



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

November 11, 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, Ed Fulford (present for Private Session), Cheryl Keddy Scott, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel

Student Trustees: Nick Molkoski, Vinay Sharma

Regrets: Trustee Jonathan Fast

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, John Dickson, Wesley Hahn, Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, Kelly Pisek, Marian Reimer Friesen, Paula MacKinnon, JoAnna Roberto, Stacy Veld, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Bujacz

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 Ed Fulford
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

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

CARRIED

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Barbara Ness**

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:42 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

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

The Board remained standing for a moment of silence in recognition of Remembrance Day and in remembrance of Calvin Nigh, Teacher at Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School, **and retired Teacher, Isabel Mitchener.**

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Barbara Ness presented a video in recognition of the *Highway of Heroes*.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

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

Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy Scott

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated October 28, 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

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Kim Barton, Area 3 Instructional Coach**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Kim Barton for her service to the Board in her role of Instructional Coach. Ms. Barton’s deep, well-founded knowledge and innovative ideas for facilitating the complex curriculum empower not only her fellow teachers whom she easily engages in her open and caring manner, but more importantly, the students who ultimately benefit from meaningful and purposeful learning each day. Ms. Barton is known for her dedication and enthusiasm for learning. Director Hoshizaki also recognized Ms. Barton for representing the Board in Kuwait in August where she was invited to present professional development sessions on assessment practices to inform instruction and to deepen students’ understanding of their strengths and next steps for learning.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Kim Barton, Area 3 Instructional Coach**

Director Hoshizaki presented Kim Barton with a token of the Board’s appreciation for her extraordinary contribution to the schools in Area 3 and for her recent representation of the District School Board of Niagara in Kuwait.

(b) Director’s Update to Trustees**i. Gavin’s T-Shirt!**

Congratulations to Gavin Goodenough of Eastdale Secondary School for winning the “Design a T-Shirt” contest for the Special Olympics. Gavin’s award winning design was printed on volunteer T-shirts for the recent Special Olympics.

ii. Back in the Game!

Nissan Canada and the Canadian Football League has announced a new “Back in the Game” program that will provide funding and support to 21 high school football programs across the country. Congratulations to the St. Catharines Collegiate for being chosen to participate in this program and to receive a donation of football equipment. The Board viewed a video clip of TSN’s recognition of the St. Catharines Collegiate at the recent national broadcast of the Hamilton vs. Ottawa CFL game.

Vice-Chair Barnett commended Kim Barton on her service to students and the Board. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves commended Kim Barton for the recognition.

2. Educational Showcase

There was no Educational Showcase.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no Student Achievement Reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers from 1437 to 1458 for the month of September 2014, totalling \$17,026,962.66, be received.”

CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated November 3, 2014, be received;” and

“That the report from the Educational Research Committee be received and the recommendations adopted;” and

“That the report of the proposed Elementary School Boundary Changes be approved with implementation effective on January 1, 2015, be received;” and

“That the Board receives the Social Studies, History, Geography, and Canadian and World Studies report.”

CARRIED

Trustee Ness provided a summary of the report and the recommended motions. Recommended elementary school boundary changes include changes to the Nelles Public School / Park Public School shared boundary area, and the Connaught Public School / Oakridge Public School Grades 7 and 8 shared boundary area.

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) Verbal Report on The Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Conference**

Superintendent Reimer Friesen introduced the report on the November 5th Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) Conference, “THRIVE: Raising Happy & Engaged 21st Century Kids.”

Lisa Mooney, PIC Committee Chair, and Jennifer McDowell, Principal of Parliament Oak Public School, shared highlights of the Conference. The Conference which received funding from PRO (Parents Reaching Out) Grants through the Ministry of Education was well attended by approximately 390 parent registrants who participated in a variety of workshop sessions. Over fifty Vendors also showcased their products and services. Child care was provided for 198 children which made it possible for parents to attend the Conference.

Ms. Mooney and Principal McDowell thanked the Board for its support of the Conference, commended the Conference Planning Committee for all their work, and thanked Eden High School for making its facilities available.

Trustee Bradnam thanked Superintendent Reimer Friesen and the Planning Committee for their work in organizing the Conference which is recognized across the Province for its quality and relevance. Trustees Bradnam and Campbell commended the presenters, which included Board staff, for providing pertinent and practical sessions. Trustee Ness thanked the Committee for making child care available for parents.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves commended Superintendent Reimer Friesen and the Planning Committee for organizing another successful Conference.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no Trustee Information Session.

3. Correspondence and Communication**(a) Remembrance Day**

Trustee Clark reported that there is a movement across the Province to designate Remembrance Day as a public holiday and he expressed his position that students would benefit more by being in school on Remembrance Day to participate in the significance of the day in a

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**3. Correspondence and Communication****(a) Remembrance Day**

structured and organized environment. Trustee Clark asked that the Board send a letter to the Premier of Ontario, the Minister of Education, and other parties deemed appropriate, in support of keeping schools open on Remembrance Day.

Chair Maves indicated that if there was no objection, a letter will be drafted and forwarded on behalf of the Board.

Trustee Bradnam raised an objection to sending a letter on behalf of the Board. Trustee Bradnam expressed his support for a National holiday in recognition of Remembrance Day and that the significance of Remembrance Day is more than a one day learning event for students. Trustee Bradnam added that a National holiday would provide all students with the opportunity to attend local Remembrance Day ceremonies in the community to reinforce what they have previously learned.

**Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy Scott**

“That a letter be sent to the Prime Minister of Canada, the Premier of Ontario, and the Minister of Education on behalf of the Board in support of the status quo with respect to Remembrance Day.”

CARRIED

At Chair Maves' request for a friendly amendment the recommended motion included sending the letter to the Prime Minister.

A brief discussion followed.

Trustee Keddy Scott noted that the issue was discussed at a recent meeting of the OPSBA Policy Development Work Team and that members of the Work Team felt that having students in the classroom provides all students with a learning opportunity on the significance of Remembrance Day.

Chair Maves pointed out that many students attend and participate in Remembrance Day ceremonies in the community and he questioned whether there would be the same student presence if Remembrance Day is a school holiday.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**3. Correspondence and Communication****(a) Remembrance Day**

Trustee Schaubel expressed his support for sending a letter as recommended and that the letter reflect the Trustees' comments in support of the motion.

Student Trustee Sharma stated that hundreds of students participated in Remembrance Day ceremonies today that were organized by schools and he stated that it is important for students to learn and know what Remembrance Day is and what it stands for.

Student Trustee Molkoski stated that it is important for students to be in their school community on Remembrance Day where they have the opportunity to reflect together on the importance of the day. Student Trustee Molkoski questioned whether Remembrance Day would have the same significance for students if it was a school holiday.

Trustee Bradnam called a Point of Order and requested a recorded vote.

Chair Maves called for the vote on the recommended motion.

Vice-Chair Barnett	In Favour	Trustee Ness	In Favour
Trustee Bradnam	Opposed	Trustee Robinson	In Favour
Trustee Campbell	In Favour	Trustee Schaubel	In Favour
Trustee Clark	In Favour	Student Trustee Molkoski	In Favour
Trustee Keddy Scott	In Favour	Student Trustee Sharma	In Favour
Chair Maves	In Favour		

Trustee Keddy Scott requested that a copy of the letter be sent to OPSBA.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

(a) Chair Maves reported that A.N. Myer Secondary School is playing for both the Junior and Senior Football championships.

(b) Trustee Robinson reported that the Thorold Secondary School Football team is playing on home field tomorrow, Wednesday, November 12th.

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

Trustee Ness left the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

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

Trustee Keddy Scott reported that she attended OPSBA's November 7th Joint Meeting of the Education Program / Policy Development Work Team. George Saarinen was elected as the new Chair of the Policy Development Work Team. Trustee Keddy Scott highlighted presentations by speakers on the Province's new funding model for Special Needs students, achieving excellence in Ontario, and the new curriculum at Faculties of Education. Material on the presentations is available for the Trustees' review.

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

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of November 2014 meetings was provided.

N. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:46 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer