



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

May 13, 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, Lora Campbell, Dalton Clark, Jonathan Fast, Ed Fulford, Cheryl Keddy Scott, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel

Student Trustees: Tara Lundy, 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, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Bujacz (arrived at 7:00 p.m.)

Recording Secretary: Irene Foster

Technical Support: 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 Lora Campbell**

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

CARRIED

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

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:58 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

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

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Dalton Clark opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**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 April 22, 2014, 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

Chair Maves reported that in Committee of the Whole the Trustees accepted the retirement of Jane Kopp, South Lincoln Secondary School Principal, effective June 30, 2014. On behalf of the Board Chair Maves commended Principal Kopp for her 28 years of dedication to public education and wished her well in her retirement.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Greg Phillips, Technology Teacher – Governor Simcoe Secondary School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Teacher Greg Phillips for his 18 years of service to the Board. In his role of teaching Engineering and Technology Greg has shared his expertise with countless students and he has fostered the growth of aspiring Engineers by developing a world famous Robotics Team called Simbotics. With his leadership, the Simbotics Team has won four World Championships, and has attained over 60 sponsors. Throughout the Robotics community, Greg has helped to

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Greg Phillips, Technology Teacher – Governor Simcoe Secondary School**

create over 100 FRC, FLL and VEX Teams. To further inspire students across Ontario, Greg annually hosts three Robotics competitions, to which teams from across Canada attend. As a means of promoting women in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math), Greg removed the registration fee for any all-girls teams attending the events.

As the Head of Governor Simcoe’s Technology Department, Greg ensures that all school technology such as computers, projectors and SMART Boards are working flawlessly. To provide a better learning environment for his students, Greg designed and oversaw a series of renovations in the Technology Department, working tirelessly for many months, to ensure that the project was progressing according to plan.

Greg’s passion for volunteering in the community has been recognized at multiple Robotics Events, honouring him with the 2012 VEX World Championship, and the 2011 FIRST GTR East Volunteer of the Year Awards as well as the 2014 Windsor Woodie Flowers Finalist Award, an Award which recognizes one outstanding mentor at the event. Greg has transcended the expectations of a mentor and a teacher, investing every moment of his time in his students’ academic and social success.

Director Hoshizaki presented Greg Phillips with a token of the Board’s appreciation for his extraordinary contributions to the Board, Simbotics and the community.

(b) Director’s Update to Trustees**i. Reading Rules at 2014 Silver Birch Conference**

On May 2nd, hundreds of students in Grades 5 and 6 gathered to inspire each other and share their love of reading at the *Annual Silver Birch Celebration of Literacy Conference*. The Conference was the culminating event for students who participated in the Ontario Library Association’s Silver Birch Reading Program. The Program aims to develop a love of reading in students, promote Canadian Literature, and encourage Canadian writing and the development of literacy skills. Congratulations to the coordinators of this outstanding event which supports students as they work on their reading and writing skills.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(b) Director’s Update to Trustees****ii. UGC Niagara / Technology for Girls Camp**

Hundreds of gamers participated in the recent Ultimate Gaming Challenge. The DSBN, in participation with the UMG Events, was excited to host the tournament, now into its third year. The UGC has grown into Canada’s largest Xbox video game tournament. This year, the UGC attracted some of the top competitive teams in all of North America, with approximately 1,000 gamers participating. During the 2 ½ days of gaming, an audience of just over 1 million online viewers watched the teams. Proceeds from the tournament will support the development of The Walker Living Campus at Woodend, and other important school-based initiatives such as Breakfast Programs.

iii. Technology for Girls Camp

Held at the same time as the UGC, 45 Grades 6/7 girls attended the Technology For Girls Camp. This program offers young girls hands on experience with some amazing technology. This year, the girls collaborated together as they worked on electronic circuit boards and building Lego robots. Thank you to IBM Canada for sponsoring this event and for providing this opportunity at no cost.

iv. CONNECT 2014 Conference

CONNECT, Canada’s National Learning and Technology Conference was held on May 8th and 9th with overwhelming success. Since the inaugural CONNECT 2011 Conference, the event has grown in both scope and size. CONNECT 2014 brought together over 1,500 K-12 College and University educators, school leaders, librarians, technologists and businesses to collaborate and become familiar with the latest technology resources that support 21st Century teaching and learning. A large number of participants attended from the Toronto District School Board, the Toronto Catholic District School Board, and the Ottawa District School Board. Kudos to the Board’s Chief Information Officer Dino Miele and his dedicated team for taking an exciting idea and transforming it into a platform where educators and businesses can work together to support innovation in schools and teaching practice.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(b) Director’s Update to Trustees****v. Ontario Technological Skills Challenge**

On May 5th, DSBN students competed in the Ontario Technological Skills Challenge in Waterloo. Congratulations to the following champions:

Elijah Schonewille, Port Colborne High School – Welding, GOLD
Demetrios Polydorou, Westlane Secondary School –

Refrigeration, GOLD

Travis Gabryelski, E.L. Crossley Secondary School – Electrical, GOLD

Shelby Leesley, Fort Erie Secondary School – Job Interview, SILVER

Joanna Vu, Stamford Collegiate – Hairstyling, SILVER

Zack Snoei, Eden High School – Individual Carpentry, BRONZE

Students Elijah Schonewille and Travis Gabryelski have earned the opportunity to join Team Ontario to compete at the Canadian Skills Challenges in Toronto from June 4-7.

vi. St. Catharines 2014 Arts Awards

Congratulations to Gerda Klassen, DSBN Arts Consultant, for receiving the 2014 St. Catharines Arts in Education Award. The Award recognizes and celebrates excellence in all areas of artistic creations and contribution. In particular, the Arts in Education Award celebrates an individual, collective or organization that has demonstrated an outstanding commitment to engaging St. Catharines residents through Arts education activities. Gerda is a passionate and dedicated advocate of Arts education and through her work she has enriched the lives of DSBN students and staff.

2. Educational Showcase**(a) Bringing Communities Together – Vineland**

Superintendent Kelly Pisek introduced the showcase.

Lorne Gretsinger, Principal of Vineland Public School, presented a video, “Bringing Communities Together,” which highlighted the cohesiveness, collaboration, and enthusiasm of the communities of Campden, Jordan, Maple Grove, and Vineland Public Schools to bring these four schools together as one.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**2. Educational Showcase****(a) Bringing Communities Together – Vineland**

Trustees Clark and Keddy Scott stated that although closing schools is a difficult decision for Trustees the consolidation of the four elementary schools has resulted in positive outcomes for the amalgamated student community and it demonstrates the programming opportunities created for students. Trustees Clark, Keddy Scott and Robinson commended the students and the staff for their success in bringing the four schools together. Trustee Robinson recognized the staff as being a dedicated group of people with traditions of caring and working within the community. Vice-Chair Barnett commended the Vineland staff who were present at the Board meeting in support of their school and students.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Principal Gretsinger and the school staff who took personal time to attend this evening's Board meeting. Chair Maves added that the Board and the community look forward to the opening of the new school in September 2015.

(b) Governor Simcoe Secondary School Simbotics Team 1114

Superintendent Helen McGregor introduced the showcase which highlighted the Simbotics Team 1114 participation at the recent World FIRST Robotics Championship in St. Louis, Missouri.

Teacher Greg Phillips introduced members of this year's Simbotics Team 1114. A member of the team highlighted the Team's experiences in developing their Robot for this year's challenge entitled, "Aerial Assist." The Board viewed a video of the World Championship which outlined the objectives of the Robots and highlighted clips of the competition. Members of Simbotics Team 1114 gave a demonstration of the Robot.

In response to Vice-Chair Barnett's question, Teacher Greg Phillips replied that there are approximately nine girls on Robotics Teams within the Board. Simbotics Team 1114 members acknowledged their intent to pursue Engineering related careers.

In response to Trustee Bradnam's question regarding design choice, a Team member replied that the students researched the capability of the design to perform the required tasks and functions. The Simbotics Team 1114 thanked the Board for its continued support of the Robotics program.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**2. Educational Showcase****(b) Governor Simcoe Secondary School Simbotics Team 1114**

Vice-Chair Barnett commended the students for their innovation and for thinking through to the end of the project.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves commended the Team on their impressive season.

Follow Team 1114 Simbotics at www.simbotics.org

Further information on FIRST Robotics is available at www.usfirst.org

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no student achievement reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

Chair Maves reminded the Delegations of the five minute speaking restriction.

1. Edward Feiertag – A long time Ridgeway resident, spoke against the proposed elementary school closures in the Accommodation Review of West Fort Elementary Schools and he expressed his opinion that the Accommodation Review process was flawed on the basis that the Chairman is in conflict as both Town of Fort Erie Planner and Chair of the Accommodation Review Committee. Mr. Feiertag spoke in support of constructing an addition to Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School to accommodate all students in Ridgeway, Crystal Beach and Fort Erie. Mr. Feiertag also spoke of the importance and historical value of Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School and how the proposed Rebstock Road site was acquired by the Town through the Kinsmen. Mr. Feiertag added that there is greater desire in the community to use existing sites for new builds rather than acquiring more land.

Vice-Chair Barnett asked for clarification on Mr. Feiertag's reference to a conflict. Mr. Feiertag replied that it was stated at an Accommodation Review meeting that he was a spokesman for the Committee. Vice-Chair Barnett clarified for Mr. Feiertag that the Accommodation Review Committee has recommended that historical items from the three elementary schools be incorporated into the new school. Mr. Feiertag clarified for Trustee Fulford that his reference to funding is based on what he read in the newspaper.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

2. Brian Teal – resident, expressed his concerns with the proposed location of the new school on Rebstock Road stating that property currently owned by the Board is a more suitable site. Mr. Teal's concerns included interference with access to his property on Rebstock Road, disruption to adjoining neighbours and the potential negative impact on property values. Mr. Teal supported Ridgeway Public School as the site for the new school.

There were no questions of clarification.

3. Jon Witkowski – resident, opposed the proposed location of the new school on Rebstock Road due to the loss of green space. Mr. Witkowski expressed support for constructing the new school on the Ridgeway Public School site due to its location and historical value.

There were no questions of clarification.

4. Donna James – resident, indicated that she did not oppose amalgamating the three elementary schools but did oppose the proposed location of the new school on Rebstock Road. Ms. James' concerns included increased neighbourhood traffic, increased noise, potential declines in property values, trespassing by students on neighbouring private property, and the potential for vandalism and the deteriorating condition of the closed schools. Ms. James added that she believed the proposed site was donated to the Town by the Kinsmen. Ms. James suggested that a site currently owned by the Board be used for the new school.

At Trustee Keddy Scott's request Trustees will be provided with information on the historical items at each of the elementary schools.

5. Jim Puhl - resident, indicated that he did not oppose amalgamating the three elementary schools but did oppose the proposed location of the new school on Rebstock Road. Mr. Puhl's concerns included increased neighbourhood traffic, and the loss of park land. Mr. Puhl suggested that the Rebstock Road property is proposed as green space for new subdivision development. Mr. Puhl expressed his disagreement that there will be savings in transportation costs. Mr. Puhl supported a new build on the Bertie Public School site due to its location and size.

At Trustee Fast's request Trustees will be provided with information on whether the green space at the proposed Rebstock Road location would permit a new school.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

6. John Hill (Regrets) / Don Lubberts – Mr. Lubberts, a resident of Fort Erie and member of the Town of Fort Erie Council representing Crystal Beach, thanked the Accommodation Review Committee for dedicating their personal time and work in this process. Mr. Lubberts summarized the rationale for supporting construction of the new school on the proposed Rebstock Road site. Mr. Lubberts pointed out that the Rebstock Road site is central to the student population, and is in close proximity to local facilities and services/activities that students can access (local library, arena, Town soccer fields, community centre, and park land). The Rebstock Road location also supports the Town's vision of creating a community hub and bringing the communities that comprise the Town of Fort Erie together. Mr. Lubbert also suggested that more opportunities can be created for students by amalgamating the three elementary into one school.

There were no questions of clarification.

I. BOARD RECESS

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

“That the Board recess.”

CARRIED

The Board recessed at 8:32 p.m.

**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 8:45 p.m.

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 April 23, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustees Lundy and Steingart provided a verbal summary of the report and thanked the Board for its support and for supporting their attendance at conferences. Nick Molkoski (E.L. Crossley Secondary School) and Vinay Sharma (Welland Centennial Secondary School) were elected as Student Trustees for the 2014-2015 school year. The Waste Audit findings will be analyzed at the next meeting.

Trustee Robinson commended Student Trustees Lundy and Steingart for doing an excellent job this school year. Trustee Robinson also commended all members of the Student Trustee Senate for their enthusiasm and work throughout the year.

2. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated May 6, 2014, be received;” and

“That the report of the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendar – 2014-2015 (revised May 6th) be received and approved;” and

“That the Multi-Year Capital Plan dated May 6, 2014, be received and staff authorized to proceed with all identified projects up to and including the 2014-2015 year, subject to confirmation of necessary Ministry of Education Capital funding approvals.”

CARRIED

Trustee Fulford provided a summary of the report and recommended motions.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of and by Board Members.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**1. Staff Reports****(a) Report of the Naming Committee of the New Elementary Public School in Vineland.**

Superintendent Kelly Pisek reported on the process to name the new Elementary Public School in Vineland which was conducted in accordance with Board Policy A-9: Naming/Renaming of Schools. Superintendent Pisek explained that Campden, Jordan, Maple Grove, and Vineland Public School students came together at the Vineland Public School site over the past year with current enrolment of 493 students. Superintendent Pisek set out the criteria, Committee composition, and the consultation process and she reported that following the consultation process the Committee made the following recommendation.

“That the two choices as determined by the New School Naming Committee be received and that the Trustees vote by ballot to choose the name for the new Elementary Public School in Vineland.”

**Cornerstone Public School
Twenty Valley Public School**

Trustee Keddy Scott spoke to the significance of the proposed names. Trustee Keddy Scott thanked the Committee for their collaborative decision making and for providing the Trustees with two names for their consideration.

Superintendent Pisek clarified that Twenty Valley Public School was preferred by the community but the Naming Committee wanted the Trustees to choose the name.

Karen Bellamy, Executive Assistant to the Director, distributed the ballots to the Trustees and Chair Maves appointed Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, and Stacy Veld, Assistant Superintendent of Business, as Scrutineers.

Following a vote by ballot, which were collected and counted by the Scrutineers, Chair Maves reported that the Trustees voted by majority to adopt the name **Twenty Valley Public School**.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

1. Staff Reports

- (a) **Report of the Naming Committee of the new Elementary Public School in Vineland.**

MOTION

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Ed Fulford

“That the new Elementary School in Vineland to be located on the existing Vineland Public School site be named Twenty Valley Public School, effective May 14, 2014.”

CARRIED

MOTION

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Ed Fulford

“That the ballots be destroyed.”

CARRIED

2. Trustee Information Session

Prior to the Board meeting, Trustees participated in an Information Session on the DSBN Mental Health Strategy Update.

3. Correspondence and Communication

- (a) **Request to Begin School Naming Process - Sheridan and Meadowvale Public Schools at the Sheridan Park site**

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the request to begin the school naming process (Sheridan and Meadowvale Public Schools at the Sheridan Park site) be approved in accordance with Board Policy A-9.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Reimer Friesen spoke to the request to begin the school naming process.

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

- (b) Correspondence re: West Fort Erie Elementary Schools Accommodation Review - for information purposes

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Keddy Scott thanked everyone who participated in the May 10th Prom Project and for making the event a success for students.
- (b) Trustee Keddy Scott commended Beamsville District Secondary School for hosting a recent dance for Grades 6, 7, and 8 students.
- (c) Trustee Bradnam reported that he participated in Laura Secord Secondary School's recent successful Walk/Run for Miracles in support of the Niagara Children's Centre Foundation.
- (d) Trustee Bradnam reported that he attended the recent Heritage Fair at Old Fort Erie and he commended Blair Janzen, DSBN Curriculum Consultant, for promoting the event which encourages students to explore Canadian History. Trustee Bradnam noted that Old Fort Erie was a wonderful facility and he acknowledged Parks Canada for presenting a number of events. Trustee Bradnam commended students for their enthusiastic participation in the Fair.
- (e) Trustee Bradnam reported that he and Trustee Fulford attended the recent CONNECT 2014 Technology Conference. Trustee Bradnam commended Chief Information Officer Dino Miele and his team for organizing the excellent event. Trustee Bradnam also acknowledged the outstanding quality of presenters from our Board.
- (f) Trustee Ness commended students from A.N. Myer Secondary School for winning the Best Video award for their wind turbine at the recent High School Wind Energy Design Competition held at the University of Guelph, School of Engineering.
- (g) Trustee Ness recognized Beamsville District Secondary School for hosting the recent Music Day concert and she commended participating schools for collaborating on this event.
- (h) Vice-Chair Barnett congratulated Welland Centennial Secondary School and the talented students for presenting a successful production of West Side Story.
- (i) Trustee Fulford reported that he attended Caistor Central Public School's recent production of Willy Wonka and The Chocolate Factory. Trustee Fulford commended the students for an excellent job. Trustee Fulford also commended Principal Mark Bridges for his coaching.

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

- (j) Chair Maves reported that he, Director Hoshizaki, Assistant Superintendent of Business Stacy Veld, and staff from the Human Resources and Business Departments, attended the recent OASBO (Ontario Association of School Business Officials) Annual Conference where Christine Thompson, former DSBN Supervisor of Planning, was posthumously awarded the 2014 McCordic Award. The Award recognizes an outstanding contribution to the service of school business. Chair Maves added that Christine was well respected in the Province and the Board is proud of her.

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

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

Trustee Keddy Scott reported that discussion took place on the following issues at the May 2/3, 2014, OPSBA Executive Council and Board of Director's meeting.

- Update on Accessibility in Ontario
- WiFi and exposure to the frequency field
- Draft discussion paper on EQAO and Large Scale Testing in Ontario
- Early Years Update (Bill 143, Child Care Modernization Act, 2013, which has now died on the table pending the Provincial elections)
- Update on French as a Second Language Working Group
- OPSBA's priorities for 2014/2015
- Interim Report on OPSBA's Priorities for 2013/2014

Trustees will be provided with a more detailed package of information.

Upcoming Events:

- National Aboriginal Trustees Gathering 2014 (July 2/3, 2014) – *Walking the Path of Lifelong Learning*
- CSBA Congress (*Excellence: Reimagined*) and OPSBA's Annual General Meeting (July 3-5, 2014)

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

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

6. Future Meetings

The revised calendar of May 2014 meetings was provided. The calendar of June 2014 meetings was revised as follows:

June 2 Program and Planning Committee - cancelled

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Ed Fulford**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:12 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer