



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

March 24, 2015

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, Diane Chase, Linda Crouch, Jonathan Fast, Cheryl Keddy Scott, Kevin Maves, Dave Schaubel

Student Trustees: Nick Molkoski and Vinay Sharma

Regrets: Trustee Lora Campbell

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

1. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent

Chair Barnett called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:10 p.m. and noted the absence of Trustee Lora Campbell.

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 Linda Crouch**

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

CARRIED

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

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:00 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Diane Chase opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy Scott**

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

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

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 24, 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 Diane Chase
Seconded by Linda Crouch

“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 Don Romano, Lunchroom Supervisor – Ross Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Mr. Romano for his 5 years of service to the Board as a Lunchroom Supervisor at Ross Public School where he is described as a conscientious and trusted worker and a selfless individual. In addition to his commitment and dedication to his role as a Lunchroom Supervisor, Mr. Romano has diligently led the charge when it came to the school’s major fundraising event, “Rockin’ for Ross 5.” Mr. Romano’s involvement was instrumental in the school receiving more than \$5,000 in proceeds which went to supporting the Breakfast and Technology Programs. Mr. Romano also supports students as a Volunteer Coach for the Intermediate Football Team, attends graduation ceremonies and plays accompaniment for the students while they sang in their school talent show. Mr. Romano is known for his genuine enthusiasm, care and concern for the students which makes him a valuable asset to the school community.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Don Romano, Lunchroom Supervisor – Ross Public School**

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

(b) Recognition of Paulette Hayward, Administrative Assistant - DSBN Academy

Director Hoshizaki recognized Paulette Hayward for her 7 years of service to the Board as a school Administrative Assistant, during which time she has had a great impact on staff, parents and students in her own school and across the Board. Ms. Hayward’s passion for her job and her belief that every student has potential and the ability to succeed drives her to regularly go over and above through her participation in field trips, recruiting school Volunteers, finding donations for school programs, assisting with the school’s Breakfast Program and Lunch Program, acting as a Volunteer Driver, and attending evening events such as the PIC Conference and Open Houses as a spokesperson for the school, to name a few. Ms. Hayward also demonstrates her organizational skills and energy by planning and overseeing the Academy’s extensive after-school Encore Program, and through her involvement as a member of the Education Foundation of Niagara’s Prom Project Committee. Ms. Hayward is a very welcoming face at the DSBN Academy where she is known for making staff, parents and students feel valued, listened to and loved, and for giving whatever she has to make a difference in students’ lives.

Director Hoshizaki presented Paulette Hayward with a token of the Board’s appreciation for her extraordinary contributions to students.

(c) Director’s Update to Trustees**i. DSBN Schools Succeed at DECA Provincials**

Recently, over 60 DSBN students participated in the Ontario DECA (*Distributive Education Clubs of America*) Provincial competition on February 5-7 in Toronto in a variety of business categories. Approximately 6,000 students entered the Ontario competition, with six DSBN students qualifying for the DECA International competition in their respective categories. Congratulations to the following students who will be representing DECA Canada and the DSBN at the DECA International Career Development Conference (ICDC) in late April in Orlando, competing against 25,000 students from around the world.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(c) Director’s Update to Trustees****i. DSBN Schools Succeed at DECA Provincials**

Harroop Ahuja and Kunj Patel, Grade 10 students from Westlane Secondary School who placed 6th overall in their Entrepreneurship Promotion Project;

Diana Jokic, Sabreena Lawal and Joshua Brehaut from A.N. Myer Secondary School who placed in the Community Service Project;

Diana Chan from A.N. Myer Secondary School who qualified in the stock market simulation game.

Further information on DECA is available at www.decau.ca/.

ii. DSBN Schools Receive 32 of 38 Honours at the 2015 Niagara Regional Sears Drama Festival

The 2015 Niagara Regional Sears Drama Festival saw 14 performances including many from DSBN. As part of the 69th annual Sears Drama Festival, it continued a long history of showcasing and celebrating student theatre in Ontario. Adjudicating the performances was the recently appointed Artistic Director of Carousel Players, Jessica Carmichael. A newcomer to the Niagara Region, she was gracious in offering her expertise and guidance to the casts and crews of each show in the festival.

Congratulations to the following DSBN recipients of awards and honours at the recent 2015 Niagara Regional Sears Drama Festival Awards Banquet.

Peltoma Award for Sears Outstanding Production

- **Antigone**, Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School
- **Invisible Wounds**, Stamford Collegiate
- **We All Fall Down**, St. Catharines Collegiate

Best Canadian Play

- **We All Fall Down** by Ms. Brenna McAllister, St. Catharines Collegiate

Brock University Award for Best Experimental Play

- **The Ocean Mother**, collectively created by Mr. Javier Soyka and Grimsby Secondary School students

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(c) Director’s Update to Trustees****ii. DSBN Schools Receive 32 of 38 Honours at the 2015 Niagara Regional Sears Drama Festival**The Shaw Festival Award for Most Promising Student

- **Sarah MacDonald** for her work in directing, sound, costume, and set for *Antigone*, Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School

Mac Dodge Award for Best Student-Directed Play

- **Amelia Trimble** for her direction of *Censorbleep*, Beamsville District Secondary School

The Novelty Fabrics Award for Best Visuals

- **The Ocean Mother**, collectively created by Mr. Javier Soyka and Grimsby Secondary School students

The OSSTF Award for Best Play: Social Issues

- **Invisible Wounds**, collectively created by Stamford Collegiate’s Drama Students

The Rita Steeve Award for Best Stage Crew

- **Hamlet, Zombie Killer of Denmark**, Welland Centennial Secondary School

The Joseph Veyda Award, the Carousel Players Award, and the Sears Stage Management Award

- **Juliette Nedoborski**, stage manager of *The Ocean Mother*, Grimsby Secondary School

The Good Egg Award for Cast Congeniality and Enthusiasm

- **A.N. Myer Secondary School** for *Showdown at Sand Valley*

Sears Awards of Excellence:Outstanding Dramatic Acting

- **Fox Chamberland** as Dodge in *We All Fall Down*, St. Catharines Collegiate
- **Zoe Perchaluk** as Ismene/Tiresias/Chorus in *Antigone*, Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School

Outstanding Comedic Acting

- **Sebastian Voth** as Laertes in *Hamlet, Zombie Killer of Denmark*, Welland Centennial Secondary School
- **Lily Ayres** as Queen Gertrude in *Hamlet, Zombie Killer of Denmark*, Welland Centennial Secondary School

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(c) Director’s Update to Trustees****ii. DSBN Schools Receive 32 of 38 Honours at the 2015 Niagara Regional Sears Drama Festival**Outstanding Innovation in Storytelling Ensemble Work

- **Invisible Wounds**, Stamford Collegiate

Outstanding Innovation in Contemporary Methods with Chorus Work

- **Antigone**, Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School

Outstanding Confessional Relationship with the Audience

- **The Most Massive Woman Wins**, Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School

Outstanding Inspired Dramaturgy from an Original Source

- **Invisible Wounds**, Stamford Collegiate

Outstanding Achievement in Costume Design

- **Amanda Naylor** for *The Long Goodbye*, Laura Secord Secondary School

Outstanding Achievement in Make-Up Design

- **Kyla Della Gatta** for *Hamlet, Zombie Killer of Denmark*, Welland Centennial Secondary School

Outstanding Achievement in Original Score

- **Sophie Chouinard** for *The Ocean Mother*, Grimsby Secondary School

Sears Ontario District Awards of Merit:Notable Dramatic Acting

- **James Fraser** as Sammy in *We All Fall Down*, St. Catharines Collegiate
- **The Ensemble** of *Invisible Wounds*, Stamford Collegiate

Notable Comedic Acting

- **Taylor Peters** as Ophelia in *Hamlet, Zombie Killer of Denmark*, Welland Centennial Secondary School

Notable Classical Text Work

- **Austin Wheeler** as Hamlet in *Hamlet, Zombie Killer of Denmark*, Welland Centennial Secondary School

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(c) Director’s Update to Trustees****ii. DSBN Schools Receive 32 of 38 Honours at the 2015 Niagara Regional Sears Drama Festival****Notable Aged Character Work**

- **Caitlyn Haynes** as Mrs. McAllister in *Showdown at Sand Valley*, A. N. Myer Secondary School

Notable Sustained Character Work

- **Karlie Haining** as Tandy in *Censorbleep*, Beamsville District Secondary School

Notable Achievement in Chorus Work

- **The Most Massive Woman Wins**, Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School

Notable Achievement in Collaboration

- **Austin Wheeler** and **Tim Campbell** for *Health Class*, Welland Centennial Secondary School

Notable Achievement in Dramaturgical Research

- **The Long Goodbye**, Laura Secord Secondary School

The three recipients of the Peltoma Award for Outstanding Productions will perform at the Regional Competition in Windsor, Ontario, taking place the week of April 7 to 11th.

iii. Experiential and Technological Education Updates

- (a) Niagara College held their annual Secondary School Cook Off on Tuesday, March 3 at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus. Congratulations to all our students who participated in the challenges!

Individual Baking Challenges

- First Place – Fort Erie Secondary School
- Second Place – Stamford Collegiate
- Third Place – Eastdale Secondary School

Team Culinary

- First Place – Fort Erie Secondary School

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(c) Director’s Update to Trustees****iii. Experiential and Technological Education Updates**

- (b) Recently, Governor Simcoe Secondary School, Specialist High Skills Major – Simbotics, became the highest scoring team, winning the Greater Toronto Regional FIRST Robotics Competition held at Ryerson University. This now gives Simcoe a ticket to the WORLD Championships in St Louis.

This comes after the previous weekends Provincial Championship win with VEX robotics - now both Governor Simcoe and Eden have qualified for the WORLD Championship in Vex Robotics which is being held at Louisville Kentucky!

- (c) Last month, over 3,000 students experienced the thrill of testing their skills at the numerous Technological Skills Challenges taking place across the DSBN. We look forward to the upcoming 13th Annual Technological Skills Celebration on April 8, 2015, where we will celebrate over 100 DSBN Technological Skills Champions - with over 30 GOLD Medal winners going on to compete at a Provincial Level at Skills Canada - Ontario to represent DSBN.

Congratulations to all our students who participated in the challenges!

Trustee Helga Campbell requested the names of teachers involved in the award winning competitions, and she commented on the importance of recognizing staff individually for their commitment and dedication to students. Director Hoshizaki added that the Board has various system level initiatives for recognizing staff in addition to schools recognizing them individually. Director Hoshizaki added that there has been some discussion on enhancing the Board’s recognition initiatives.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Barnett and Vice-Chair Robinson thanked Don Romano and Paulette Hayward for their dedication and for making a difference in the lives of students every day.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**2. Educational Showcase****(a) Winger Public School Orff Band**

Superintendent Hahn introduced the showcase which highlighted the Winger Public School Orff Band.

Principal Burns explained that the Orff method of music was started by Carl Orff who believed that music was intrinsic in all students. Principal Burns recognized the Band members for their dedication and he thanked Teacher Kelly Morgan-Rauh for her dedication and for making the program available to interested students. Principal Burns also thanked the Education Foundation of Niagara for their assistance to purchase the costly instruments.

The students performed three numbers for the Board.

Chair Barnett recognized the donation to the Education Foundation of Niagara from the Carol Leppert Music Fund which will support music programs at Winger and Steele Street Public Schools.

Principal Burns explained for Trustee Helga Campbell that ORFF is an international based program which requires significant training by teachers. The costly instruments come from Germany.

Trustee Chase commended the students on their performance.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Barnett thanked the students for sharing their talents.

Information on the ORFF Program is available at www.orffcanada.ca.

(b) Grimsby Secondary School – NRP Film Fest Winners

Superintendent McGregor introduced the showcase which recognized the Grimsby Secondary School Niagara Regional Police Film Fest winners. On February 26, 2015, Niagara students came together for the Second Annual NRP Film Festival which addressed the issue of Districted Driving. The event was held at the Landmark Cinemas in St. Catharines.

Teacher Chad Whittington thanked the Niagara Regional Police Service, the District School Board of Niagara, Landmark Cinemas, and CHCH Television for promoting and supporting this event.

Mr. Whittington introduced the Grade 12 team members of the winning video, Gavan Wilson, Jake Burgess and Melissa Collins.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**2. Educational Showcase****(b) Grimsby Secondary School – NRP Film Fest Winners**

The Board viewed the students' winning video. The students explained how they became involved in the project and how they developed and produced the video. Gavan, Jake and Melissa expressed their appreciation to the Niagara Regional Police Service, the District School Board of Niagara, Landmark Cinemas, and CHCH Television for promoting and supporting this event. The students also thanked Tallman Funeral Home for making their facility available, and Mr. Whittington for his support.

Trustee Keddy Scott and Vice-Chair Robinson thanked Mr. Whittington and the students for delivering such a powerful message.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Barnett commended Mr. Whittington and the students for producing the award winning video.

Film Fest videos can be viewed at www.niagarapolice.ca.

(c) Brock University – Niagara Principal's Scholarship

Superintendent Courtois introduced the showcase which highlighted Brock University's Niagara Principal's Scholarship.

Rico Natale, Brock University's Director, Student Awards and Financial Aid, recognized Brock University's strong community partnership with the District School Board of Niagara in benefit of students. Mr. Natale explained that the Brock University Niagara Principal's Scholarship is an initiative which offers a \$2,500 award to Niagara students graduating from high school and who plan to attend university. Mr. Natale added that the initiative hopes to encourage students to stay in the Niagara Region in the future. Mr. Natale explained the eligibility criteria and the application and nomination process for this new scholarship. Application packages are available in schools and the deadline for submitting the student applications to the school Principal is March 31, 2015.

Trustee Chase thanked Brock University for this initiative and for its commitment to keeping youth in Niagara.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Barnett thanked Mr. Natale for the presentation.

Further information on the Niagara Principal's Scholarship is available at <http://discover.brocku.ca/awards/niagara-principals-scholarship/>.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS**1. Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement 2014-2015 Mid-Year Report**

Director Hoshizaki introduced the Report noting that the Board Improvement Plan is an initiative of the Board's Strategic Plan and consists of Academic goals and Administrative goals.

Superintendents Dickson and McGregor provided an update of the 2014-2015 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement which included a mid-year overview of elementary and secondary school initiatives in the areas of System, Literacy, Mathematics/Numeracy, and Credit Accumulation goals.

Superintendents Dickson and McGregor led the Trustees through the System and Academic goals and highlighted strategies which were implemented to support and achieve student success. Superintendents Dickson and McGregor commended all the dedicated staff who have contributed to enhancing student success and achieving the goals set out in the Board Improvement Plan.

Director Hoshizaki added that the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement reflects the Board's core focus on student learning and achievement and that the 2014-2015 Board Improvement Plan sets out an enhanced focus on Mathematics and Literacy.

Director Hoshizaki provided an update and highlights of the goals, initiatives and strategies set out in the Administrative Section of the Board Improvement Plan.

The final report on the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement 2014-2015 will be brought forward in the Fall.

Stacy Veld, Superintendent of Business Services, explained for Trustee Helga Campbell that the use of proceeds of disposition of school Board property must be approved by the Ministry of Education. Proceeds from the sale of school Board property are held in Capital Reserves pending approval from the Ministry.

The Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement 2014-2015 is available at www.dsb.org.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers from 1509 to 1522 for the month of February 2015, totalling \$17,451,612.82 be received.”

CARRIED

2. 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 March 3, 2015, be received;” and

“That the Program and Planning Committee receive the report of the Educational Research Committee of February 19, 2015;” and

“That the report of the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars 2015-2016 be received and approved for submission to the Ministry of Education after April 28th, 2015.”

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel provided a summary of the report and discussion on the recommended motions. Trustee Schaubel added that future discussion will take place on questions raised regarding programs and supports at Port Colborne High School.

In response to Trustee Helga Campbell’s question of how the Board will benefit from the “Parent Knowledge and Engagement Study” research project, Superintendent MacKinnon explained that the project consists of a survey of parents designed to assess parent knowledge of child development issues. Board staff have requested the survey results for analysis and potential development of strategies to address child development issues.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**3. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE**

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated March 6, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Keddy Scott reported that 16 cases were reviewed and strategies were developed for the students' success. Trustee Keddy Scott commended the Committee members for their ongoing dedicated commitment to students.

4. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated March 23, 2015, be received and the recommendations adopted.”

CARRIED

Trustee Maves provided a summary of discussion and highlights of the report which included the following recommendations.

Short-Term Financing of Ministry Funded Capital Projects

“That Borrowing Resolution 2015-01, authorizing the Board to borrow up to \$11,250,000 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects pursuant to the provisions of section 243(1) of the Education Act, be approved.”

Excess Workers' Compensation Insurance

“That the Workers' Compensation Excess Loss Insurance coverages be revised to:

- a) **Increase the deductible amount from \$300,000 to \$500,000 under the Workers' Compensation Assistance Programme; and**
- b) **Increase the insurance coverage amount with Chubb Insurance from \$10,000,000 to \$20,000,000.”**

Chair Maves added that the Committee also received a verbal update on the 2015-2016 Budget Process.

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 “Special Education – Part 2” presented by Superintendent Dickson.

3. Correspondence and Communication

- (a) Correspondence from the Minister of Canadian Heritage and Official Languages re: Remembrance Day

Chair Barnett noted that the correspondence is in response to the Board’s letter of November 14, 2014.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Student Trustee Sharma reported that applications for Student Trustees 2015-2016 are due April 6th. Student Trustee Sharma asked that the Board encourage student involvement.
- (b) Trustee Helga Campbell reported that she attended Heart Niagara’s recent fundraiser where Heart Niagara was presented with \$1 million from the John and Lillian Clark Fund. Trustee Campbell added that funds from this donation will also support the Healthy Heart Schools Program. More information on Heart Niagara is available at www.heartniagara.com/.
- (c) Trustee Helga Campbell reported that she attended the recent Mental Health Forum at Brock University where Mary Wiley, Executive Director of Niagara Connects, presented an overview of the implementation of the Mental Health & Addictions Charter for Niagara and how Brock University and Niagara College are engaging students and instructors to help students work through their difficulties. Trustee Campbell added that the development of the Mental Health & Addictions Charter for Niagara is the

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

- (c) first of its kind in Canada. More information on the Mental Health & Addictions Charter for Niagara is available from Dr. Linders, the Board's Chief Psychologist, or online at www.niagaraconnects.ca.
- (d) Trustee Ajandi gave a reminder of the March 31st keynote address by Dr. Jean Clinton at Grimsby Secondary School on the issue of brain changes in the teenage years.
- (e) Trustee Ajandi reported that she was invited to attend Westdale Public School's recent musical production of "Dig It." Trustee Ajandi commended the school on the success of the production and she congratulated the administration, teaching staff, and students who participated in this event.
- (f) Trustee Ajandi thanked Principal Willms at Woodland Public School for inviting her to adjudicate the school's Public Speaking competition last month. Trustee Ajandi recognized the top three Junior students, Jordan, Payton, and Abby; and the top three Intermediate students, Molly, Jordan, and Cara.
- (g) Trustee Ajandi reported that she visited Sir Winston Churchill's TV and Broadcasting class on March 10th to observe all of the hard work and dedication that goes into this class. Trustee Ajandi thanked Principal Purcer, the Technology Program Leader, Lisa Pomeroy (who is a creative student-focused leader at the school), and the students for inviting her. A live stream of the students' daily production is available on the school's website at <https://sirwinston.dsbni.org/>.
- (h) Trustee Ajandi reported that she attended an incredible student art exhibit at Rodman Hall Art Centre on March 6th in recognition of International Women's Day, and to celebrate the passion and talent of students in our schools. The exhibit was titled "A Journey to Healing and Empowerment - Reach out to end Abuse." Trustee Ajandi thanked Superintendent MacKinnon, the organizers of this event, and the schools and students for their participation in this exhibit.
- (i) Trustee Ajandi commented on Dr. Kate Cassidy's Barriers to Post-Secondary Education Report – from Brock University's Youth University. Trustee Ajandi summarized several recommendations which came out of the report to support students in their pursuit of post secondary education. Trustee Ajandi added that the establishment and continued support of the DSBN Academy, which among many elements, addresses many of the recommendations in the report and she commended the District School Board of Niagara for being a leader and providing this educational opportunity for Niagara's families. Information on Dr. Cassidy's report is available at www.brocku.ca/brocknews (search Cassidy).

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

- (j) Chair Barnett reported that she and Trustee Schaubel attended the recent Specialist High Skills Major competitions and she commended everyone for their participation.
- (k) Chair Barnett reported that Welland Centennial Secondary School recently hosted the DSNB Dance Showcase 2015 with over 300 students taking part in the celebration of Dance.
- (l) Chair Barnett reported that a number of school clubs are currently fundraising to attend the upcoming Students Against Impaired Driving conference. Chair Barnett encouraged support for the students' fundraising campaign.
- (m) Chair Barnett reported that she attended a recent Chamber of Commerce luncheon and that the Minister of Finance named the District School Board of Niagara as a gold star School Board for its wise stewardship of resources.
- (n) Chair Barnett reported that she and Trustees Ajandi and Chase attended the recent Gillian's Place Breakfast which brought awareness to the issue of violence against women.
- (o) Chair Barnett gave a reminder that April 2nd is National Autism Day.
- (p) Trustee Keddy Scott recently attended Twenty Valley Public School's production of "Shrek." Trustee Keddy Scott commended the school for an incredible job and she thanked the Grimsby News for their coverage of the event.
- (q) Trustee Keddy Scott commended the Beamsville Bucs for taking top Wrestling boys and girls combined titles at the recent Niagara Region High School Athletic Association and Junior SOSSA tournaments. Trustee Keddy Scott recognized seniors Nikki and Rachael who dominated their weight class at the OFSAA championships.
- (r) Trustee Keddy Scott congratulated Grimsby Secondary School students Gavan Wilson, Jake Burgess and Melissa Collins on their award winning video at the recent Niagara Regional Police Film Fest.

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

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

Trustee Ajandi gave a reminder of the June Annual General Meeting at Blue Mountain in Collingwood. Trustee Ajandi added that at the AGM, OPSBA members will determine priorities and directions for the coming year, elect Officers and plan for the future. This event also includes a comprehensive professional development program for Trustees.

Trustee Ajandi also gave a reminder of The Canadian School Boards' Association conference in Saskatoon being held July 2-4. The conference includes the National Trustee Gathering on Aboriginal Education which all Trustees are invited to attend.

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

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of April 2015 meetings was provided.

Chair Barnett gave a reminder of the Saturday, April 11th Prom Project sponsored by the Education Foundation of Niagara.

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

SUE BARNETT, Chair

**WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer**