



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

February 25, 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, Barbara Ness, Dave Schaubel

Student Trustees: Tara Lundy and Courtney Steingart

Regrets: Trustees Lora Campbell and Dale Robinson

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, 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 7:00 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 Ed Fulford
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:40 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed by the Parnell Public School Choir, on video clip.

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 Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Ed Fulford

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 11, 2014, be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**3. Business Arising from the Minutes****Response to Trustee questions from the February 11, 2014, Board Meeting: Reports on the Accommodation Review of North St. Catharines Elementary Schools, and the Accommodation Review of Niagara-on-the-Lake Elementary Schools****(a) Cost savings if schools amalgamate and their numbers require additional staff (North St. Catharines Elementary Schools)**

Superintendent Morgan confirmed that net savings for staffing is reflected in the Accommodation Review Report. For example, the salary for a Principal at a closing school is offset to fund a partial Vice-Principal at another school.

(b) Clarification on the Parliament Oak Public School postal code and rural designation

Assistant Superintendent Veld explained that within the Ministry's Grants for Student Needs there are two Grants that refer to rural schools. The DSBN does not have any schools that qualify for the Remote and Rural Funding component of the Geographic Circumstances Grant which supports small schools in isolated areas (Northern Boards).

The DSBN qualifies for the Top-Up Funding component of the School Operations Grant which supports schools that are operating at less than full capacity. "Enhanced Rural" top-up funding is allocated to schools if the second character of the school's postal code is zero (0). The DSBN currently has 16 schools that receive rural top-up funding. The amount that Parliament Oak receives as rural top-up funding is included as a cost to the Board (and savings to the Ministry) in the Report of the Senior Administration, Appendix I.

(c) Costs associated with right-sizing Parliament Oak Public School

Superintendent Stainsby explained that the ARC Committee developed the recommendation to "right-size" Parliament Oak to maintain the elementary school in Old Town. Superintendent Stainsby outlined the identified alterations which total approximately \$600,000. Superintendent Stainsby added that the Senior Administration Report (page 15) summarizes the key challenges to right-sizing: right-sizing does not enhance programming for students, the school remains underutilized, and the cost of right-sizing is approximately \$600,000 to avoid spending \$400,000 on accessibility improvements.

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**3. Business Arising from the Minutes****Response to Trustee questions from the February 11, 2014, Board Meeting: Reports on the Accommodation Review of North St. Catharines Elementary Schools, and the Accommodation Review of Niagara-on-the-Lake Elementary Schools**

- (d) **Will the right-sizing of Parliament Oak Public School have a domino effect?**

Superintendent Stainsby explained that the right-sizing option would not pull current students from another school. Superintendent Stainsby added that the community preferred decreasing the on-the-ground capacity of Parliament Oak in order to obtain a higher capacity utilization rate.

- (e) **Potential class sizes for the consolidation at Crossroads Public School**

Superintendent Reimer Friesen made reference to a chart, “Crossroads & Parliament Oak Class Organization 2015/16 (Using Consolidated Projected Enrolment),” which was distributed for the Trustees review.

- (f) **Would the Music and Art rooms at Crossroads Public School be used in the same manner?**

Superintendent Reimer Friesen explained that the Committee discussed the option of students consolidating into Crossroads Public School and acknowledged that all resources currently available would remain, including the Music and Art rooms.

- (g) **Is there a chart showing any other possible parking spaces in addition to the 11 additional spaces that could be added to Crossroads Public School?**

Trustee Reimer Friesen referenced a proposed site diagram showing the layout of classes at Crossroads Public School, including the four recommended new classrooms, and the proposed 11 additional parking spaces.

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**3. Business Arising from the Minutes****Response to Trustee questions from the February 11, 2014, Board Meeting: Reports on the Accommodation Review of North St. Catharines Elementary Schools, and the Accommodation Review of Niagara-on-the-Lake Elementary Schools**

- (h) **Is there data from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake regarding any development proposal defined as affordable housing that will be built in the Old Town area?**

Superintendent Stainsby explained that, in discussion with Town staff, the Town has indicated that there are no municipally assisted housing developments in Niagara-on-the-Lake, nor is there any low income housing similar to what might be familiar elsewhere in the Region. Superintendent Stainsby added that the Niagara Regional Housing website lists a 40 unit one bedroom apartment building that offers subsidized housing support for people 55 years of age or older. There is nothing listed on the website for families in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Superintendent Stainsby reminded Trustees that when reviewing growth projections in Niagara-on-the-Lake, it is important to distinguish between growth for all of Niagara-on-the-Lake versus growth patterns for the Planning Area of Old Town and Virgil. Superintendent Stainsby referenced a section of a report commissioned by the Town and prepared by Watson and Associates as part of the Town's planning for growth together with Page 9 of the Senior Administration Report, which were distributed to the Trustees for their review. Superintendent Stainsby added that the data supports the Senior Administration's position that Old Town is receiving a notably smaller proportion of overall growth in the Town. Superintendent Stainsby reminded the Trustees that the methodology used by Board staff to predict future enrolment has been used successfully for decades across all municipalities, and that many other School Boards use the same methods, including the sophisticated software program.

As a follow up to the above responses, Trustee Fulford asked for clarification on the size of the proposed classrooms at Crossroads Public School which do not appear to be comparable in size to classrooms in some other schools. Trustee Fulford also requested the upsize of some classes in the jurisdiction.

Superintendent Reimer Friesen explained that the class sizes are a conservative estimate and the actual class size will be determined by enrolment and staffing needs. Superintendent Morgan explained that the Ministry of Education's Primary Class Size Regulation (Grades 1-3) and provisions of the Collective

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**3. Business Arising from the Minutes****Response to Trustee questions from the February 11, 2014, Board Meeting: Reports on the Accommodation Review of North St. Catharines Elementary Schools, and the Accommodation Review of Niagara-on-the-Lake Elementary Schools**

Agreement are factors in determining actual class size. Superintendent Morgan reminded the Trustees that the Board has been compliant with the Ministry's Primary Class Size Regulation, and that provisions in the Collective Agreement were negotiated at the Provincial Discussion Table in 2008. Superintendent Morgan added that the average Junior/Intermediate class size ranges from 25.8 to 31-33 with several lower enrolment classrooms depending on the area and staffing.

In response to Trustee Fulford's comment regarding the proposed inclusion of classroom space for French Language instruction, Superintendent Reimer Friesen explained that during the ARC process parents expressed a concern about amenities at Crossroads Public School and, in response, the possibility for Core French (not French Immersion) was included.

Trustees Bradnam and Fulford expressed concerns that parking at a consolidated Crossroads Public School may be an issue and asked if additional parking would be available without encroaching into playground space. Superintendent Weinberg replied that Crossroads is situated on a substantial sized property which is currently large enough to accommodate the proposed requirements and that future needs would be addressed through the Transition Team, if required. Trustee Bradnam requested a diagram showing the potential for future expansion if necessary.

Superintendent Reimer Friesen noted for Vice-Chair Barnett that Parliament Oak Public School currently has two Triple Split English Language classes (Grades 3, 4 and 5; and Grades 5, 6 and 7).

Trustee Fast noted the 2018 projected enrolment of 540 students at a consolidated school and he requested information on what the structure would look like in five years if the Board continues to operate Parliament Oak Public School and avoid a \$1.5 million expansion to Crossroads.

Trustee Fulford commented that a decision must be based on what is best for students and he questioned where student enrolment may come from to increase utilization if the Board maintained Parliament Oak Public School.

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

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Dalton Clark

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

CARRIED

Chair Maves reported that the following motions were carried by the Board in Committee of the Whole.

“That Rose Seaton Public School located at 255 Emerick Avenue, Fort Erie, be declared surplus to the Board’s needs effective February 26, 2014, and that Board staff be authorized to dispose of the property in accordance with Ontario Regulation 444/98.”

“That Board staff inform the Town of Lincoln Heritage Committee that it will not be applying to designate the Vineland, Campden and Maple Grove schools as heritage buildings.”

“That Board staff be authorized to proceed with issuing a Request for Proposal (for sale by tender) for the disposal of Campden Public School located at 4160 Fly Road, Campden.”

“That Board staff be authorized to proceed with issuing a Request for Proposal (for sale by tender) for the disposal of Jordan Public School located at 2831 Regional Road 81, Jordan.”

“That Board staff be authorized to proceed with issuing a Request for Proposal (for sale by tender) for the disposal of Maple Grove Public School located at 3991 Regional Road 81, Beamsville.”

“That Board staff be authorized to proceed with issuing a Request for Proposal (for sale by tender) for the disposal of Crowland Central Public School located at 738 Lyons Creek Road, Welland.”

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director's Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Peter Robinson, Volunteer at Grand Avenue Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Peter Robinson for his 13 years of volunteering in the Fundamental Skills Program at Grand Avenue Public School following his 32 year career at Bethesda. Mr. Robinson not only reads with the students a couple of times each week but he also shares his adventures with them. The students love reading with Mr. Robinson and hearing about the various sites he has visited.

Director Hoshizaki presented Peter Robinson with a token of the Board's appreciation for his continuing contribution to the students and staff at Grand Avenue Public School.

(b) Director's Update to Trustees**i. Educational Research and Innovation Hub**

On February 26 the "*Educational Research and Innovation Hub, (the Hub)*" will officially open at the DSBN Academy site. The collaborative atmosphere of the Hub will promote discussion, idea sharing and creativity amongst educators, researchers, graduate students, entrepreneurs and education technology companies in support of Canadian education. The Hub aims to eliminate the disconnect between educational insight and the innovation process. It will bridge the gap by providing entrepreneurs with the opportunity to observe actual classes and the strategies teachers use to support student learning. Start-ups will also be able to refine their products by observing their use in the actual classroom setting which will allow companies to make necessary enhancements to ensure they are best meeting the needs of students, teachers and schools.

ii. DIG-IT

Students from the Board's Specialist High Skills Major in Horticulture (DIG-IT) Program were recently featured in the March 2014 edition of *Professionally Speaking*, a magazine published by the Ontario College of Teachers. In an article by Michael Benedict entitled "Growing Education," the SHSM Program has been recognized as a successful high school program that produces graduates from all education streams with the training and skills they need to compete for jobs as well as preparing them for university, college or apprenticeships.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**(b) Director's Update to Trustees****iii. Fort Erie Secondary School – SHSM Students**

Recently, students from the Fort Erie Secondary School Specialist High Skills Major Program were invited by Airbus Helicopters to participate in a tour of the facility and hear a presentation on its organization, career opportunities and future educational pathways.

iv. Kate S. Durdan Public School – Multicultural Day

Staff and students at Kate S. Durdan Public School recently hosted its third Multicultural Day. The Board viewed a video clip which highlighted students participating in a variety of activities which showcased foods and culture from seven countries of the world.

v. Pink Shirt Day Campaign

On February 26th the Board will launch its *Pink Shirt Day Campaign* at Four Points Sheraton to bring awareness to the effects of bullying. A variety of activities and initiatives are planned throughout the Board to educate students on how to recognize and stop bullying and to make them aware of the powerful role they play in putting an end to bullying.

vi. Niagara Regional Police Service - Anti-Bullying Video Contest

Recently, the Niagara Regional Police Service invited students from across the Region to participate in a video competition with an anti-bullying theme in the form of a Public Service Announcement. The Board viewed Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School 's second prize winning video.

Trustee Keddy commended Peter Robinson on a well deserved recognition and thanked him for his dedication to the students at Grand Avenue Public School and the Board.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**2. Educational Showcase****(a) “Oklahoma” – Laura Secord Secondary School**

Superintendent McGregor introduced the showcase which featured students performing a portion of their musical, “Oklahoma.” Evening performances at Laura Secord Secondary School will continue on February 27 and 28, and March 1st.

Trustees Bradnam and Ness commended the entire school community for their commitment and work in producing this excellent musical. Trustee Bradnam thanked Teachers David Sisler and Tracy Thorpe for their dedication to students.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked the students for sharing their talents.

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. Janice Thomson – Executive Director of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School. Ms. Thomson read a December 2013 letter from the Niagara-on-the-Lake Chamber of Commerce. Ms. Thomson also spoke of the importance of community.

There were no questions of clarification from Trustees.

2. Joy Janzen – Member of “Citizens for Accountable and Responsible Education(C.A.R.E.) for NOTL Schools,” and Co-Chair of the Parliament Oak School Council spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School. Ms. Janzen highlighted discrepancies in the ARC and DSBN staff reports and recommendations and noted factors which have contributed to the declining and projected enrolment at Parliament Oak Public School.

There were no questions of clarification from Trustees.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

3. Caroline Polgrabia – Parent and member of “Citizens for Accountable and Responsible Education (C.A.R.E.) for NOTL Schools” spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School with an emphasis on the issue of right-sizing three schools in Niagara-on-the-Lake, and accomplishing what is in the best interest of children. Ms. Polgrabia added that discrepancies in the ARC reports will impact on children, on the DSBN Financial, and on the community (and economy).

Trustee Bradnam asked Ms. Polgrabia to comment on how large urban and large rural schools impact students in response to her comment that Crossroads Public School, a large school in Virgil, is a good build. Ms. Polgrabia responded that Crossroads is a good build in that it blends students from the same neighbourhood/community but she questioned whether pulling students from Old Town would have the same positive outcome, and that bussing students is an issue. In response to Trustee Bradnam’s suggestion that the Glendale area is one of four distinct planning areas for Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ms. Polgrabia did not take an informed position on whether the Glendale area is a distinct area for planning purposes in Niagara-on-the-Lake.

4. Tom Elltoft - Parent and member of “Citizens for Accountable and Responsible Education(C.A.R.E.) for NOTL Schools” spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School with an emphasis on student growth potential in Niagara-on-the-Lake, including Old Town and Virgil. Mr. Elltoft added that keeping Parliament Oak open is a prudent use of taxpayer and Board money, and represents the best outcome for the students’ education. Mr. Elltoft highlighted five sources to evaluate growth in Niagara-on-the-Lake, including new developments for single-family detached homes in Old Town.

Trustee Bradnam asked what the predicted average price of a detached family home will be in Niagara-on-the-Lake in the next 5-10 years, and what the current cost is for a new build in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Mr. Elltoft replied that he cannot predict the future 5-10 year price of a detached family home, however, the current cost of housing in the four catchment areas ranges from \$240,000 - \$450,000, depending on the location of the property. Mr. Elltoft suggested there are areas in Old Town in the more affordable price range. Mr. Elltoft added that a growing number of Bed and Breakfast properties are now being purchased and occupied by families from outside the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake.

Trustee Bradnam referenced information raised by the Delegations that 80 students attending the Catholic Board from the Public Board are bussed. Mr. Elltoft replied that parents have chosen the Catholic Board bussed option because of the large enrolment at Crossroads Public School and the instability at Parliament Oak.

Mr. Elltoft explained for Trustee Fast that technology permits families to move to Niagara-on-the-Lake and have remote access to their jobs located outside of the Region. The proximity of the local airport also provides opportunities for commuting to corporate jobs. Mr. Elltoft added that closing Parliament Oak will have a negative impact on property values.

DELEGATIONS – continued:4. Tom Elltoft

Trustee Bradnam asked if the Real Estate Board has made an application to provide medium to low income housing in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Mr. Elltoft replied that there is a proposed family friendly development in St. Davids with 30 units currently sold.

5. Keith Simmonds – Parent and member of “Citizens for Accountable and Responsible Education (C.A.R.E.) for NOTL Schools” spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School. Mr. Simmonds highlighted five sources which support C.A.R.E.’s projections and confirm the necessity for three schools in Niagara-on-the-Lake. Mr. Simmonds also pointed out discrepancies in the Board’s 2010 projected enrolment for the three schools. Mr. Simmonds requested that the Board minutes reflect the question whether or not the Board felt only 18% growth in Old Town is a negative.

Trustee Bradnam asked the Delegations to explain how enrolment at Parliament Oak can be increased from the Catholic Board projections referenced in their presentations.

6. Robin Ridesic - Member of “Citizens for Accountable and Responsible Education (C.A.R.E.) for NOTL Schools” spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School. Ms. Ridesic addressed inaccuracies in the Board’s 2013-2014 projections in the DSBN Accommodation Review Report. Ms. Ridesic added that the Board’s methodology did not produce the right answer due to apportionment / retention rates not being indicative of the future and that the Trustees must understand why the methodology in this instance is not producing the right answer. Ms. Ridesic also attributed the declining enrolment at Parliament Oak to programming issues such as no Full Day Kindergarten, Triple Split classes created by French Immersion, and the significant instability of the future of the school.

Trustee Schaubel noted that much of C.A.R.E.’s work and research focuses on its position that the DSBN projections are inaccurate and that C.A.R.E.’s projections are absolutely correct. Trustee Schaubel asked if C.A.R.E. has conducted research in Old Town to determine how the Town believes Parliament Oak is valued in the community. Trustee Schaubel questioned why, if Parliament Oak is valued in the community, many parents would bus their children to another Board. Ms. Ridesic replied that over 1,000 signatures on a petition support retaining Parliament Oak and that quotes cite reasons for leaving as lack of Full Day Kindergarten, Triple Split classes, and instability regarding the school’s future. Ms. Ridesic suggested that enrolment would increase if these issues were resolved.

DELEGATIONS – continued:5. Robin Ridesic

Ms. Ridesic added for Trustee Fast that the concerns of Crossroads and Parliament Oak parents regarding the potential increase in enrolment at Crossroads, parking and playspace issues, and access to extracurricular activities in a large enrolment school are also factors in sending their children to another Board. Indications are that Crossroads parents support keeping Parliament Oak Public School open so that their school does not get too large.

Vice-Chair Barnett raised the question of how removing French Immersion from Parliament Oak Public School will address the school's declining enrolment, and why, if parents are concerned about keeping their community school open, do parents bus their children to another Board rather than stay and support the future of Parliament Oak. Vice-Chair Barnett also requested that the Delegations propose a plan to bring students back to Parliament Oak. Ms. Ridesic reiterated that the future of Parliament Oak has been in question since the last Accommodation Review in 2008 and that if the community felt the school was stable and comparable programs were offered, enrolment would grow over a few years. Ms. Ridesic added that members of C.A.R.E. have surveyed existing French Immersion families at Parliament Oak who have indicated that if French Immersion was removed from Parliament Oak they would choose their local school and abandon attending French Immersion in St. Catharines.

Trustee Bradnam requested the number of Kindergarten aged children from Niagara-on-the-Lake who have gone to the Catholic Board rather than the Public Board in the last four years. Trustee Bradnam also requested the number of elementary students who have gone to the Catholic Board rather than the Public Board since the opening of Crossroads Public School.

Chair Maves reminded the Board that this is an opportunity for Trustees to ask questions of clarification and to request further information for consideration in the decision making process. Trustees will have an opportunity to debate and deliberate at a later date.

I. BOARD RECESS

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

“That the Board recess.”

CARRIED

The Board recessed at 9:05 p.m.

BOARD RECESS – continued:

**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 9:17 p.m.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE (SAL)

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

“That the Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL) dated February 6, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel reported that the Committee reviewed 18 cases and developed strategies for the students’ success in alternative programs. Trustee Schaubel commended staff and Committee members for their dedication to students.

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

**Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy**

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated February 13, 2014, be received;” and

“That questions asked by Committee members be a future agenda item.”

CARRIED

Trustee Bradnam had nothing to add to the report.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**3. REPORT OF THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Moved by Cheryl Keddy
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the report of the Policy Advisory Committee dated February 18, 2014, be received;” and

“That Policy E-01: Smoke-Free Learning and Workplace Environments, be approved with modifications and adopted;” and

“That Policy G-30: Head Lice (Pediculosis), be approved with modifications and adopted;” and

“That Policy A-17: Advertising Expenditures for Public Information and Awareness, be approved with modifications and adopted.”

CARRIED

Trustee Keddy presented a summary of the report and recommended motions.

4. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (Handout at Meeting)

Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated February 25, 2014, be received and the recommendations adopted.”

CARRIED

Trustee Clark presented a verbal summary of the report and the recommended motions which included recommending contracts for Year 5 Full Day Kindergarten renovations, as follows:

- “That the low bid received from Bromac Construction in the amount of \$358,220 (plus HST) be accepted and a contract awarded for the Year 5 FDK Renovations at John Marshall and Martha Cullimore Public Schools.”
- “That the low bid received from King Contractors of Niagara Ltd., in the amount of \$838,258 (plus HST) be accepted and a contract awarded for the Year 5 FDK Renovations at Prince Philip Public School, St. Catharines.”

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

- (a) Trustee Schaubel asked if there is a process to advise the public that savings from Accommodation Reviews are allocated back into programs for students. Director Hoshizaki replied that this will be discussed with the Communications Department.
- (b) Director Hoshizaki responded to Trustee Fulford's question on whether Trustees can direct any surplus funds in their Trustee Accounts to schools by stating Trustees can direct their surplus Trustee Account funds to schools at their discretion.
- (c) Trustee Ness noted there were numerous questions this evening for information from the Delegations and she stated her preference that Board staff provide responses. Trustee Ness asked that Board staff provide the number of registrants to date for the September 2014 Full Day Kindergarten Program at Parliament Oak Public School. Director Hoshizaki replied that responses to the Trustees questions of clarification and requests for information in the Accommodation Reviews will be provided by staff. Trustee Keddy also asked that staff respond to some of the conflicting information reported by the Delegations representing C.A.R.E.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

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

There were no staff reports.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no Trustee Information Session. Trustee Fast suggested an Information Session on the role and responsibilities of Chairing meetings of the Finance Committee.

3. Correspondence and Communication**(a) Vineland Public School – Request to begin school naming process**

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy
Seconded by Ed Fulford**

“That Vineland Public School be authorized to proceed with the school naming process in accordance with Board Policy A-9.”

CARRIED

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

Superintendent Pisek spoke to the school's request noting, that the school community is eager to begin the school naming process as another step in blending the four amalgamated school communities.

A brief discussion followed Trustee Bradnam's question whether the school naming process should be delayed until the Board has confirmation from the Ministry that it will allocate funding for the new build. Trustees agreed that the community is eager to rename the school to reflect the newly blended school community.

(b) Correspondence to Hicks Morley

Chair Maves reminded Trustees that the correspondence was drafted at the direction of the Board. Trustees will be provided with a copy of the response from Hicks Morley.

(c) Correspondence to Me to We

A response has not been received to date from Me to We.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Keddy commended Beamsville District Secondary School's newly organized Swim Team on its recent success where swimmers qualified to compete at SOSSA.
- (b) Trustee Keddy commended Teacher Sean Ferguson and the Vineland Public School students for winning a Gold Medal at the recent Elementary Lego Robotics Challenge held at Club Roma.
- (c) Trustee Bradnam thanked DSBN staff for their contributions to The Walker Living Campus at Woodend which now exceed \$100,000. Director Hoshizaki added that donations currently total \$2.49 million.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (d) Vice-Chair Barnett gave a reminder of the Sears Drama Festival currently taking place at Welland Centennial Secondary School.
- (e) Vice-Chair Barnett commended the Welland Centennial Secondary School Boys Cougar Basketball Team on qualifying for SOSSA.
- (f) Vice-Chair Barnett commended the Eastdale Secondary School Culinary Arts Team for winning Silver in the recent Culinary Arts Challenge.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

- (g) Trustee Ness noted that this is Marian Lamb's (Executive Assistant to the Director) last Board meeting prior to her upcoming retirement. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Marian for her exemplary service to the Board and wished her well in her retirement.

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 gave a reminder of upcoming events.

- February 28th – OPSBA Executive Council meeting
- March 20-22 – Labour Relations Symposium
- July 2/3 – Third Annual National Aboriginal Trustees meeting
- July 3-5 – OPSBA Annual General Meeting

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

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of March 2014 meetings was provided and revised as follows:

Program and Planning Committee – reminder that the meeting is rescheduled from March 4th to March 5th.

Finance Committee – rescheduled from March 19th to March 25th at 5:30 p.m.

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 9:50 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer

