



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

November 12, 2013

6:45 – 7:30 p.m. (Private Session)

7:30 – 11:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

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

Student Trustees: Tara Lundy and Courtney Steingart

Regrets: Trustee Jonathan Fast

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), John Dickson, Wesley Hahn, Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, Kelly Pisek, Marian Reimer Friesen, JoAnna Roberto, John Stainsby, Stacy Veld, Joe Weinberg, Peter Doan, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy, Marian Lamb

Recording Secretary: Irene Foster

Technical Support: Wendy Coit

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent

Chair 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.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Ed Fulford

Seconded by Lora Campbell

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

CARRIED

Moved by Barbara Ness

Seconded by Cheryl Keddy

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:29 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed by the McKay Public School Choir, on video clip. Following the singing of “O Canada” the Board remained standing to observe a moment of silence on the recent passing of Anthony (Tony) Marano, Plumber with the DSBN. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves extended condolences to Mr. Marano’s family.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Student Trustee Courtney Steingart opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Dale Robinson

Seconded Alex Bradnam

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

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

Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated October 22, 2013, 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 Sue Barnett
Seconded by Dale Robinson

“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****(a) Recognition of Christine Honsinger, Volunteer at Lockview Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Christine Honsinger for her 8 years of volunteering for the Board following 33 years as a DSBN teacher. Christine provides an intensive reading program for Grade 2 students and she works diligently on their word wall list flashcards, and bringing stories to life. Christine also volunteers her amazing artistic skills and has helped out with Lockview's Joys Days. Christine is also known for giving her time, expertise and caring to those that need her in the community.

Director Hoshizaki presented Christine Honsinger with a token of the Board's appreciation for her service to students, the Board, and the community. On behalf of the Board, Trustee Bradnam thanked Christine Honsinger and all volunteers who support students.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director's Report and Recognition****(b) Director's Update to Trustees****i. Principal Pam Voth**

Principal Pam Voth was recently awarded the 2013 Educator Award from the Tourette Syndrome Foundation of Canada. The award recognizes people who “make good things happen for people affected by Tourette Syndrome.” Principal Voth was nominated for this award by a parent in appreciation of Pam’s caring and compassionate support of all children.

ii. CAPPIES Niagara

CAPPIES Niagara is a critics and awards program for high school Theatre and Journalism. Eight local schools are participating in the 2013-2014 CAPPIES. Outstanding reviews written by students from Laura Secord Secondary School and Eden High School were recently published in The Standard (see <http://www.stcatharinesstandard.ca/2013/11/01/cappies-critics-review-ridley-show>)

iii. Technology Conference – Your Future Starts Now?

On November 14th the DSBN Technological Education and Experiential Learning Team will host its first annual one-day conference for young women in Grades 9-12, in partnership with the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities through the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. The goal of the conference is to empower female students to explore career options in apprenticeship Skilled Trades and Technologies.

iv. Engineering and Science Olympics

The McMaster Engineering and Science Olympics were held recently with 1400 students from 62 secondary schools across Ontario in attendance. DSBN students and teachers from the following schools achieved awards.

Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School

Mechanical Transporter Competition – 1st and 3rd place

Mini Car Jump Competition – 2nd place

Teacher’s Challenge – 3rd place

Grimsby Secondary School

The Speeding Brain – 1st place

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director's Report and Recognition****(b) Director's Update to Trustees****iv. Engineering and Science Olympics****Welland Centennial Secondary School**

Engineering Jeopardy – 1st place

v. 3rd Annual DSBN DECA Competition

The 3rd Annual DSBN DECA Competition will take place on Wednesday, November 27th at School Support Services. This event is sponsored by the DSBN Business Studies Subject Council and the Business Education Council of Niagara. DECA is a student Business leadership organization with over 200,000 student members worldwide. DECA prepares emerging leaders and entrepreneurs in marketing, finance, hospitality and management in high schools and colleges around the globe. The purpose of the DSBN DECA event is to provide students with an opportunity to develop their leadership, teamwork and communication skills, while at the same time learning about the opportunities within DECA Canada and DECA International. One hundred students from the DSBN will compete as a team of two, in Finance, Marketing, Sports and Entertainment Marketing, Travel and Tourism, and Hospitality and they will have the opportunity to meet business professionals and talk with them about their professions and businesses. We wish all students well in this upcoming event!

vi. Forestview Public School Choir

On Friday, November 9th, the Forestview Choir performed in a Showcase Concert at the Scotiabank Centre for the Ontario Music Educators Association Conference. They were the only primary choir who performed; all other performances were by high school students. The Choir also performed on Saturday, November 10th, at Victoria Park for the Opening Night Concert for the Niagara Falls Winter Festival of Lights. Congratulations to the students and staff of Forestview Public School for showcasing their talents in support of community events!

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**2. Applewood Public School – Award Winning Video**

Superintendent Marian Reimer Friesen introduced the showcase.

Principal Sue Lawrence, Teacher Bryce Honsinger and Grades 5/6 students showcased their award winning video on the “Innovative Use of Technology” in their classroom. The students addressed the Board and spoke on the positive impact technology has on student learning, and their pride for independently producing the video. The Board viewed the students’ video which demonstrated how the students use technology in their classroom. Teacher Bryce Honsinger commended the students for their inspiration and motivation.

Trustees commended Applewood Public School and the students who are embracing technology. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked the school and students for their presentation.

3. Child Advocacy Centre Niagara – Teen Connect Program

Superintendent John Dickson introduced the showcase and provided a brief history of the Child Advocacy Centre Niagara which opened in 2008.

Marlene DeRose, CACN Education Consultant, and Susanne McCarroll, CACN Program and Volunteer Coordinator, showcased the Teen Connect Program available for Grades 7-9 students across Niagara. Ms. McCarroll provided an overview of the role of the Centre together with an overview of the Teen Connect Program. Ms. McCarroll explained that the Teen Connect Program was designed to create awareness of the different forms of child abuse and to let students know that there is supportive and caring help in Niagara for children and youth who are experiencing abuse. Ms. McCarroll thanked the Board for its support of the Child Advocacy Centre Niagara and the Teen Connect Program.

On behalf of the Child Advocacy Centre Board of Directors, Marlene DeRose presented Director Hoshizaki with a plaque in appreciation of the DSBN’s support of the CACN and for its participation in the Centre’s Golf Tournament. Ms. DeRose thanked Director Hoshizaki for his personal efforts and for his support on behalf of the School Board.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Marlene DeRose and the Centre for all the work they do to support students.

Further detailed information on the Child Advocacy Centre Niagara is available at <http://www.cacniagara.org>.

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 STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE**

Moved by Tara Lundy

Seconded by Courtney Steingart

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated October 23, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustees Lundy and Steingart provided a summary of the report which included discussion and planning on the Environmental Challenge to reduce waste and the carbon footprint within secondary schools.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

No questions were asked of and by Board members.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**1. Staff Reports****(a) Verbal Report of the Parent Involvement Committee Conference**

Superintendent Marian Reimer Friesen presented a verbal report of the November 6th Parent Involvement Committee Conference. The Conference was well attended with approximately 400 registrants participating in a variety of workshop selections. Forty-five vendors also showcased their products and services. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves commended Superintendent Reimer Friesen and the Planning Committee for organizing a successful conference.

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

Prior to the Board meeting, Trustees participated in an Information Session on Health and Safety presented by Jim Morgan, Superintendent of Human Resources, and Michael Langlois, Health and Safety Officer.

3. Correspondence and Communication

- (a) Invitation letters to The Honourable Premier Wynne, Minister of Education Sandals, and Local MPP, Minister of the Environment Bradley, regarding Special Education funding.

Trustee Clark thanked the Trustees for their support to send these letters inviting Ministry officials to our Board to discuss our concerns that the District School Board of Niagara continues to be the second lowest funded Board in Special Education. Trustee Clark reminded the Board that the District School Board of Niagara has been underfunded for many years, and following years of writing letters and lobbying Ministry officials and locally elected politicians, the Board's concerns have not been addressed by the Province. Trustee Clark encouraged the Board to continue its efforts to receive fair and equitable funding for the Board's high needs students.

A brief discussion followed with Trustees expressing their concerns about the underfunding and the unaddressed requests of the Board to obtain equitable funding. Trustees agreed that the Board must keep up its efforts to obtain fair and equitable funding across the Province. Trustees suggested that media pressure may draw attention to the situation and, if necessary, that candidates in any upcoming election be questioned on their position. Trustee Bradnam noted that the Board's Special Education Advisory Committee also sent a recent letter to the Ministry expressing its concerns. Trustee Robinson questioned whether families have any recourse with the Ministry. Trustees will be kept updated on any response to the invitations to meet with our Board.

- (b) Letter from the City of St. Catharines Mayor McMullan commending Director Hoshizaki and Board staff for working collaboratively with City staff regarding Alexandra Public School.

Chair Maves informed the Trustees that he contacted the Mayor on behalf of the Board to express the Board's mutual appreciation.

Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, clarified for Trustee Campbell that the City of St. Catharines has passed a By-Law to close a section of George Street to accommodate construction of the new elementary school, however, the official closing is not anticipated until the Spring.

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

- (a) Trustee Ness commended schools in Niagara Falls and Fort Erie for their support of community initiatives and services. Trustee Ness recognized Westlane Secondary School for raising money for the local Humane Society and Project Share. Trustee Ness also recognized students from Stamford Collegiate for building a new Santa chair for the upcoming Santa Parade. Trustee Ness recognized Fort Erie Secondary School's Pomegranate Restaurant which benefits the school and the community.
- (b) Chair Maves commended A. N. Myer Secondary School's Football teams on their success this season. Chair Maves noted that the Junior Football team is advancing to the upcoming Metrobowl Championship.
- (c) Vice-Chair Barnett commended Welland Centennial Secondary School's Junior Football team on its recent victory over Westlane Secondary School.
- (d) Vice-Chair Barnett commended Rebeccah Fuaco of Welland Centennial Secondary School for being named the Welland Tribune's athlete of the month for October.
- (e) Vice-Chair Barnett recognized 3 Welland Centennial Secondary School students and their teacher for their performance at the recent Welland Mayor's Gala in support of the Niagara Community Foundation for Children and Youth Fund.
- (f) Vice-Chair Barnett gave a reminder of Diamond Trail Public School's upcoming Grand Opening on November 28th from 2:00 – 3:15 p.m.
- (g) Vice-Chair Barnett gave a reminder of the upcoming Holiday Celebration Gala in support of the Education Foundation of Niagara being held at Club Italia on November 23rd. Tickets are available by calling (905) 641-2929, Ext. 54103.
- (h) Trustee Bradnam reported that he was proud to represent the Board at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Cenotaph Remembrance Day observance. The ceremony was well attended by the community and there was good representation from DSBN students.
- (i) Trustee Keddy gave a reminder that next week is the Kick Off to Bullying Week and many activities and events will be taking place in schools.
- (j) Chair Maves gave a reminder of the Human Resources Department's upcoming Annual Pancake Breakfast on December 6th. Tickets are available by contacting the Human Resources Department.

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

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

Trustee Keddy noted that a report on the Central West Meeting and Directors' Meeting held on October 25/26, 2013, has been emailed to Trustees. The meeting included discussion on conflict of interest and code of conduct. Trustee Keddy encouraged Trustees to read OPSBA's 2013 Fall Report which demonstrates the importance of membership in OPSBA.

Further information published by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association is available at <http://www.opsba.org>.

6. Future Meetings

A revised calendar of November 2013 meetings was provided. A draft calendar of December 2013 meetings was provided and revised as follows:

December 10	Finance Committee prior to the Board Meeting (time to be confirmed)
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N. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer