



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

October 14, 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: Nick Molkoski, Vinay Sharma

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, Brett Sweeney, 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 Lora Campbell
Seconded by Ed Fulford**

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

CARRIED

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

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:34 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

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

The Board remained standing for a moment of silence in remembrance of students Adam Keunen, Beamsville District Secondary School; Mathew Hill-Gadal, Stamford Collegiate; and Trevor Potten, Grimsby Secondary School; and teacher Trinetta Tomasello, Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School, who passed away in the past few weeks.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Jonathan Fast opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

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

“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 September 23, 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 it was announced that the sale of the former Empire Public School site in Welland to The Regional Municipality of Niagara closed on October 7, 2014. The school will be repurposed by the Region for the new Welland Provincial Offences Court House.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Lorraine Versteeg, Kindergarten Teacher, and Stephanie Blackburn, Educational Assistant – Lakeview Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Lorraine Versteeg and Stephanie Blackburn, members of Lakeview’s Kindergarten team, for their dedication, caring and strong commitment to work as a team to help all students reach their full potential. Over the past two years Lorraine and Stephanie have exhibited extreme patience and understanding in very challenging circumstances and have worked closely together to make a difference in the lives of the Kindergarten students. In a recent letter to the school from a parent, she expressed her deep appreciation for Mrs.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Lorraine Versteeg, Kindergarten Teacher, and Stephanie Blackburn, Educational Assistant – Lakeview Public School**

Lorraine Versteeg and Ms. Stephanie Blackburn, for their compassion, caring and genuine love of kids, and for their support and guidance when her child was in their program two years ago. Director Hoshizaki recognized the parents, who were present in the gallery, for writing the letter.

Director Hoshizaki presented Lorraine Versteeg and Stephanie Blackburn with a token of the Board’s appreciation for their support of students.

(b) Director’s Update to Trustees**i. Laura Secord Concert Choir Performance in Chicago**

On September 20th, the Laura Secord Concert Choir was invited to join Mr. Robert Pilon on stage at the final performance of the *Sanfilippo Foundation Summer Concert Series* in Chicago. Laura Secord Secondary School, under the direction of Musical Director David Sisler, has enjoyed a long and fruitful relationship with Opera Singer and former Phantom of the Opera and Les Miserables star, Robert Pilon. This partnership has seen the Choir be invited to sing at such prestigious venues as the Hummingbird Centre, the Imperial Room, the Granite Club, and the Eglinton Grand in Toronto.

ii. Feature Article – Working with the Media

Kim Yielding, Manager of Communications and Public Relations, along with three colleagues from other Boards, have been featured in a recent article in the *Education Today* magazine. The article is a two-part series, “Working with the Media,” with tips on how education officials can manage their media relations effectively. Congratulations to Kim for the recognition and for bringing distinction, once again, to the District School Board of Niagara.

iii. Ice Bucket Challenge

Congratulations to Stamford Collegiate’s Student Council, who were nominated by Westlane’s Student Council, for doing the #ICE BUCKET CHALLENGE. Congratulations to Director Hoshizaki for completing Stamford’s challenge. All funds raised will go towards supporting families living with ALS, and to fund ALS research.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(b) Director’s Update to Trustees****iv. Women In Construction**

The Women In Construction Group is an active committee of the Niagara Construction Association and it hosts many events throughout the year which promote women in construction in today’s industry. The Women In Construction Group is promoting the Walker Living Campus at Woodend by hosting a job site tour and dinner for their members. This is an excellent opportunity for the District School Board of Niagara to showcase our build.

v. Walker Living Campus at Woodend

The Board viewed a video with a bird’s eye view of the construction happening at the Walker Living Campus.

vi. Niagara Wine Festival

Congratulations to all the staff and students who participated in the recent Niagara Wine Festival’s Grand Parade on September 27, 2014.

Trustees Bradnam and Keddy Scott commended Lorraine Versteeg and Stephanie Blackburn for their support of students and parents and they thanked the parents who wrote the letter for expressing their appreciation.

Trustee Clark commended Laura Secord’s Musical Director, David Sisler, for creating outstanding opportunities for students to perform with well known musical artists in the industry.

2. Educational Showcase**(a) Jeanne Sauvé French Immersion Public School**

Superintendent Reimer Friesen introduced the presentation which showcased the September 2014 opening of Jeanne Sauvé French Immersion Public School. Superintendent Reimer Friesen commended Principal Candi Sitko and Vice-Principal Paula McIntee for working tirelessly throughout the summer to oversee the conversion of the former Kernahan Park Secondary School into the new and vibrant Grades 1-8, Jeanne Sauvé French Immersion Public School.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**2. Educational Showcase****(a) Jeanne Sauvé Public School**

Principal Sitko introduced members of the Student Council who presented a video which highlighted events, tournaments and opinions of students about the new school community. Following the video, the students responded to questions from Trustees.

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

(b) United Way Kick Off Campaign 2014

Assistant Superintendent Lora Courtois introduced the showcase.

Principal Lorne Gretsinger, DSBN Campaign Chair, presented the DSBN / United Way Kick Off video which highlighted the programs and services offered by the United Way, St. Catharines and District. Principal Gretsinger recognized the United Way for its work in supporting students and their families. Principal Gretsinger also commended the Board and its employees for their continued support of the United Way and added that this year's DSBN campaign goal for employee participation is 35%.

Frances Hallworth, Executive Director of the United Way of St. Catharines and District, thanked everyone within the Board for their support of the United Way Campaign which supports many students. Ms. Hallworth thanked Lorne Gretsinger for his commitment to the United Way campaign.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Frances Hallworth and Principal Gretsinger for their presentation and for all the United Way does for students and the community. Chair Maves added that the Board values its partnership with the United Way and he wished the United Way success in reaching its goals.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS**1. First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Report**

**Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

“That the Board receive the information report on FNMI Education 2014-2015.”

CARRIED

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS – continued:**1. First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Report**

Superintendent Dickson introduced the report on First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education 2014-2015. Superintendent Dickson provided background on the Ministry of Education's initiative to improve the academic achievement of Aboriginal students, and to close the achievement gap between Aboriginal students and "all students" in the areas of Literacy and Numeracy, retention rates in school, graduation rates, and advancement to post-secondary studies through strategies outlined in the Province's "Ontario First Nation, Métis, and Inuit Education Policy Framework."

Superintendent Dickson introduced Georgie Groat, Aboriginal Education Consultant, and Jenny Stewart, Educational Research Teacher. Ms. Groat provided an overview of the Ministry's Vision. Ms. Groat added that the Board was asked by the Ministry of Education to create a video which spotlighted what our Board was doing in FNMI education and which will be used by the Ministry as part of a presentation on FNMI education in Ontario. The Board viewed the video. Ms. Groat also provided information on the resource documents created by the District School Board of Niagara, "A Sacred Journey: A Guide to Understanding and Supporting Aboriginal Students," and "FNMI Elementary Visual Arts (Visions and Voices: Exploring Art through FNMI and other Canadian Artists)," to support Aboriginal students. Ms. Groat added that the documents are being recognized across the Province.

Trustee Bradnam, Trustee Keddy Scott, and Trustee Ness commended the work of Board staff in promoting Aboriginal education and for being recognized in the Province for the resource documents that will support students.

Director Hoshizaki commended the quality and content of the resource documents noting that they get to the heart of Aboriginal education and should be implemented across Ontario and the country.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Superintendent Dickson and Ms. Groat for their presentation and he commended Board staff for having their work recognized across the Province. Chair Maves asked that the Board's appreciation for their leadership and commitment be extended to staff.

2. EQAO 2013-2014 Report

**Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Dale Robinson**

"That the Board receive the 2013-2014 EQAO Report."

CARRIED

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS – continued:**2. EQAO 2013-2014 Report**

Superintendent s John Dickson and Helen McGregor presented a report on the 2013-2014 EQAO results, which included assessments of Grades 3 and 6 Reading, Writing and Mathematics; Grade 9 Mathematics; the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test, and English Language Learner and Special Education results.

Superintendent Dickson reported on the overall results in the Grades 3 and 6 assessment areas. Superintendent Dickson added that the results show DSBN students continue to achieve a high standard in Grades 3 and 6 Literacy. Results for Grade 3 Mathematics show improvement. The decline in the Grade 6 Mathematics results is consistent with Provincial success rates. Superintendent Dickson noted the continuous gains in most assessments by English Language Learners (ELL) and Special Education students.

Superintendent McGregor reported on the overall results in the Grade 9 Mathematics assessment areas and the Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT). Superintendent McGregor added that over the past 5 years the DSBN's Grade 9 Mathematics results have shown some improvement. The Grade 10 OSSLT five year success rate has remained stable. Grade 9 Special Education and English Language Learners have shown positive gains over the past 5 years. The Grade 10 OSSLT results for English Language Learners show a decline for 2013-2014. Superintendent McGregor noted that the overall results show an increase in the success rates in six of the nine assessments while maintaining success rates in two of the remaining three areas measured.

Superintendent Dickson added that the improved and sustained results can be attributed to numerous actions and strategies that have been a focus for the past few years, as well as a systemic approach to improving outcomes for all students. Superintendent Dickson provided a summary of the initiatives which have contributed to the positive impact on student learning. Superintendent Dickson set out the next steps to be undertaken, which includes new and enhanced initiatives in Literacy and Numeracy. Superintendent Dickson noted that Mathematics has been identified as an area of concern across the Province. Locally, Mathematics has also been identified as an area of improvement and to address this the Board is placing greater emphasis on Mathematics strategies and initiatives. EQAO results are available at www.eqao.com.

Superintendent Dickson clarified for Trustee Keddy Scott that there was a high participation rate for Special Education students.

Superintendent Dickson explained for Trustee Robinson and Vice-Chair Barnett that Mathematics strategies and initiatives continue to be implemented by our Board which, in the long term, will improve results in Mathematics. Superintendent Dickson added that Mathematics results are a concern across the Province. To address this collectively the Ministry of Education has

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS – continued:**2. EQAO 2013-2014 Report**

introduced a number of strategies, and Boards from across the Province are developing and implementing initiatives which will have a long term positive impact on Mathematics results. In response to Trustee Campbell's question regarding the availability of workshops to assist parents in helping their children at home, Superintendent Dickson replied that "DreamBox" has a home connection to encourage parent engagement. Parents can also raise the issue for discussion with their School Council.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked staff for bringing forward the report. Chair Maves commended staff for the improved results and for placing an increased emphasis on Mathematics instruction.

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 Jonathan Fast

"That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1424 to 1444 for the month of August 2014, totalling \$22,636,659.66, be received."

CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

Moved by Nick Molkoski
Seconded by Vinay Sharma

"That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated September 24, 2014, be received."

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**2. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE**

Student Trustee Sharma provided an overview of the Student Trustee Senate Retreat which included a Keynote address by Dr. Lisa Linders, Chief Psychologist, on “Mental Health and Well-Being at the DSBN.” Student Trustee Sharma added that discussion also took place on goal setting for the year to support the Board’s Mental Health plan from a student perspective. Student Trustee Molkoski reported on the recent Ontario Student Trustees’ Association General Meeting where a variety of informative workshops and speakers were presented with discussion on initiatives that are being implemented across the Province, including initiatives to address mental health issues.

Trustee Robinson commended the Student Trustees for hosting the well attended Student Trustee Senate retreat.

3. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

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

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated October 1, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Robinson highlighted the upcoming 2014 PIC Conference on Wednesday, November 5th at Eden High School. Trustee Robinson thanked Superintendent Reimer Friesen for bringing forward information on financial matters of interest to the Committee.

At Trustee Campbell’s request, Superintendent Reimer Friesen will provide Trustees with a copy of the information sheet outlining examples of appropriate uses for the \$500 Parent Involvement Fund. Superintendent Reimer Friesen noted that the examples are suggestions and schools can develop their own uses that are appropriate.

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) Primary Class Size Report**

**Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

“That the Primary Class Size Report dated October 14, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Jim Morgan reminded the Board that since 2007-2008, in accordance with the Ministry of Education's Primary Class Size initiative, Boards must be fully compliant with the parameters for primary class size as established by the Ministry. Superintendent Morgan reported that the Board is in full compliance with the Ministry's expectations and the Board's Primary Class Size Report as at September 15, 2014, has been submitted to the Ministry.

Trustee Bradnam commended Senior staff and School Administrators for their work in ensuring that the Board is in full compliance.

Superintendent Morgan confirmed for Trustee Fulford that the class sizes are reported as an average.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no Trustee Information Session.

3. Correspondence and Communication

There was no correspondence and communication.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Keddy Scott commended the staff and parents of Twenty Valley Public School for a well organized Vineland Craft Show this past weekend.
- (b) Trustee Keddy Scott noted a recent newspaper article reporting that the District School Board of Niagara is introducing an on-line First Nations Ojibway and Mohawk Language program.

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

- (c) Chair Maves reported that he attended the recent “Beat the Brainiacs” in support of the Education Foundation of Niagara. Chair Maves thanked everyone who participated.

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

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

Trustee Keddy Scott had no report.

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

6. Future Meetings

The calendars of October 2014 and November 2014 meetings were provided.

N. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer