resources are available at teenmentalhealth.org.
- q) Vice Chair Chase reported attending a presentation by motivational guest speaker Monique Howat on May 12, 2016 at Caistor Central Public School.
- r) Vice Chair Chase reported that College Street Public School will host the final evening in the West Lincoln speaker series on June 14, 2016.
- s) Student Trustee Dubé thanked the Board for their support and collaboration throughout the year and for being strong role models and leaders.

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

- t) Trustee Schaubel reported attending the *Hollywood North Party on the Patio* fundraiser on May 14, 2016 in support of the Arts Theatre at Greater Fort Erie Secondary School.
- u) Trustee Fast reported attending the 50th Anniversary celebration for Laura Secord Secondary School.
- v) Trustee Barnett reported attending the DSBN Track Meet and commended staff for the time and effort that went into planning the event.

Further information on events and news happening within the Board can be found at www.dsb.org and/or on the schools' websites.

Chair Robinson reminded Trustees that it is time to make new committee selections that will take effect September 1, 2016. A memo with the selection form will be emailed to trustees.

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

Vice Chair Chase reported that she will be attending OPSBA's Annual General Meeting in Ottawa on June 8-11, 2016. Vice Chair Chase encouraged Trustees to provide recommendations for the upcoming elections that will take place during the Annual General Meeting.

Information published by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association is available at www.opsba.org.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of June 2016 meetings were provided.

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Helga Campbell**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:14 p.m.

