



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

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**BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE**

**April 8, 2014**

6:15 – 7:00 p.m. (Private Session)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Regrets:** Trustee Lora Campbell; Student Trustee Courtney Steingart

**Student Trustees:** Tara Lundy

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

**Recording Secretary:** Irene Foster

**Technical Support:** Wendy Coit and Linda Gonschior

**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 7:00 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 Alex Bradnam  
Seconded by Ed Fulford**

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

**CARRIED**

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

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

**CARRIED**

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”**

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed by the Forestview Public School Junior/Intermediate Choir under the direction of Teacher Keith Tait. The Choir also performed an original song for the Board.

Chair Maves thanked the students and Mr. Tait for their performance.

**D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING**

Trustee Dave Schaubel opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

**E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

**Moved by Dale Robinson  
Seconded by Dalton Clark**

**“That the Agenda be adopted.”**

**CARRIED**

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

Moved by Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated March 25, 2014, be confirmed as submitted.”

**CARRIED**

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- (a) Response to Trustee questions from the March 25, 2014, Board Meeting: Report on the Accommodation Review of Niagara on the Lake Elementary Schools

Superintendent Stainsby provided responses to questions of clarification submitted by Trustees and C.A.R.E. members following the March 25, 2014, Board Meeting. Trustees were provided with a written handout of the responses.

**Projected Enrolment**

Superintendent Stainsby stated that the current JK enrolment at Parliament Oak Public School for September 2014 is 11 students. The highest projected enrolment (including French Immersion) for Crossroads Public School from 2014-2023 is in 2014 at 584 students.

**EQAO Results**

Superintendent Stainsby explained that there is no correlation between school size and EQAO results adding that in the DSBN there are schools of all sizes that do very well on EQAO. For example, a DSBN school with 580 students has achieved scores in Grade 3 of 89% in Reading, 93% in Writing, 96% in Math; and in Grade 6 scores of 86% in Reading, 80% in Writing and 66% in Math.

**School Size**

Superintendent Stainsby explained that regarding school size, research shows that schools with multiple classes of the same grade provide both teachers and students the opportunity for rich learning environments. For students, this allows access to a variety of teachers and programs as well as flexibility in placements to support their learning needs. For teachers, it allows for professional collaboration to improve their teaching practice.

**BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:****3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- (a) Response to Trustee questions from the March 25, 2014, Board Meeting: Report on the Accommodation Review of Niagara on the Lake Elementary Schools

**Class Organization Chart – Parliament Oak Public School**

Superintendent Stainsby noted a correction in the Class Organization Chart that was previously presented. Superintendent Stainsby explained that for the year 2015 the total French Immersion students was counted as 26 students, however, that number should read 13 students for a projected total of 99 students (not 112). Superintendent Stainsby added that next year there will be 22 French Immersion students at Parliament Oak. In each of the following years, the total projected enrolment remains below 100 students and this will create challenges in class organization including the creation of double and triple splits that align with contractual and financial obligations.

**Concept Site Plan – Crossroads Public School**

Superintendent Stainsby reminded the Board that the Concept Site Plan is a conceptual drawing of the Senior Administration recommendation. While staff have determined that the current parking spaces should be sufficient, there are optional areas available on the school premises for additional parking to be created or deemed necessary. The Plan shows the widening of the laneway to Line 2, and the additional 4 classrooms. Currently there are 6 large buses and 3 small buses transporting students to Crossroads. The Concept Site Plan reflects that there may be only one large bus added to the transportation needs of the students. The realization of the recommendation would include consultation with the Transition Team.

**Fiscal Responsibility**

In response to a Delegate's question at the March 25<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting regarding how the potential closing of Parliament Oak would exercise wise fiscal responsibility by the Board, Superintendent Stainsby referenced the following financial projections for the recommendation which are found in the Senior Administration Report (Appendix I):

- (a) **Annual Savings**

The Report of Senior Administration shows that taxpayers will save \$269,000 per year in staffing and school operations costs, or \$233,000 net savings after including the additional transportation costs. This translates to a net savings for taxpayers of \$2.3 million over a 10 year period in school administration and operations alone.

**BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:****3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- (a) Response to Trustee questions from the March 25, 2014, Board Meeting: Report on the Accommodation Review of Niagara on the Lake Elementary Schools

**Fiscal Responsibility****(a) Annual Savings**

In addition, taxpayers will avoid having to pay \$0.7 million in currently-identified renewal costs, as well as avoiding future liability for facility upkeep at Parliament Oak.

**(b) Annual Net Savings**

- a. Staffing – DSBN staffs its schools based on requirements. There is no staffing assigned to closed schools, and therefore there is a reduction in total staff complement. These cost savings of \$193,000 annually are real.
- b. Maintenance / Property – the savings of \$76,000 is net of any increase to Crossroads based on the proposed addition. Given that Crossroads is only two years old and the addition is also new, the incremental cost increase at Crossroads for routine maintenance due to the addition is negligible.

**Accessibility Cost Liability**

Superintendent Stainsby explained that the current Building Code requires that all levels of all new public buildings, including schools, be fully accessible. Although the current Building Code does not require this to be the case for existing public buildings, standards for public buildings continue to change in Ontario supporting the commitment to have a barrier free Ontario by 2025. This is further supported by the third party condition assessments performed on Ontario schools, as well as the recent Ministry of Education's budget announcement of increased facility renewal funding to support energy efficiency and Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities (AODA) requirements.

**Ministry of Education Funding Memorandum**

Superintendent Stainsby reported that the Ministry has recently issued a Memorandum (2014:B4) outlining Board funding for the upcoming years related to school utilization and the efficient use of space.

Superintendent Stainsby added that the Ministry of Education has been working closely with many stakeholders across the province to develop effective strategies to support students during this period of declining

**BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:****3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- (a) Response to Trustee questions from the March 25, 2014, Board Meeting: Report on the Accommodation Review of Niagara on the Lake Elementary Schools

**Ministry of Education Funding Memorandum**

enrolment and the Ministry has prioritized addressing small and underutilized schools. Some of the funding items the Ministry has included are:

1. Top-up funding for school operations & school renewal will be adjusted (reduced) to provide further incentive towards efficient use of space.
2. New School Consolidation Capital (SCC) funding of \$750 million over 4 years to assist with school consolidations.
3. New funding of \$8.3 million to build planning capacity in specific school boards.
4. New funding of \$1.25 billion over 3 years for school condition improvement (SCI) (renewal) including energy efficiency and AODA.
5. The declining enrolment adjustment to transportation funding was eliminated, recognizing that school consolidations as a result of declining enrolment are frequently accompanied by increased costs in student transportation.
6. ARC process will be reviewed to add some flexibility for boards (consultation and report by summer 2014).

Referencing the *Parliament Oak Class Organization Using Projected Enrolment* chart, Trustee Fulford asked for clarification on why in 2016 there is no Grade 8 class when the chart shows that there was no Grade 7 class in 2015. Superintendent Reimer Friesen explained that it is believed there is one student in the English Language program and using the class cohort moving through the grades the English Language student is reflected in the projected enrolment for determining the Class Organization. Superintendent Reimer Friesen affirmed for Trustee Fulford that the Class Organization chart reflects the projected enrolment at Parliament Oak through to 2018, inclusive of proposed growth and development in Niagara on the Lake.

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**BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:****3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

- (a) Response to Trustee questions from the March 25, 2014, Board Meeting: Report on the Accommodation Review of Niagara on the Lake Elementary Schools

Trustee Bradnam referenced the *Crossroads Public School Concept Site Plan* and asked if there is any proposed expansion of the driveway on the left of the Site Plan. He also asked if there are any playspaces or structures that need to be removed/relocated to accommodate the expanded parking spaces, and if yes, at what cost. Superintendent Weinberg replied that there are play structures in the location shown as expanded parking and that the overall costs for bus transportation and relocating the structures associated with additional students are included in the Site Plan costs. At Chair Maves direction, the costs specific to removing/relocating the play structures will be provided to Trustees. Trustees will also be provided with a percentage of the estimated play space that may be lost at the school.

Trustee Robinson asked for clarification on the impact of the Ministry's announcement that in 2014-2015 Grants for Student Needs (GSN) the declining enrolment adjustment to transportation funding will be eliminated (page 7 of the handout). Superintendent Weinberg explained that funding based on enrolment is adjusted by the Ministry of Education's phased in formula. The amount of funding impacted by declining enrolment will reflect the Ministry's recognition that there may be increased transportation costs as a result of declining enrolment and school consolidations. Superintendent Weinberg added that declining enrolment will also have a direct impact on school utilization.

Superintendent Stainsby clarified for Trustee Fulford that both the Accommodation Review Committee and the Senior Administration reviewed boundary change issues resulting from the proposed recommendations.

Trustee Fast noted the estimated \$400,000 accessibility cost for elevator and lifts at Parliament Oak Public School and asked that the Senior Staff report be amended to reflect that the cost of the accessibility updates are not required until 2025. At Chair Maves direction, Trustee Fast's request will be reviewed for the next Board meeting.

**BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:****4. Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole (Private Session)**

**Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Barbara Ness**

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

**CARRIED**

Chair Maves reported that in Committee of the Whole the Trustees accepted the retirement of Elementary Principals Claude Ayotte and Jeff Fraser, effective June 30, 2014. On behalf of the Board Chair Maves thanked Principals Ayotte and Fraser for their dedication to public education and wished them well in their retirement. Chair Maves also reported that in Committee of the Whole the Trustees accepted the resignation of Joe Weinberg, Superintendent of Business Services, effective April 30, 2014. Superintendent Weinberg has accepted a position with another Board. On behalf of the Trustees, Chair Maves thanked Superintendent Weinberg for his service to the Board and wished him well in his new position.

Chair Maves added that the Board, in Committee of the Whole, heard staff's report on the negotiation process and has authorized staff to purchase Michael J. Brennan Catholic Elementary School from the Niagara Catholic District School Board with a closing date of July 7, 2014, so that the necessary renovations to the school can be completed during the summer for a September 2014 start up.

**F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS****1. Director's Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Nancy Barclay, Volunteer, Glendale Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Nancy Barclay for her 3 years of volunteering with the District School Board of Niagara. During the past 2 years Ms. Barclay has volunteered at Glendale Public School 4 days a week to help students in the Literacy Program to improve their reading and writing skills. Ms. Barclay works closely with the teaching staff and has been instrumental in a mentoring capacity for the school's new Learning Resource Teacher this year. Ms. Barclay serves as an advocate for the neediest students at Glendale and she does so with care, humility and respect.

Director Hoshizaki presented Ms. Barclay with a token of the Board's appreciation for her support of students and staff.



**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(b) Recognition of Nick Villella, Head Caretaker, Glendale Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Nick Villella for more than 25 years of service as Head Caretaker at Glendale Public School. Mr. Villella embodies the values of hard work and dedication to a job and he is passionate and tireless in his efforts to do what is best for the children and adults he works with. Mr. Villella is a beloved part of a staff and community who love him. He is known for his big heart and his desire to go the extra mile. Mr. Villella is also known for his philosophy of mutual respect, which is apparent in his words, his actions, and in every single interaction he has with people throughout his day.

Director Hoshizaki presented Nick Villella with a token of the Board’s appreciation for his extraordinary contributions to the Board and the Glendale community.

Vice-Chair Barnett commended Nancy Barclay and Nick Villella for their dedication to the Glendale Public School community.

**(c) Director’s Update to Trustees****i. Recycle for Education Computer Lab Contest**

Congratulations to E.L. Crossley Secondary School for being recognized as one of the ten schools across Canada in the *Staples Canada Recycle for Education Computer Lab Contest* which was held in partnership with Earth Day Canada. Since joining the Ontario EcoSchools Program, E.L. Crossley implemented several successful environmental initiatives and they were rewarded with a new computer lab worth \$25,000 for their efforts.

**ii. Future Aces Citizenship Award and Scholarship Recipients**

The Herbert H. Carnegie Future Aces National Citizenship Award and Scholarship Foundation has awarded three DSBN students for their initiative and dedication in serving their school and communities through extensive community service, volunteerism, and humanitarian causes. Sixty students from 90 school boards across Canada will be honoured at an upcoming Awards Celebration in Toronto on April 17, 2014. Congratulations to two students from A.N. Myer Secondary School and one student from Westlane Secondary School who will be honoured at the event.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****(c) Director’s Update to Trustees****iii. Fort Erie’s Hidden Gem**

The Pomegrante Restaurant at Fort Erie Secondary School was recently highlighted in the March/April 2014 issue of the Niagara Life Magazine. The Pomegrante Restaurant is operated entirely by Fort Erie Secondary School students from the Hospitality and Cuisine Specialist High Skills Major Program. Congratulations to Cuisine Teacher Afshin Keyvani and students who work tirelessly each week to transform the cafeteria into a fully functioning, fine dining restaurant, and for bringing high distinction to the Board.

**2. Educational Showcase****(a) DECA – Developing Excellence Celebrating Achievement**

Superintendent McGregor introduced the showcase which featured an overview of DECA, Canada’s largest youth business organization. DECA is a co-curricular program which provides recognition in excellence through competition in 30 occupational services. Westlane Secondary School teachers Connie Dove and Jessica Folino provided an overview of the program which provides opportunities for students to build leadership skills, improve presentation skills, and to enhance communication skills while promoting teamwork. Sixty to seventy students Board wide participated in the program this year, with representation from Westlane Secondary School, A.N. Myer Secondary School, E.L. Crossley Secondary School, and Laura Secord Secondary School.

Westlane students from Grades 11 and 12 spoke about their positive experiences with DECA.

Vice-Chair Barnett commended staff for supporting the program.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves commended the students for their participation in the program and for sharing their experiences.

**G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS**

There was no report.

**H. DELEGATIONS**

Chair Maves reminded the Delegations of the five minute timeframe to deliver their comments.

1. Lyndsay Gazzard – parent, spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School, including the value of the school to the children who attend, and the potential impact on students if Parliament Oak closed. Ms. Gazzard asked that Trustees listen to the following students' presentations with an open mind.

There were no questions of clarification by Trustees.

2. William and James Couroux – students, spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School and the positive experiences they have had at Parliament Oak. The students also presented a video clip on life at Parliament Oak.

There were no questions of clarification by Trustees.

3. Julia Janzen – student, spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School, its positive impact on her and fellow students, and the potential negative impact on students if Parliament Oak closed.

Trustee Fast commended Julia on her presentation. There were no questions of clarification by Trustees.

4. Robert Wright – Rector of St. Mark's Anglican Church, spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School, its importance to students and its value to the community.

There were no questions of clarification by Trustees.

5. Brian Moncion – Parent, and member of C.A.R.E. for NOTL Schools, spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School. Mr. Moncion spoke on the importance of eliminating triple splits in the future and sustaining Parliament Oak. Mr. Moncion's remarks included enrolment data to support the suggestion to eliminate triple splits by removing French Immersion.

Trustee Fulford asked Mr. Moncion to provide data on C.A.R.E.'s anticipated number of students in each grade from JK-8. Mr. Moncion replied that C.A.R.E. will provide a response to Trustee Fulford's request.

6. Josh Wiwcharyk – Parent, and member of C.A.R.E. for NOTL Schools, spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School. Mr. Wiwcharyk spoke briefly on his observations of the historical relationship between the Town and the DSBN and he provided an overview of the steps taken by C.A.R.E. in responding to the Accommodation Review, and expressing its support for sustaining three elementary schools in Niagara on the Lake. Mr. Wiwcharyk asked the Board to provide evidence and third party objective support which supports the Senior Administration recommendation to consolidate Parliament Oak and Crossroads

**DELEGATIONS – continued:**

Public Schools. Mr. Wiwcharyk added that C.A.R.E. will be submitting an annotated copy of the Senior Administration's Final Report with a critical analysis of the argument as a tool to help Trustees in its objective evaluation of the arguments.

There were no questions of clarification by Trustees.

7. Christine Lett – parent, spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School and the positive impact on students in a smaller, right-sized enrolment school. Ms. Lett expressed concerns about the impact of increased enrolment and overcrowding at Crossroads Public School.

Trustee Keddy referenced Ms. Lett's written comment that the back exit to Line 2 needs to be widened and Ms. Lett noted that this issue was also addressed in a previous Delegation.

8. Christine Sauriol – St. Davids Public School parent, spoke in support of a smaller enrolment school and its positive impact on students. Ms. Sauriol questioned the impact of future development in Niagara on the Lake on enrolment in Niagara on the Lake schools in the event Parliament Oak Public School is closed.

Ms. Sauriol clarified for Trustee Fast that she is suggesting Parliament Oak Public School remain open to balance future growth in the St. Davids area.

Trustee Bradnam asked C.A.R.E. to provide its projected future enrolment for an assumed 4<sup>th</sup> distinct Glendale area.

Trustee Clark requested clarification from Director Hoshizaki on Kenneth Leithwood's research on optimal school size. At Director Hoshizaki's request Superintendent Dickson replied that Professor Leithwood's research suggests that the optimal school size in a homogeneous setting is in the 300 range and the optimal school size in a heterogeneous setting is in the 500 range.

9. Marie Lapointe – retired Teacher, spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School. Ms. Lapointe framed her comments within the context of a business operating plan and intellectual capital (the students). Ms. Lapointe expressed concerns about the negative impact overcrowding at Crossroads Public School will have on students.

There were no questions of clarification by Trustees.

10. Sandra Cowan – Crossroads Public School parent, expressed concerns about the potential negative impact on Crossroads of consolidating the Parliament Oak Public School students.

There were no questions of clarification by Trustees. Trustees will be provided with a copy of the diagrams referenced by Ms. Cowan.

**DELEGATIONS – continued:**

11. John Mercer – resident of Niagara-on-the-Lake, spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School, and sustaining three elementary schools in Niagara on the Lake. Mr. Mercer commented on the value of a school to its students in considering a school closure. Mr. Mercer questioned the financial planning of Senior Staff and the effective stewardship of resources. Mr. Mercer also suggested that the Report on the ARC Recommendation and the Planning Valuation for Crossroads and Parliament Oak Public Schools are not sufficiently comprehensive and are lacking in explanation.

Trustee Fast thanked Mr. Mercer for his presentation. There were no questions of clarification by Trustees.

12. Sam Ridesic – parent, spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School and sustaining three elementary schools in Niagara on the Lake. Mr. Ridesic commended the Senior Staff for its report but noted that it is misleading and biased in a few areas. Mr. Ridesic asked the Trustees to rely on facts and not on interpretations in its decision making process.

Trustee Fulford called a point of order following Trustee Fast's suggestion that a decision regarding Parliament Oak be considered in the event the school does not have sufficient enrolment by 2018. Trustee Fulford stated that this is an opportunity for Delegations to present information and it is premature for staff to consider Trustee Fast's suggestion at this time.

Trustee Bradnam repeated his request that C.A.R.E. provide facts and the potential growth impact in the Glendale area.

13. Wayne Gates – MPP for Niagara Falls Riding, spoke on behalf of the community's support of retaining Parliament Oak Public School and its value to the community and students. MPP Gates noted that he has addressed Queens Park several times asking the Premier to listen to local voices and keep Parliament Public School open. MPP Gates reported that the Ministry of Education recently released a technical briefing which proposed amendments to the Accommodation Review process to ensure meaningful community input and the need to work together to make better use of school space with creative partnerships. MPP Gates suggested that the proposed recommendation to close Parliament Oak is at odds with planning being done by the Town and the Region, and it does not reflect the need for local governments to work together in the public interest.

Trustee Fulford requested a point of clarification and asked why the Province is restricting growth in rural areas.

Trustee Schaubel asked MPP Gates if he is suggesting that the Ministry of Education and Education Minister Sandals will offer additional funding to put more teachers in smaller sized classes. MPP Gates replied that there is no suggestion for additional funding and he will meet again with Minister Sandals to discuss keeping Parliament Oak open.

**DELEGATIONS – continued:**

Trustee Schaubel asked MPP Gates if he would suggest that additional funding be provided to support rural schools in all areas. MPP Gates expressed his support for rural schools.

Vice-Chair Barnett asked MPP Gates how he would suggest going about ensuring that additional funding is provided to sustain smaller schools. MPP Gates replied that he would like to have that discussion with the Province and reminded Vice-Chair Barnett that tonight's issue is keeping Parliament Oak open. MPP Gates added that the matter of funding is a larger issue which he would like to explore further with the Province.

14. Melanie Janzen – parent, spoke on behalf of parents Mary and Pete Rider, who could not be present. Mrs. Janzen read Mrs. Rider's comments in support of Parliament Oak Public School, its positive impact on students, and its importance to the community.

There were no questions of clarification by Trustees.

Chair Maves thanked the Delegations for addressing the Board.

**Trustee Fulford left the meeting at 9:34 p.m.****I. BOARD RECESS**

**Moved by Alex Bradnam  
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

**“That the Board recess.”**

**CARRIED**

**The Board recessed at 9:34 p.m.**

**Moved by Alex Bradnam  
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

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

**CARRIED**

The Board returned to open meeting at 9:52 p.m.

**J. OLD BUSINESS****1. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Alex Bradnam  
Seconded by Dale Robinson**

**“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated March 20, 2014, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Bradnam commended the Special Education Advisory Committee for including the agenda item, Student Voice, at its meetings which provides students with the opportunity to share their experiences and comments. Trustee Bradnam added that Dr. Lisa Linders, DSNB Chief Psychologist, presented an informative update on the Board's Mental Health Strategy.

**2. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE (SAL)**

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

**“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL) dated April 2, 2014, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Bradnam reported that at its meeting of April 2<sup>nd</sup> the Committee reviewed 10 cases and developed strategies for the students' success in alternative programs.

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

There were no questions asked of and by Board Members.

**L. NEW BUSINESS****West Fort Erie Elementary Schools Accommodation Review**

Chair Maves reminded the Board that the presentation of the Accommodation Review Reports this evening is for the purpose of Trustees being provided with a copy of the Reports for their review. The deliberation process of the recommended motions by Trustees will take place at a later date.

**NEW BUSINESS – continued:****West Fort Erie Elementary Schools Accommodation Review**

Cam Hathaway, former DSBN Superintendent of Planning, acted as Chair of the Accommodation Review Committee, and facilitated the Accommodation Review process. Cam Hathaway thanked members of the Accommodation Review Committee for their participation in the process and introduced two members of the Accommodation Review Committee who were present at the Board meeting.

(a) **Report of the Accommodation Review Committee of West Fort Erie Elementary Schools dated April 2014 (handout on April 8, 2014)**

**Moved by Dave Schaubel**

**Seconded by Sue Barnett**

**“That the Final Report and Recommendations of the West Fort Erie Elementary Schools Accommodation Review Committee and its attachments be received by the Board.”**

**CARRIED**

Cam Hathaway presented a verbal overview of the Final Report and Recommendations of the West Fort Erie Elementary Schools Accommodation Review Committee. Cam Hathaway noted that the Report contains information on the Membership of the Accommodation Review Committee; Accommodation Review Process; School Program; and School Valuation for West Fort Erie Elementary Schools based on recommendations.

Cam Hathaway’s verbal report included an overview of the following:

- School Facilities;
- Demographics and Housing;
- Findings and Recommendations of the Accommodation Review Committee

Cam Hathaway added that the Final Report also includes an overview of the Accommodation Review Committee meetings and Public meetings.

Cam Hathaway read the Accommodation Review Committee’s recommendation, as follows:

1. Build a new school (481) on Town owned lands off Rebstock Road and backing onto Crystal-Ridge Park for September 2017 subject to Ministry of Education funding.
2. The DSBN and the Town of Fort Erie explore opportunities to incorporate additional Town owned land to accommodate sufficient playground space.
3. The three existing elementary schools (Bertie PS, Crystal Beach PS, and Ridgeway PS) close effective June 30, 2017, with pupils populations consolidating into the new school.



**NEW BUSINESS – continued:****West Fort Erie Elementary Schools Accomodation Review****(a) Report of the Accommodation Review Committee of West Fort Erie Elementary Schools dated April 2014 (handout on April 8, 2014)**

4. The new build would incorporate facilities conducive to a nutrition program (kitchen).
5. Continue the existing Early Years Program currently at Crystal Beach.
6. School electronic (outdoor sign) to be included in the new build.
7. Investigate the inclusion (build space) of a Day Care Facility if feasible.
8. If cost feasible move the existing playground equipment/structure presently at Bertie Public School to the new site.
9. In conjunction with the Town of Fort Erie the existing playground structures be moved to the new site if feasible.
10. That the Kinsmen and other service clubs (affiliated to the original land) be recognized in conjunction with the new school build.
11. The transition team will discuss the incorporation of historical elements from each of the three closing schools for reassignment to the new school.

Trustee Schaubel thanked Cam Hathaway for facilitating the Accommodation Review process. Cam Hathaway confirmed for Trustee Schaubel that the Old Town of Ridgeway with its unique values supports recommendations to close and relocate the high school and elementary schools outside of the Old Town area.

**(b) Report of Senior Administration on the 2013/14 Accommodation Review of West Fort Erie Elementary Schools dated April 2014 (handout on April 8, 2014)**

**Moved by Dave Schaubel  
Seconded by Sue Barnett**

**“That the Board receives the report of Senior Administration on the Accommodation Review of West Fort Erie Elementary Schools.”**

**CARRIED**

**NEW BUSINESS – continued:****West Fort Erie Elementary Schools Accomodation Review****(b) Report of Senior Administration on the 2013/14 Accommodation Review of West Fort Erie Elementary Schools dated April 2014 (handout on April 8, 2014)**

Superintendent Pisek read the recommendation of the Senior Administration, as follows:

“That a new ELKP – Grade 8 school to accommodate five hundred (500) students be built for September 1, 2016, in the Crystal Ridge area and fronting onto Rebstock Road on lands solely owned by the Town of Fort Erie, provided the Town of Fort Erie make available a minimum of 7 acres for a school and playground and that an agreement between the DSBN and the Town of Fort Erie, regarding the lands, can be reached no later than September 30, 2014. Failing to reach this agreement, a new ELKP-Grade 8 school to accommodate five hundred (500) students be built for September 1, 2016, on the present Ridgeway Public School site at 143 Ridge Road to accommodate the consolidated student populations; and

That Bertie Public School be closed for instructional purposes as of June 30, 2106, and that students be redirected to the new school; and

That Crystal Beach Public School be closed for instructional purposes as of June 30, 2016, and that students be redirected to the new school; and

That Ridgeway Public School be closed for instructional purposes as of June 30, 2016, and that students be redirected to the new school; and

“That the boundary for the new elementary school built on Rebstock Road, or 143 Ridge Road, Ridgeway, become effective as of June 30, 2016.”

Superintendent Pisek presented a verbal overview of the Report of Senior Administration of the West Fort Erie Elementary Schools Accommodation Review which includes information on the Rationale for the Senior Administration recommendation; and Implementation of the Senior Administration recommendation, if approved by the Board.

Superintendent Pisek noted that the report also contains information on Background - including Declining Enrolment in the DSBN, Aging Facilities, Provincial Funding, Programming, and School Size: What Research Reveals.

Superintendent Weinberg confirmed for Trustee Schaubel that the Town of Fort Erie has expressed its cooperation and support to create an educational hub in the Town that would be consistent with their wishes.

**NEW BUSINESS – continued:****West Fort Erie Elementary Schools Accomodation Review****(b) Report of Senior Administration on the 2013/14 Accommodation Review of West Fort Erie Elementary Schools dated April 2014 (handout on April 8, 2014)**

Cam Hathway explained that the Accommodation Review Committee report recommends a 2017 date which was decided during the ARC process prior to finalizing the Senior Administration report. The Senior Administration closure date of 2016 reflects the Senior Administration's belief that the new build could be completed for September 2016 occupancy.

In response to Trustee Ness' question regarding the scope of work which needs to be addressed with the Town of Fort Erie regarding the land owned by the Town, Cam Hathaway explained that initially discussions to acquire property took place with the owner(s) of land near the Town owned property. However, the owners withdrew their interest in selling. Cam Hathaway added that the community appears to be in support of a new build incorporating City owned lands. Director Hoshizaki added that an agreement with the Town of Fort Erie will address similar issues in agreements with other municipalities such as the City of St. Catharines. Board staff will also seek appropriate land for parking and playground space. Superintendent Weinberg added that the Board will also conduct due diligence with respect to the proposed site to ensure its suitability for a school site.

Vice-Chair Barnett commended the members of the Accommodation Review Committee for its participation in the process.

Chair Maves reminded the Board that Trustees will have 60 days to review the Accommodation Review material, followed by deliberation. Chair Maves added that the Board looks forward to hearing from community members at upcoming Board meetings.

**M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS****1. Staff Reports**

There were no staff reports.

**2. Trustee Information Session**

There was no Trustee Information Session.

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**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:****3. Correspondence and Communication**

- (a) Correspondence re: Niagara on the Lake Accommodation Review - for information purposes.

**4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

- (a) Trustee Keddy reported that she attended Grimsby Secondary School's Fifth Annual Café on April 1<sup>st</sup> which was hosted by The Grimsby Secondary School Positive Space Alliance. Trustee Keddy commended the school and students for hosting the well organized event.
- (b) Trustee Robinson commended Consultant Gerda Klassen and her staff and all the students who performed at the recent DSBN Music Festival.

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

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

Trustee Keddy reported that the Central West Region meeting is scheduled for Saturday, April 12<sup>th</sup> in Brantford. All Trustees were invited to attend.

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

**6. Future Meetings**

The revised calendar of April 2014 meetings was provided and amended as follow.

Finance Committee – rescheduled from April 16<sup>th</sup> to 5:30 p.m. on April 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The draft calendar of May 2014 meetings was provided.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Dave Schaubel  
Seconded by Barbara Ness**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

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**KEVIN MAVES**, Chair

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