



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

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**BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE**

**September 24, 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, Jonathan Fast, Ed Fulford, Cheryl Keddy, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel

**Student**

**Trustees:** Tara Lundy (arrived at 6:50 p.m.) and Courtney Steingart

**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 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

**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 Ed Fulford  
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“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 “O Canada” was performed by the Forestview Public School Choir, on video clip.

**D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING**

Trustee Alex Bradnam opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

**E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved by Barbara Ness  
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

**CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Board Minutes**

Moved by Dave Schaubel  
Seconded by Ed Fulford

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated September 10, 2013, 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 Sue Barnett

Seconded by Dale Robinson

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

**CARRIED**

Chair Moves reported that the following motions were carried in Committee of the Whole.

“That Maple Grove Public School located at 3991 Regional Road 81, Beamsville, be declared surplus to the Board’s needs effective September 25, 2013, and that Board staff be authorized to dispose of the property in accordance with Ontario Regulation 444/98.”

“That Campden Public School located at 4160 Fly Road, Campden, be declared surplus to the Board’s needs effective September 25, 2013, and that Board staff be authorized to dispose of the property in accordance with Ontario Regulation 444/98.”

“That Jordan Public School located at 2831 Regional Road 81, Jordan, be declared surplus to the Board’s needs effective September 25, 2013, and that Board staff be authorized to dispose of the property in accordance with Ontario Regulation 444/98.”

**F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS****1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Jessica Folino, Teacher, Westlane Secondary School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Jessica Folino for her 10 years of service to students and the Board as an English and Business Teacher at Westlane Secondary School. Since being hired by the Board in 2003, Jessica has provided a nurturing, challenging and innovative classroom environment for her students. This positive learning environment is why Niagara University named Jessica their Canadian Teacher of the Year. Director Hoshizaki also recognized Jessica as one of the founding Literacy Committee members and current Literacy Chair at Westlane.

**F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS****1. Director's Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Jessica Folino, Teacher, Westlane Secondary School**

Jessica is also a co-writer for the "Partners in Literacy" course profile which is now offered in many DSBN secondary schools. Jessica's passion is Literacy and her philosophy is to provide every student with a high quality education and an equal opportunity to succeed in school, no matter what the circumstances are. Director Hoshizki also recognized Jessica for her contributions to students outside the classroom as a Rugby and Basketball coach and organizer of various extracurricular activities.

Director Hoshizaki presented Jessica Folino with a token of the Board's appreciation for her outstanding service to the Board and students and in recognition of receiving the prestigious Canadian Teacher of the Year Award.

**(b) Director's Update to Trustees****i. Diamond Trail Public School - Welland**

Diamond Trail Public School, the Board's newest school, enjoyed a great start up to the new school year. The new school facilities, together with the library in partnership with the Welland Public Library Board, will provide students with many learning opportunities as well as provide public access to the library.

**ii. Across the Region**

The start of the new school year brings many reasons for being optimistic about the coming year, including:

- The transitioning of students from General Vanier Public School, Fort Erie Elementary School and Rose Seaton Public School into the renamed and renovated Vanier site, now known as Peace Bridge Public School.
- The transitioning of students from Campden, Jordan and Maple Grove Public Schools into Vineland Public School until a new school is built on the current Vineland site.
- The relocation of the DSBN Academy to its new home on Louth Street, St. Catharines. The school also welcomed its first group of secondary school students.
- Dalewood Public School began its first year as the dedicated home for French Immersion students in North St. Catharines.
- Sixty-five DSBN schools now offer Full Day Kindergarten for 4 and 5 year olds.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****1. Director's Report and Recognition****(b) Director's Update to Trustees****iii. The Walker Living Campus at Woodend**

The District School Board of Niagara and the Canadian Wildlife Foundation (CWF) have entered into a partnership which will expand learning opportunities for students and help students to develop an appreciation for the ecological diversity of the area. Director Hoshizaki introduced a video clip which highlighted the partnership with the Canadian Wildlife Foundation and its significance on student learning.

**iv. SHSM Horticulture Program**

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Horticulture Program, "*Discovering Innovative Green Industry Techniques*," or "DIG IT!," is housed at the Kernahan Park Secondary School site and is off to a great start and the classroom is taking on an exciting transformation. The Aquaponics systems are being set up and the large worm farm is underway. Tyler Graham, the teacher in charge, is working on developing many new partnerships to enhance the program.

**v. DSBN Principal Arrested in Support of Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Niagara**

Crossroads Public School Principal Troy Wallace was recently "arrested" as part of a fundraising activity for Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Niagara. Principal Wallace raised over \$500 in bail in support of this great cause.

On behalf of the Board, Trustee Barnett congratulated Jessica Folino on being named Canadian Teacher of the Year by Niagara University.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves recognized the Canadian Wildlife Foundation (CWF) for entering into a partnership with the Board. Chair Maves added that the Board looks forward to working with CWF in this valued partnership.

**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. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

Moved by Dale Robinson  
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

**“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) dated September 4, 2013, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Robinson provided an overview of the report noting that discussion took place on the upcoming PIC Conference 2013 entitled “***Plugged in Parents – Be Informed, Be Empowered.***” The Conference is scheduled for Wednesday, November 6. Further information on the workshop topics and registration is available through a link on the Board’s website at <http://www.dsbn.org>.

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

Moved by Cheryl Keddy  
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

**“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated September 12, 2013, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Bradnam provided an overview of the report which included a showcase of the Special Olympics students who participated in the Summer Provincial Special Olympics in July 2013. Students and staff are waiting for confirmation if anyone qualified for the Special Olympics Nationals in Vancouver in July 2014. Trustee Bradnam added that a letter has been sent to the Province and copied to local MPPs expressing SEAC’s concerns regarding the funding model for the High Needs Amount at the DSNB.

**OLD BUSINESS – continued:**

**3. REPORT OF THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy  
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

**“That the report of the Policy Advisory Committee dated September 17, 2013, be received;” and**

**“That Policy E-03: Health and Safety, be approved as received and adopted;” and**

**“That Policy E-15: Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention, be approved as received and adopted;” and**

**“That Policy G-28: Student Discipline, be approved with modifications and adopted;” and**

**“That Policy A-11: Flag Protocol, be approved as received and adopted;” and**

**“That Policy G-22: Religious Publications, be repealed.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Keddy provided an overview of the report and the recommended motions. Trustee Keddy added that some modifications to Policy G-28 are in response to legislative changes. Trustee Keddy also explained that the recommendation to repeal Policy G-22 is in response to a recent ruling of the Human Rights Tribunal.

**4. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (handout at the meeting)**

**Moved by Dalton Clark  
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

**“That the report of the Finance Committee dated September 24, 2013, be received and the recommendation adopted.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Clark provided an overview of the report which included an update on two projects that were awarded over the summer under the 2013 Delegation of Authority. The projects include a contract for custodial supplies and equipment awarded to Swish Maintenance Limited through The Ontario Educational Collaborative Marketplace, and the appointment of Raimondo & Associates Architects for renovations to accommodate the relocation of the DSBN Academy and School Support Services into the former West Park Secondary School building.

**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) Report of Agreements with City of St. Catharines: New School – Alexandra Public School / Catherine Street Park Site**

**Moved by Dalton Clark  
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

**“That the Design and Construction Agreement and Licence/Operating/Usage Agreement with the City of St. Catharines for a new school at the existing Alexandra School / Catherine Street Park site be approved for signature, subject to finalization of wording by Board and City staff.”**

**CARRIED**

Director Hoshizaki reminded Trustees that at its meeting of May 14, 2013, the Board approved a motion to proceed with negotiations with the City of St. Catharines that will enable the Board to construct a new 550-pupil school on the existing Alexandra Public School site, using the City owned lands consisting of the George Street road allowance and Catherine Street Park as the school's playfield area. Director Hoshizaki reported that Board and City worked over the summer to identify and address key issues to reach a common understanding for the necessary Agreements. The Agreements will enable the construction of a 550-pupil school on the Alexandra Public School site and meet all of the standard requirements for an elementary school of this size. The facility design includes an opportunity for an enhanced sized gym and community room. In addition, the partnership with the City will provide additional benefits for enhanced recreational and leisure programming and outreach to the local community. Director Hoshizaki added that Board and City staff will work together to incorporate various heritage aspects and items of architectural significance of the current site into the new school facility, including attempting to preserve the 102 year old Beech tree. Director Hoshizaki stated that consolidation of students from Alexandra, Maywood and Memorial Public Schools into the new facility will provide opportunities for enhanced learning and extracurricular activities and will be a hub within the City of St. Catharines.



**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:****1. Staff Reports****(a) Report of Agreements with City of St. Catharines: New School – Alexandra Public School / Catherine Street Park Site**

Trustee Clark commended the Board and City staff for their extensive work in reaching these Agreements and for working together for the common benefit of students and the community. Trustee Clark added that this very exciting project will serve students and the downtown area extremely well.

Superintendent Reimer Friesen clarified that a naming procedure for the new facility will be initiated so that students from all three communities will feel at home in their new school.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked the City of St. Catharines for their cooperation throughout the process and added that the valued partnership between the City and the Board will serve a common interest. Chair Maves commended all staff for their hard work, including retired Superintendents Cam Hathaway and Sue Mark. Chair Maves added that staff are eager to move forward with this exciting project which will be enjoyed by the community for decades to come.

**2. Trustee Information Session**

There was no Trustee Information Session.

**3. Correspondence and Communication****(a) Letter to Ministry from Board Chair regarding Ontario Regulation 274/12 (Hiring Practices)**

Chair Maves reported that there is good feedback from School Principals expressing their appreciation to the Board for taking the initiative to write the letter. At Trustee Campbell's request, the letter will be copied to the local Federations.

**(b) Letter to Minister of Education from Board Chair and Finance Committee Chair regarding High Needs Amount (HNA) funding for Special Needs Students**

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

- (a) Trustee Barnett reported that she attended the recent United Way Kick Off Breakfast. The keynote speaker was a student from the DSBN Academy who spoke eloquently on the effects of living in poverty. The student also thanked the DSBN for the opportunities provided to students through the DSBN Academy.
- (b) Trustee Barnett reported that she and Trustee Bradnam toured the SHSM Horticulture Program at the Kernahan Park Secondary School site. Trustee Bradnam commended the Board for its decision to retain the program at the Kernahan Park site. The program provides valuable learning opportunities for students and plans are under way to expand and enhance the program.
- (c) Trustee Keddy reported that she attended the recent *Open House / Greet the Teachers* at Vineland Public School. Trustee Keddy also reported that parents of the former Jordan and Campden Public Schools commended the Board for its decision to close the schools and build a new facility on the Vineland Public School site. Trustee Keddy thanked Superintendent Dickson for putting together an excellent transition team.
- (d) Trustee Bradnam reported that he will attend the upcoming Honour Awards and Awards Celebration at Laura Secord Secondary School on October 2<sup>nd</sup>.
- (e) Trustee Bradnam gave a reminder of the upcoming 2<sup>nd</sup> *Annual Beat the Brainiacs Trivia Night* on Thursday, October 10<sup>th</sup> at Hernder Estate Wines in support of the Education Foundation of Niagara. Registration information is available by calling 905 641-2929, Ext. 54104.

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

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

Trustee Keddy reported that the OPSBA Board of Directors will meet in Toronto on September 27-28, 2013, and a report will be brought forward at the next Board meeting. Trustee Keddy added that planning is well under way for OPSBA's Annual General Meeting in July 2014.

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

**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**

**6. Future Meetings**

The calendar for October 2013 meetings was provided and revised as follows:

October 1      Program and Planning Committee - Cancelled

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Barbara Ness**

**Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:18 p.m.

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**KEVIN MAVES**, Chair

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