



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

February 24, 2015

6:15 – 7:00 p.m. (Private Session)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Sue Barnett (Chair), Jennifer Ajandi, Helga Campbell, Lora Campbell, Diane Chase, Linda Crouch, Jonathan Fast, Cheryl Keddy Scott, Kevin Maves (Acting Vice-Chair), Dave Schaubel

Student Trustees: Nick Molkoski and Vinay Sharma

Regrets: Dale Robinson (Vice-Chair)

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, John Dickson, Wesley Hahn, Paula MacKinnon, Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, Kelly Pisek, Marian Reimer Friesen, JoAnna Roberto (present for Public Session), 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 Barnett 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 Diane Chase
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

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

CARRIED

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Linda Crouch**

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

CARRIED

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

Chair Barnett welcomed students from the Brock Faculty of Education and Niagara College who were in the gallery to observe the meeting.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Lora Campbell opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**Moved by Linda Crouch
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 Helga Campbell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 10, 2015, 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 Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi

“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 Dean Taylor, Teacher – E.I. McCulley Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Dean Taylor for his 18 years of service to the Board and students as a classroom teacher and coach. Mr. Taylor has also dedicated himself to the community by running Friday Night Basketball Clinics after school and opening up the gym to the school community on Saturdays to run a free basketball clinic for the students in the communities where he has worked. Director Hoshizaki shared comments from Principals, staff, and students which recognize Mr. Taylor’s passion for kids and his inspirational desire to better the lives of students and their families.

Director Hoshizaki presented Dean Taylor with a token of the Board’s appreciation for his extraordinary contributions to students.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Dean Taylor, Teacher – E.I. McCulley Public School**

On behalf of the Board, Chair Barnett expressed the Board’s appreciation for Dean Taylor’s dedication to staff and students.

(b) Director’s Update to Trustees**i. Math Carnival at Park Public School**

Congratulations to staff at Park Public School for hosting a recent Math Carnival which provided students and families with opportunities to enjoy an evening of fun and learning. Students went home happy and parents went home with plenty of ideas on how to make Math authentic and enjoyable.

ii. Lady Antebellum and Little Kids Rock Donate Musical Instruments to Fitch Street Public School

On February 17th Fitch Street Public School received a donation of 35 ukuleles from the American Grammy Award winning country music group Lady Antebellum. The band partnered with Universal Nashville, Universal Canada, friends from Little Kids Rock and the Education Foundation of Niagara. As part of their seven country tour Lady Antebellum along with the Little Kids Rock organization was performing at Casino Niagara on February 16. In each of the seven countries, they are donating musical instruments to children. EFN was contacted to help find a school in Niagara and was happy to share last year’s request from students at Fitch Street Public School for support to purchase ukuleles for their school.

The Board viewed video clip highlights of this exciting event.

iii. Harriet Tubman Statue Fundraising Campaign

February 20th kicked off the “Bring Harriet Home” fundraising campaign with students from Harriet Tubman Public School attending the Underground Railroad Opera performance at St. Catharines Collegiate. Fundraising details are available at the Harriet Tubman Public School website or at <http://harriettubman.dsbm.org/bringingharriethome/>

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director's Report and Recognition****(b) Director's Update to Trustees****iv. DSBN Academy Students Bring Home Silver**

Congratulations to sisters Tia and Lia Rahmoun on their winning performances at the recent PAN Kids Championship for IBJJF Jiu-Jitsu in Long Beach, California. The Grade 9 DSBN Academy students now qualify to compete in the World Championship in July 2015.

v. Bringing Learning to Life

Thank you to all who participated in the recent fifth annual Winter Gala in support of the Walker Living Campus at Woodend. The Gala was the most successful to date and we could not have done it without our partners and generous sponsors who have given to the Capital Campaign. In a few more months we will celebrate the Grand Opening of the spectacular living campus.

vi. Germ Fighters

The Board viewed video clips of Lincoln Centennial Public School Kindergarten students who are making a difference with germ prevention tips.

Trustee Keddy Scott commended Dean Taylor for his work in and out of the classroom. Trustee Keddy Scott also commended Park Public School on its successful Math Carnival and for thinking outside the box to engage students in learning.

Trustee Helga Campbell commended the Board for recognizing teachers like Mr. Taylor at Board meetings. Trustee Campbell thanked these teachers who represent the best across the Board and whose passion and dedication go beyond the classroom for the benefit of students.

2. Educational Showcase**(a) Laura Secord Secondary School Strings Ensemble**

Superintendent McGregor introduced the showcase which highlighted the Laura Secord Secondary School Strings Ensemble under the direction of Teacher Bonnie Henderson. Superintendent McGregor added that the Ensemble is open to experienced players from Grades 9-12. The Ensemble performs regularly at community events. The students performed two numbers for the Board.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:

2. Educational Showcase

(a) Laura Secord Secondary School Strings Ensemble

On behalf of the Board, Chair Barnett commended the students for sharing their talents and she thanked the parents for their support.

Trustee Crouch added her thanks to the parents and staff for supporting the students and she thanked the members of the Ensemble for being ambassadors for the Board.

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 Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers from 1496 to 1508 for the month of January 2015, totalling \$19,747,242.85 be received.”

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**2. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Helga Campbell**

“That the reports of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated February 4, 2015, and February 17, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Keddy Scott reported that 15 cases were reviewed at both the February 4th and February 17th meetings and strategies were developed for the students' success. Trustee Keddy Scott added that 119 students have been reengaged in learning to date this school year.

Trustee Helga Campbell asked Trustee Keddy Scott to characterize the nature of the student cases that come forward for review by the Committee. At Trustee Keddy Scott's request, Superintendent McGregor responded by saying that each student's background is unique and diverse, ranging from mental health issues, medical issues, or family situations. Superintendent McGregor added that the Committee works diligently to create individual plans that meet the needs of each student.

Trustee Helga Campbell commended the Committee for individually identifying the students' underlying issues that have impacted on their behaviour and learning and for developing strategies for positive learning opportunities.

Trustee Keddy Scott commended Superintendent McGregor and the Committee members for their commitment to the students.

3. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

**Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Helga Campbell**

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated February 4, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Ajandi provided a summary and highlights of the report, which included a presentation by the host school, DSBN Academy, on the programs, supports and opportunities offered to the students of the Academy; a presentation by Superintendent Dickson on the 2014-2015 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA); and a debriefing on the 2014 PIC Conference. Trustee Ajandi added that the 2015 PIC Conference is tentatively scheduled for November 4, 2015.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**4. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Diane Chase
Seconded by Linda Crouch**

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated February 12, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

Chair Barnett provided a summary and highlights of the report which included a presentation by a visually impaired student who described the supports she is receiving from the Board to ensure a smooth transition to secondary school, a report from Therese Grenier, Student Achievement Leader, and reports around the table from representatives of the Association and Agency Committee members.

5. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

**Moved by Nick Molkoski
Seconded by Vinay Sharma**

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated February 17, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Sharma provided a summary and highlights of the report which included presentations and updates on the Elephant in the Room Mental Health Awareness Campaign, the construction of the new Greater Fort Erie Secondary School, and discussion and updates on issues and events taking place in the schools.

Student Trustee Molkoski added that Julie Hopkin, DSBN Social Worker, gave a presentation on the role of Youth Counsellors and Social Workers. Student Trustee Molkoski noted that he and Student Trustee Sharma will attend the February 26th Board Council Conference, which is hosted by the Ontario Student Trustees' Association, and will bring back new ideas and resources to the Student Trustee Senate.

Trustees Fast and Chase commended the Student Trustees for their dedication to students and the Board.

Student Trustee Molkoski explained for Trustee Helga Campbell that the Dare to Dream Program is focusing on providing funding to support mental health initiatives in schools and communities. Trustee Campbell asked for a report summarizing the variety of projects when the grants are approved. Student Trustee Molkoski added that the Student Trustee Senate communicates through Facebook and there will also be updates on that site on where resources are being allocated.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**5. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE**

Superintendent Dickson added that information is being produced for all schools to inform students on the role of the Social Worker and how to access a Social Worker through their school. Superintendent Dickson thanked the Student Trustee Senate for their work on this project.

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**

There were no Staff Reports.

2. Trustee Information Session

Prior to the Board meeting Trustees participated in an Information Session on “One School System.”

3. Correspondence and Communication

There was no Correspondence and Communication

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Fast reported that he brought greetings from the Board at the February 13th Citizenship Ceremony at Crossroads Public School where 30 candidates took the Oath of Citizenship.
- (b) Trustee Keddy Scott reported that she attended Nelles Public School for the Public Speaking Contest where two students qualified for the finals this coming weekend at the Beamsville Legion.
- (c) Trustee Chase reported that she attended the February 11th Parent Night at South Lincoln High School where a Youth Counsellor gave an informative presentation on managing anxiety and stress related issues.

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

- (d) Trustee Chase reported that she attended South Lincoln High School's Career Fair which included students from the feeder schools.
- (e) Chair Barnett congratulated the Welland Centennial Cougar Cheerleaders on winning the recent Provincial Championship.
- (f) Chair Barnett gave a reminder of the Sears Drama Festival which is taking place at a number of schools across the Board. Chair Barnett added that the event is an adjudicated festival and many plays are written by the students.
- (g) Chair Barnett gave a reminder of Eastdale Secondary School's Trivia Night on February 27th, and Welland Centennial Secondary Schools' Trivia Night on March 6th. Chair Barnett noted that Welland Centennial will also present information on impaired driving at its Trivia Night.

Further information on events and news happening within the Board can be found at www.dsbns.org and/or on the schools' websites.

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

Trustee Ajandi provided a summary and overview of issues and topics addressed at the recent OPSBA Directors' Meeting, which included:

- A call for nominations for an OPSBA Award to honour the hard work, dedication, achievement and excellence of students, teachers, parents, Trustees, or staff.
- OPSBA will make online professional development training modules available for Trustees on a variety of good governance topics.
- The impact of the *Childcare Modernization Act* on School Boards.
- Circulating the Kids Come First video clip which is available at [Kids Come First](#).
- Reducing energy costs for running schools.
- Accessibility regarding information and communication under the *Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act*.
- A First Nations Directors Report which encourages the use of language such as First Nations, Métis, and Inuit, and advocates for changes to the Curriculum to make histories involving treaty education, the *Indian Act*, and the history and legacy of residential schools mandatory for elementary and secondary curriculum.
- An update on the Public Education Symposium with respect to booking larger facilities.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

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

- Feedback regarding proposed changes, if any, to the Accommodation Review guidelines.
- A review of contract procurement procedures for independent school bus contractors.

Trustee Ajandi gave a reminder of the Labour Relations Symposium being held March 26-28 at the Sheraton Hotel in Toronto with Buzz Hargrove as Keynote Speaker, and the Regional Meeting in Hamilton on April 11th. Trustee Ajandi invited all Trustees to attend the Regional Meeting.

Information published by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association is available at www.opsba.org

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of March 2015 meetings was provided and revised as follows:

March 18 Finance Committee to be rescheduled with the date and time to be confirmed

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Linda Crouch**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

SUE BARNETT, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer