



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

**BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE**

**May 26, 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, Lora Campbell, Linda Crouch, Jonathan Fast, Cheryl Keddy Scott, Kevin Maves, Dave Schaubel (arrived at 6:20 p.m.)

**Student Trustees:** Nick Molkoski and Vinay Sharma

**Regrets:** Trustee Diane Chase

**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 6:57 p.m. Chair Barnett noted the absence of Trustee Chase.

Chair Barnett welcomed students, staff and parents from Woodland, Diamond Trail, Carleton, Martha Cullimore, Prince Philip, Dalewood, and Park Public Schools who were in the gallery.

**COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued:**

2. **Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no Declarations of Conflict of Interest.

**B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)**

Moved by Kevin Maves  
Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi

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

**CARRIED**

Moved by Kevin Maves  
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

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

**CARRIED**

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:29 p.m.

**C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”**

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

The Board remained standing for a moment of silence in honour of Jackie Harper, Designated Early Childhood Educator at Port Weller Public School, who recently passed away.

**D. REFLECTIVE READING**

Trustee Dave Schaubel opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

**E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott  
Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

**CARRIED**

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

**Moved by Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

**“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated May 12, 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 Dale Robinson  
Seconded by Linda Crouch**

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

**CARRIED**

Chair Barnett reported that in Committee of the Whole the Board accepted the retirement of Elementary Principal Shonda Smith, effective June 30, 2015. On behalf of the Board, Chair Barnett commended Principal Smith for her dedication to public education and wished her well in her retirement.

**F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS****1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Teachers Michelle Vandermeer, Woodland Public School; Wendy Soto, Diamond Trail Public School; and Karen Cuttriss, Carleton Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Michelle Vandermeer for her 20 years of dedicated service to the Board, currently as a Grades 3-6 Mathematics Teacher at Woodland Public School.

Director Hoshizaki recognized Wendy Soto for her 21 years of dedicated service to the Board, currently as a Grade 7 Homeroom Teacher at Diamond Trail Public School.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Teachers Michelle Vandermeer, Woodland Public School; Wendy Soto, Diamond Trail Public School; and Karen Cuttriss, Carleton Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Karen Cuttriss for her 9 years of dedicated service to the Board, currently as a Grades 1-2 Teacher at Carleton Public School.

Director Hoshizaki commended Michelle Vandermeer, Wendy Soto, and Karen Cuttriss for their commitment to building their knowledge of Mathematics and understanding of quality Mathematics instruction through their participation in ongoing professional development and for enhancing student learning and student achievement through their “Mathematics journey.” Director Hoshizaki also commended the teachers for taking leadership roles in their schools, working with fellow staff members and Administration to share resources and support others on their own “Mathematics journey.”

Director Hoshizaki presented Michelle Vandermeer, Wendy Soto, and Karen Cuttriss with a token of the Board’s appreciation for their extraordinary contributions to students.

**(b) Recognition of Teachers Cathie Niven and Sarah Semerjian, Martha Cullimore Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Cathie Niven for her many years of dedicated service to the Board, currently as a Teacher at Martha Cullimore Public School for more than 10 years.

Director Hoshizaki recognized Sarah Semerjian for her many years of dedicated service to the Board, currently as a Teacher at Martha Cullimore Public School.

Director Hoshizaki commended Cathie Niven and Sarah Semerjian for their commitment to supporting students to achieve their highest potential through their working relationship which exemplifies a professional learning community.

Director Hoshizaki presented Cathie Niven and Sarah Semerjian with a token of the Board’s appreciation for their extraordinary contributions to students.

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**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(c) Director’s Update to Trustees****i. Microsoft Certification for DSBN Students**

Congratulations to Rebecka Gardner and Davin Boisvert, both from A.N. Myer Secondary School, for being the first two DSBN students to receive Microsoft certification!

Rebecka passed a Microsoft IT exam and successfully completed the requirements to be recognized as a Microsoft Office Specialist for Office Excel 2013. Davin successfully completed his exam and has earned certification as a Microsoft MTA Security Fundamentals Specialist.

By earning Certification, both Rebecka and Davin have taken the first step towards building a career in technology and have demonstrated their technical knowledge and enhanced their technical credibility.

**ii. Celebrating Their First Year!**

In celebration of their first school year, Jeanne Sauvé Public School has created their very own lip dub. Congratulations to all staff and students for producing an amazing and collaborative video!

To view, go to Jeanne Sauvé’s website and click on the lip dub file at <http://jeannesauve.dsbn.org/>.

**iii. 2015 Graduate Art Show**

On May 12<sup>th</sup>, nearly 100 guests gathered at the Education Centre for the successful opening of the 2015 Graduate Art Show to celebrate the works of our senior Visual Arts students from across the Niagara Region. The exhibit is on display until June 4.

Special thanks to Jerome Black, Consultant – Curriculum, for organizing the event.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(c) Director’s Update to Trustees****iv. Beyond Teaching Awards**

This year’s OSSTF District 22’s “Beyond Teaching Awards” recognizes the positive impact that OSSTF members have on our natural and ecological environment. OSSTF members nominated colleagues who they feel make our world a better place for this and future generations.

Congratulations to the 2014-2015 recipients Eli Serbina of Stamford Collegiate, Sharon Keller of EL Crossley Secondary School, Joanne Spence of Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School, and Mike Voelkner of St. Catharines Collegiate for their outstanding work in environmental initiatives over many years within their schools and in their school communities.

**v. Ontario Technology Skills Challenges**

At the recent Ontario Technology Skills Challenges held in Kitchener on May 4 - 6, 2015, 26 secondary students from the DSBN competed and came home with 6 medals in the Provincial competitions.

Congratulations to:

Josh Hutchinson, Westlane Secondary School, Bronze medal in Refrigeration;

Grace Farinacci, Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School, Silver medal for Graphic Design Presentation;

Jason Haywood, Fort Erie Secondary School, Silver medal for Photography;

Joann Vu, Stamford Collegiate, Silver medal for Hairstyling;

Katrina Waters, Fort Erie Secondary School, Gold medal for Baking;

Eli Schonewille, Port Colborne High School, Gold medal winner for Welding (a repeat of his Gold medal win last year).

Good luck to Katrina Waters and Eli Schoewille at the National Technology Skills competition in Saskatoon May 26-30.

Congratulations to all the students who participated in this year's Skills Challenges.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(c) Director’s Update to Trustees****vi. STEM Wars and STEM Career Fair**

DSBN’s first ever STEM Wars took place in May with students competing for summer jobs through the Job Gym in the fields of Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics (STEM). This initiative, funded through an Experiential Learning Opportunities grant, had 40 students in Grades 10 through 12 from 13 of our secondary schools apply for the opportunity to have a summer job in a STEM field.

On May 11th, a group of 16 candidates made excellent presentations on the STEM career field of their choice in front of a judging panel which included 4 Niagara STEM Employers, Job Gym, and DSBN staff.

On May 20th, the 8 successful candidates presented their potential careers alongside Niagara STEM Employers at a STEM Career Fair held at Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School. Approximately 85 students from 17 of our secondary schools attended this portion of the Career Fair.

Congratulations to the 8 STEM Wars winners who will meet with Job Gym staff to be placed in summer jobs in their chosen career area.

**vii. Musiccounts!**

Recently, the DSBN Academy hosted Ewan and Shamus Currie from the Juno Award winning band, The Sheepdogs, who performed some of their biggest hits and spoke to students about how important learning music can be for their education. The band was in St. Catharines to help celebrate grants given to the Academy and Westlane Secondary School to purchase new instruments.

Congratulations to both the Academy and Westlane on their successful funding applications and new instruments.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Barnett commended teachers throughout the Board who touch the lives of students and make a difference every day.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****2. Educational Showcases****(a) Park Public School “Me to We” Conference**

Superintendent Pisek introduced the presentation which showcased Park Public School’s recent *Me to We* “Grow the Change” Conference.

Superintendent Pisek added that under the collaborative leadership of Jennifer Daniels and Jen Bassegio, and with full participation by all staff, the school invited over 20 community partners, including Grimsby Secondary School Students, to attend and present how they contribute to the community – both locally and globally. Students in Grades 3-6 participated in these interactive and informative sessions throughout the day. Students in Grades K-2 used their creative talents to make cards, plant and paint flower pots and bake muffins to deliver to “Lincoln Park Senior Center” to celebrate Mother’s Day.

Thank you to the Education Foundation of Niagara for their key role in the event, not only for their financial support, but for Dara Goulet as one of the presenters.

Students Connor , Emma, Jakob, Olivia, Jaxen, and Levi shared their reflections on this very exciting event at Park School.

Trustee Keddy Scott commended the students for inspiring others to make a difference and for highlighting local issues.

**(b) E.I. McCulley Public School – Brainspace Project 2015**

Superintendent Reimer Friesen introduced the presentation which showcased E.I. McCulley’s “Brainspace Project 2015.”

Superintendent Reimer Friesen explained that in March, the publishers of Brainspace Magazine offered several DSBN schools the opportunity to engage in a challenge to use information in their exciting interactive magazine, as well as augmented reality technology, to develop a solution to a real life problem. The staff and students of 4 of our elementary schools rose to the challenge, and the team from E.I. McCulley Public School was declared the winner at this year’s recent CONNECT Conference. The winning team took home some fabulous prizes including a Kobo e-reader for the school, and refurbished laptops for each student.



**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****2. Educational Showcases****(b) E.I. McCulley Public School – Brainspace Project 2015**

Superintendent Reimer Friesen introduced Teachers Sonja Upton and Becci Magistrale, and students Dale, Rodi, Allan, and Sam who spoke about their challenge and exciting solution.

Teachers Sonja Upton and Becci Magistrale explained that the theme of the project was “Augmented Reality: Life in Space Challenge,” and the students’ challenge was to speculate and solve the challenges of living in space. Teachers assisted the students by providing a list of resource websites, and by refining the students’ thinking and reasoning. Ms. Upton commended the students for their creativity and commitment to the project and added that it was an honour to work with the students who took the initiative for their own learning. Ms. Upton and Ms. Magistrale added that the students were also challenged to communicate their learning in a brief article which will be featured in Brainspace Magazine.

Students Dale, Rodi, Allan, and Sam spoke about the challenges and solutions in developing and constructing pods which addressed the question, “How might the environment and our day to day physical needs be affected out in space?,” including looking for food, shelter and oxygen on Mars.

The Board viewed a short video of the students discussing their project, “EIM Utopia, The Future is Now.”

The students explained for Trustee Lora Campbell that they used internet sites, books, and a video as resources. Trustee Lora Campbell commended the students on their achievement.

Trustee Linda Crouch commended the students on their impressive level of research.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Barnett thanked the students and staff for the presentation.

**(c) Silver Birch Celebration**

Superintendent Dickson introduced the showcase which celebrated the recent Silver Birch Celebration of Literacy Conference where over 600 DSNB elementary students participated.

Superintendent Dickson recognized Teacher-Librarians Cathy Andres, Denise Falk, and Lynne Karagias who were instrumental in organizing the first annual Board-wide Silver Birch Conference in 2006.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****(c) Silver Birch Celebration**

Superintendent Dickson introduced Kim Salierno, Consultant: School Libraries and Educational Resources, K-12, who gave an update and overview of the 2015 Silver Birch Celebration of Literacy Conference held at Club Roma.

Ms. Salierno explained that the conference is the culminating event for Grades 5-6 students who have participated in the Ontario Library Association's Silver Birch Reading Program. The program aims to develop a life-long love of reading in students, promote and encourage Canadian literature, authors, and illustrators, and develop literacy skills. Each year, students are asked to read the nominated works in each category and then vote for the winners of the Silver Birch awards.

Ms. Salierno added that this year's event featured a fun blending of technology and books and included a "Speaker's Corner" style video chat booth for students to talk about their experiences at the Conference and what they've learned. Ms. Salierno commended the students in Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School's Specialist High Skills Major Program – Communications for facilitating the chat booth. New this year was the use of social media to promote the Conference and live tweeting of the events of the day (#dsbnsilverbirch)..

Ms. Salierno presented a video of students participating in the various activities and sharing their experiences at the Conference.

Ms. Salierno thanked authors Jonathan Auxier and Annaleise Carr for their participation at the Conference.

Ms. Salierno explained for Trustee Helga Campbell that students are eligible to attend the Conference by participating in extracurricular Book Clubs at their home school.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Barnett thanked the DSBN teaching staff for putting on a great Conference.

**G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS**

There was no report.

**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 Dave Schaubel

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1536 to 1554, for the month of April 2015, totalling \$18,170,893.03, be received.”

**CARRIED**

**2. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

Moved by Jennifer Ajandi  
Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated May 6, 2015, be received.”

**CARRIED**

Trustee Ajandi thanked Glendale Public School for hosting the meeting and she provided a verbal summary of the report.

**3. REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE**

Moved by Dale Robinson  
Seconded by Linda Crouch

“That the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated May 13, 2015, be received.”

**CARRIED**

Vice-Chair Robinson provided a verbal summary of the report and she commended the Committee members for their work. Vice-Chair Robinson invited Trustees to provide any input to Committee members.

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

**Moved by Jennifer Ajandi  
Seconded by Dale Robinson**

**“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated May 14, 2015, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Ajandi provided a verbal summary of the report. Trustee Ajandi thanked Dr. Lisa Linders, DSBN Chief Psychologist, and Bev Brooks, DSBN Speech and Language Pathologist, for their presentation on Assessment Practices.

**5. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE**

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

**“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated May 20, 2015, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Molkoski provided a verbal summary of the report. Student Trustee Molkoski recognized Shonesee Devereux, DSBN Teacher, for her presentation on the Board’s implementation of a school-based Mental Health and Well-Being Program which connects the Grade 9 Health and Physical Education Curriculum to Mental Health.

Student Trustee Molkoski added that he and Student Trustee Sharma attended the recent Ontario Student Trustees’ Association (OSTA) Conference where a variety of informative sessions were presented, including a Keynote address by Minister of Education, Liz Sandals.

Student Trustee Sharma provided a verbal summary and highlights of the second day of the Conference which included a Keynote address by Carl Baldauf, founding President of the OSTA, and former Student Trustee with the District School Board of Niagara.

Trustee Helga Campbell commended the work of the Ontario Student Trustees’ Association in promoting awareness and understanding of Mental Health issues. Trustee Helga Campbell also commended Student Trustees Molkoski and Sharma for their work and commitment to the Board as Student Trustees.

Further information on OSTA is available at [www.osta-aeco.org/](http://www.osta-aeco.org/).

**OLD BUSINESS – continued:****6. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Moved by Kevin Maves  
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated May 20, 2015, be received;” and

“That the low bid received from Serianni Construction Ltd., in the amount of \$410,000 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the New Entrance Project at Westlane Secondary School;” and

“That the low bid received from Manorcore Group, in the amount of \$507,000 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the New Elevator and Entrance Project at William H. Merritt Public School;” and

“That the low bid received from King Contractors, in the amount of \$679,921 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Library Renovations and Front Entrance Project at A.N. Myer Secondary School;” and

“That the low bid received from Bromac Construction, in the amount of \$801,457 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Classroom Addition Project at Crossroads Public School.”

**CARRIED**

Trustee Maves provided a verbal summary of the report and the recommended motions for capital projects. Trustee Maves added that the Committee received an update on the 2015-2016 Preliminary Revenue Budget.

Trustee Maves clarified for Trustee Fast that a large graveled area at A.N. Myer Secondary School is the site for construction of the future outdoor Basketball and Tennis courts which will be funded through private individuals.

**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**

There was no Trustee Information Session.

**3. Correspondence and Communication**

There was no correspondence and commu

**4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

- (a) Trustee Ajandi reported that she attended a recent exhibit which was presented in partnership with Brock University's Faculty of Education, the District School Board of Niagara, and the Niagara Falls History Museum. Trustee Ajandi commended all the students who participated in the exhibit.
- (b) Trustee Helga Campbell thanked Superintendent Courtois for facilitating her recent tour of Stamford Collegiate. Trustee Campbell commended the school for its creative, open and welcoming climate, and for the interesting projects being undertaken by staff.
- (c) Trustee Helga Campbell thanked Superintendent Roberto for facilitating her tours of all elementary schools in Niagara Falls. Trustee Campbell commended the schools for creating welcoming environments and for the innovative and creative initiatives being undertaken by staff.
- (d) On behalf of the Student Trustee Senate, Student Trustee Molkoski thanked Trustees Chase and Schaubel for supporting the Student Trustee Senate throughout the school year. Student Trustee Molkoski wished all the Trustees the best.
- (e) Chair Barnett commended Student Trustee Sharma for receiving a recent Volunteerism Award in recognition of his community work.
- (f) Chair Barnett noted that the Manager of the Juno Award winning band, The Sheepdogs, is a graduate of the District School Board of Niagara who speaks highly of the Board's Music Program.
- (g) Trustee Keddy Scott gave a reminder of Grimsby Secondary School's "Relay for Life" school and community fundraiser being held on May 29<sup>th</sup>.

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

Further information on events and news happening within the Board can be found at [www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org) and/or on the schools' websites.

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

Trustee Ajandi reported that a meeting has been scheduled with members of the Community Hub Advisory Panel to discuss education representation on the Advisory Panel. Trustee Ajandi invited Trustees to forward their input and comments to her on the use of space in community hubs related to schools.

Information published by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association is available at [www.opsba.org](http://www.opsba.org)

**6. Future Meetings**

The calendar of June 2015 meetings was provided and amended as follows:

June 15            Program and Planning Committee meeting cancelled (to be rescheduled for September)

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Linda Crouch**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

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**SUE BARNETT**, Chair

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