



THE MINUTES OF THE INAUGURAL MEETING OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

January 13, 2015

5:30 - 6:15 p.m. (Educational Showcasing – Atrium)

6:15 – 7:00 p.m. (Private Session)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

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

Student

Trustees: Nick Molkoski, Vinay Sharma

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, Stacy Veld, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Bujacz

Recording

Secretary: Irene Foster

Technical

Support: Linda Gonschior

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD (Atrium)

1. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent

Chair Barnett called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 5:30 p.m. in the Atrium.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

“O Canada” was performed by the Grimsby Secondary School Choral Group. Following the singing of “O Canada,” Chair Barnett introduced the elected members of the Board.

Helga Campbell	Niagara Falls
Kevin Maves	Niagara Falls
Dave Schaubel	Fort Erie/Port Colborne
Cheryl Keddy Scott	Grimsby/Town of Lincoln
Dale Robinson	Thorold/Pelham
Jennifer Ajandi	St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake
Lora Campbell	St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake
Linda Crouch	St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake
Jonathan Fast	St. Catharines/Niagara-on-the-Lake
Sue Barnett	Welland
Diane Chase	West Lincoln/Wainfleet

Chair Barnett also introduced Student Trustees Nick Molkoski and Vinay Sharma, and Director of Education Warren Hoshizaki.

C. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASES

Music and dance showcases were presented by students, as follows:

1. Grimsby Secondary School Choral Group, introduced by Chair Barnett, performed a musical number.
2. Ross Public School Junior/Intermediate Choir, introduced by Chair Barnett, performed a musical number.
3. Prince of Wales Public School (Thorold), Grades 3 and 4 students, introduced by Vice-Chair Robinson, performed an original musical number.
4. Thorold Secondary School, Grade 10 student, introduced by Vice-Chair Robinson, performed a musical number. Thorold Secondary School, Grade 9 student, introduced by Vice-Chair Robinson, performed a dance number.
5. Welland Centennial Secondary School Dance Team performed a contemporary dance number.

Chair Barnett and Vice-Chair Robinson expressed the Board’s appreciation to school staff and parents for supporting the students in this evening’s Educational Showcases. Chair Barnett commended all staff who promote the Arts within the Board.

Chair Barnett recognized the students and staff from the Stamford Collegiate Culinary Arts Program for preparing and serving the refreshments during the Educational Showcases.

The business of the Board continued in the Board Room at 6:07 p.m.

D. INAUGURAL ADDRESS TO THE BOARD**Sue Barnett, Chair of the District School Board of Niagara, delivered her Inaugural Address.**

Achieving Success Together is more than just a motto.

It's more than something that appears on letterhead and email signatures.

It's a calling.

It's our vision of how we fulfill our promise to Niagara's children – so that they can fulfill their full potential.

That promise is to ensure the DSNB continues to deliver the very best in public education.

That students are afforded more opportunity than ever before.

That students have more support than ever before, to ensure every child has an equal opportunity to become successful.

That we will continue to support the DSNB's world class staff so they can continue giving their best to students.

But there's only one way we can achieve these lofty goals – by working together in a positive manner completely focused on doing what's best for students.

The good people of Niagara made their decision last October. They returned a Board with a tremendous diversity of viewpoints, skills and abilities.

I see this as an incredible strength.

We will bring all our knowledge, passion and skills to do exactly what the voters sent us here to do: ensure their children get the best start in life.

By working together we can accomplish more than any one of us can alone.

Previous Boards understood this, and made great strides as a result.

We'll look to those examples, and will also forge our own path.

In the area of Special Education – Trustees' lobbying efforts resulted in an additional 1.2 million dollars in funding last year.

We'll continue that work and ensure that those crucial resources are available to all who need them.

Although difficult, previous Boards worked to eliminate empty space so public dollars could be channeled where they are most effective: into programming for students.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS TO THE BOARD – continued:

Sue Barnett, Chair of the District School Board of Niagara, delivered her Inaugural Address.

That process also resulted in new school builds in Niagara-on-the-Lake, St. Catharines, Welland, Vineland and Fort Erie.

That is an incredible amount of renewal for a system with some of the oldest school buildings in all of Ontario.

As enrolment continues to decline, we know Trustees will be asked to consider further Accommodation Reviews.

We'll do so with sensitivity and with an eye to creating the best possible outcome for students.

We will build closer ties with our municipal partners, so we can continue to enhance our schools as learning institutions and vital community hubs.

If you want an example of this, look at Welland, where the DSBN was able to partner with the Public Library Board for an expanded learning commons, with access for community members.

It's well known that these are challenging fiscal times.

As the province works to eliminate its deficit, we know that there will be fewer resources made available to public institutions.

Working together, this Board will identify those opportunities we feel will have the most positive impact on students and will passionately make the case for the DSBN's fair share of available funding.

As a Board – we will ensure the wise use of the public money we are entrusted with.

And we'll also look beyond the provincial government to identify new streams of revenue and new partnerships that can further improve our financial position.

And again – we'll do this to ensure students continue to benefit from the very best public education the DSBN has to offer.

Previous Boards have had a very successful track record of supporting educational programs and initiatives to benefit students.

That includes everything from new technologies to Specialist High Skills Majors and the introduction of the DSBN Academy.

This Board will continue to look at new and expanded programming options to make sure students have the skills and abilities to not only compete for the jobs of tomorrow – but to innovate and create the jobs of tomorrow.

INAUGURAL ADDRESS TO THE BOARD – continued:

Sue Barnett, Chair of the District School Board of Niagara, delivered her Inaugural Address.

But we can only accomplish all those things if we work together as one.

One voice speaking out and supporting students in Niagara.

We all come to the Board table with our own viewpoints and individual frames of reference.

This informs healthy discussion.

But truly working together means being able to see beyond our own beliefs and act in the best interests of students.

As I look around this Board table this evening – I truly believe we have a group that is ready, willing and able to do just that.

Nelson Mandela once said that “education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.”

As Trustees, we are in a privileged position to be able to shape the face of the education system.

Serving the needs of students is one of the highest callings one can aspire to.

As a Board we’ll learn and work together to ensure all students have their opportunity to change their lives, communities and even the world.

Thank you very much.

Dale Robinson, Vice-Chair of the District School Board of Niagara, delivered her Inaugural Address.

Why do we need local trustees? What do trustees actually do?

In recent months the role of the trustee has been questioned. Issues of low voter interest and poor voter turnout have led some to suggest that we no longer need the local trustee; that the provincial government should centralize the running of local education systems. The recent controversies have all brought the question of the importance of the role of the trustee to our consciousness, again.

Thank goodness. As responsible citizens, we need to continually take a good hard look at our institutions. Historically, Public school boards pre-date municipal governments. Do we hang on to our long standing institutions just because they have always been there or do we take the opportunity to have a good hard look at them, carefully, through the multiple lenses of role, function, responsibility and the reality of community life in the twenty-first century?

INAUGURAL ADDRESS TO THE BOARD – continued:**Dale Robinson, Vice-Chair of the District School Board of Niagara, delivered her Inaugural Address.**

Despite the recent debates, columns and letters to the editor, particularly in the Toronto papers, suggesting the provincial government should do away with local boards, I think we can proudly and emphatically say no: it is imperative that the public education system be served by accessible, and aware local trustees who were elected by their communities to be responsive to local issues and accountable to their constituents.

Trustees bring understanding and knowledge of the communities and the families they represent to the decision making table. Trustees set policies, based on the needs of their local communities. What is needed in Toronto or Dryden, may not be the best solution for Niagara.

Trustees provide a vital connection between families and the school board. Trustees help families access appropriate personnel when support is needed. We help decipher what is often considered “eduspeak” by many. We advocate on behalf of their community’s students and their community’s schools. As Bruce Shepard from Memorial University states, we are “the connecting piece and have huge value, if we value democracy.”

And the list goes on....The education of our children is, I believe, the most important thing that we, as a civilized society, do. The education of our children is simply much too important to be left solely to the discretion of centralized provincial bureaucrats. Our children are much too important for that.

And so, my fellow trustees, we begin our work in 2015, in Niagara, from the enviable position of knowing that the DSBN is built on a strong foundation, that our house is in order. The issues of the past term will be replaced by new and as yet unknown concerns during the next four years, yet, we can move forward in confidence knowing that we have in place the policies, procedures and outstanding personnel at the DSBN who will support our work.

We can be confident that we have behind us an outstanding staff whose first priority, like our own, is to provide our students with the best possible educational opportunities anywhere, ensuring that everyone at the DSBN achieves success together.

MOTION

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

“That the Board do recess.”

CARRIED

The Board recessed at 6:20 p.m.

E. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

**Moved by Diane Chase
Seconded by Helga Campbell**

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

CARRIED

The Board entered Committee of the Whole (Private Session) at 6:25 p.m.

**Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Kevin Maves**

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:20 p.m. following a brief break which commenced at 7:12 p.m.

F. REFLECTIVE READING

Student Trustee Vinay Sharma opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

G. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi**

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 2, 2014, be confirmed as submitted.”

and

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 2, 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 Dale Robinson
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

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

CARRIED

H. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director’s Report and Recognition

(a) Recognition of Fran Cerminara, Administrative Assistant, Eden High School, and Parent Involvement Committee Member

Director Hoshizaki recognized Fran Cerminara for her service to the Board as an integral part of the Eden staff, and in particular for her dedication for the past eight years as a valued member of the DSNB Parent Involvement Committee as the CUPE Representative. Director Hoshizaki also recognized Ms. Cerminara for her extensive involvement with the annual PIC Conference.

Director Hoshizaki presented Ms. Cerminara with a token of the Board's appreciation for her service to the Board and students.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director's Report and Recognition****(b) Director's Update to Trustees****i. The Spirit of Giving Over the Holiday Season**

Congratulations to Grade 9 Governor Simcoe student, Maddie Kretz, for shaving her long, beautiful hair this past December and donating all of it to *Wigs For Kids*. This is just one example of how students and staff across the District School Board of Niagara demonstrated the true spirit of giving during the holiday season.

ii. DSBN Initiatives Highlighted by IBM Canada

The District School Board of Niagara was highlighted twice in IBM Canada's Fall/Winter 2014 Newsletter. The Newsletter highlighted the work the DSNB has been doing to transform our libraries into Learning Commons as the hub of learning for every school. The Newsletter also highlighted the partnership between IBM and the Board designed to excite girls about Science and Technology.

iii. Student Math Learning Team

Congratulations to a group of twelve Grade 8 girls at the DSNB Academy for starting their own Math Learning Team. The Team meets during Nutrition Breaks twice a week to talk about Math, do problem solving together, and support each other's learning.

iv. The Board viewed photos of Kindergarten students from Memoiral P. S. constructing their own Harriet Tubman P.S.

Trustee Chase commended Ms. Cerminara for her dedication on the Parent Involvement Committee, and for her role in organizing the annual PIC Conference.

I. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no Student Achievement Reports.

J. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

K. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

L. OLD BUSINESS

1. ACCOUNTS

Moved by Diane Chase
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers from 1474 to 1485 for the month of November 2014, totalling \$16,678,749.66, be received.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Veld clarified for Trustee Helga Campbell that expenditures under “Other” include many items not specifically listed, including reimbursements for expenses such as conference fees, mileage claims, etc. Detailed information is available by meeting with Superintendent Veld.

2. REPORT OF THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi

“That the report of the Policy Advisory Committee dated November 27, 2014, be received;” and

“That Policy D-06: Electronic Learning be approved with modifications and adopted;” and

“That Policy D-03: Approval and Conduct of Research be approved as received and adopted;” and

“That Policy C-03: Service Accessibility Standards for Ontarians with Disabilities be approved as received and adopted;” and

“That Policy E-06: Criminal Record Check for New and Existing Employees be approved with modifications and adopted;” and

“That Policy E-09: Human Rights be approved with modifications and adopted;” and

“That Policy A-09: Naming/Renaming of Schools be deferred to the February 17, 2015, Policy Advisory Committee meeting.”

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:

2. REPORT OF THE POLICY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Trustee Keddy Scott presented an overview of the report and the recommended motions.

3. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Kevin Maves**

“That the reports of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated December 3, 2014, and December 9, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Keddy Scott reported that 13 cases were reviewed at the December 3rd meeting and 20 cases were reviewed at the December 9th meeting and strategies were discussed and recommended for the students' success. Trustee Keddy Scott commended the members of the Committee for their dedication to addressing the needs of students.

4. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

**Moved by Dale Robinson
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated December 3, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

Vice-Chair Robinson provided highlights of the meeting which took place at Jeanne Sauvé Public School. Presentations / updates included a presentation by Lauren McNamara from Brock University on the Niagara Recess Project. Information was also presented on “My Class Needs” a charitable arm of Curriculum Services Canada.

Trustee Chase commended the Parent Involvement Committee for the work they do to engage parents.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:

5. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

Moved by Nick Molkoski

Seconded by Vinay Sharma

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated December 3, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Sharma provided highlights of the meeting, which included updates from Student Trustees on a variety of issues and a presentation on OSAID.

Student Trustee Molkoski added that Student Senators met on January 7th at the Adobe Connect Conference, and that there is an upcoming Ontario Student Trustees' Association Conference where discussion will include Mental Health initiatives across the Province.

In response to Trustee Keddy Scott's request for an update on a Mental Health survey, Superintendent Dickson stated that the Student Trustee Senate can include questions on mental health issues on the School Climate Survey.

6. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moved by Dave Schaubel

Seconded by Linda Crouch

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated December 9, 2014, be received;” and

“That the Program and Planning Committee receive the report of the Educational Research Committee of November 12, 2014;” and

“That the Board receive the Secondary School Program Review for the Current Year 2014-2015;” and

“That the Board receive the Secondary School Program Review for the Subsequent Year 2015-2016;” and

“That the Board receives the French as a Second Language report.”

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel provided a summary and highlights of the report and the recommended motions. Trustee Schaubel commended the Board and staff for the work being done in the French as a Second Language program.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**6. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Superintendent Dickson explained for Trustee Helga Campbell that where Grade 4 French as a Second Language students are in a Grade 3-4 split class, the Grade 3 students receive the Grade 3 Curriculum in the classroom, or they are dispersed to another Grade 3 classroom for instruction by another teacher. The Grade 3 students are not part of the Grade 4 French instruction as the Grade 3 Curriculum is outlined by the Ministry of Education with expectations as to what the Grade 3 students will be taught.

7. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Diane Chase

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated December 11, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Ajandi provided a summary and highlights of the report which included a presentation by Superintendent Paula MacKinnon on the Board's Alternative Pathways Programs which use creative ways to support students in the programs. Trustee Ajandi commended the level of community involvement and expertise represented on the Committee.

M. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of and by Board members.

N. NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

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

There were no Staff Reports.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**2. Trustee Information Session**

There was no Trustee Information Session. Upcoming Trustee Information scheduled sessions include:

January 27 Media and Public Relations
 Transportation

February 10 Technology in the DSBN
 Education Foundation of Niagara

3. Correspondence and Communication

There was no Correspondence and Communication.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Maves reported that ground breaking for the A.N. Myer Secondary School outdoor athletic complex has taken place. Trustee Maves recognized Domenic Dilalla of Centennial Construction for his role in this project.

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

There was no report.

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

6. Future Meetings

The calendars of January and February 2015 meetings were provided and amended as follows.

January 21 Finance Committee cancelled and rescheduled to January 27th at 4:45 p.m.

February 18 Reminder of the Woodend Winter Gala Fundraiser at the Hilton Fallsview Hotel

March 31 Reminder of the Policy Advisory Committee meeting.

P. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:55 p.m.

SUE BARNETT, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer