



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

April 9, 2013

6:45 – 7:30 p.m. (Private Session)

7:30 – 11:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Kevin Maves (Chair), Sue Barnett, Alex Bradnam, Lora Campbell, Dalton Clark, Jonathan Fast, Ed Fulford, Cheryl Keddy, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel

Student Trustees: Mackenzie Ceci and Tara Lundy

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), John Dickson, Sue Greer, Wesley Hahn, Cam Hathaway, Sue Mark, Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, Kelly Pisek, JoAnna Roberto, John Stainsby, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Joe Weinberg, Peter Doan, Kim Yielding, Marian Lamb, Karen Bellamy

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 Kevin Maves called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:34 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 Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Barbara Ness

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

CARRIED

Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Lora Campbell

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:23 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed on video clip by soloist Samantha Jemison from West Park Secondary School, St. Catharines.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Alex Bradnam opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated March 26, 2013, be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**3. Business Arising from the Minutes****Renaming of General Vanier Public School**

Chair Maves reminded the Board that the Trustees voted on the name change at its meeting of March 26, 2013.

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Dalton Clark**

“That General Vanier Public School in Fort Erie be renamed *Peace Bridge Public School*.”

Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, called a point of order and noted that the recommended motion should include an effective date for the renaming of General Vanier Public School.

By a friendly amendment, it was:

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Dalton Clark**

That General Vanier Public School in Fort Erie be renamed *Peace Bridge Public School, effective September 1, 2013*.”

CARRIED

4. Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole (Private Session)

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

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

CARRIED

Chair Maves noted that the Board accepted the retirements of the following Secondary and Elementary School Administrators, effective June 30, 2013.

Barb Eade (School Support Services)
S. James Heywood (Grimsby Secondary School)
Andre Ceci (Steele Street Public School)
Kenneth Gennings (Crowland Central Public School)
Gary King (General Vanier Public School)
Dante Pirillo (Bertie Public School)

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole (Private Session)**

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked the Administrators for their dedication to education and wished them well in their retirement.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director's Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Doug Durant, Manager of Projects and Maintenance**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Doug Durant, Manager of Projects and Maintenance, for his outstanding contributions to the Board over the past 29 years in a variety of roles in Plant Services. Doug has devoted his career to ensuring that the Board's schools are safe, productive, and exciting learning environments for students and staff. Doug has also been instrumental in the construction of some of the Board's newer schools, together with countless major additions and renovations, and he has consistently delivered projects on budget and on schedule. Director Hoshizaki noted that Doug has detailed knowledge of each Board site and an uncanny ability to recall the details of construction work done at each site. Director Hoshizaki recognized Doug for his special quality of interacting with Principals, the Senior Team, Trustees, contractors and municipal officers in a calm, confident, capable, and always reliable manner. Director Hoshizaki presented Doug with a token of the Board's appreciation.

Trustees thanked Doug for his outstanding contributions to the Board and for his excellence in ensuring that projects are completed on budget and on schedule. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves congratulated Doug on a well deserved retirement.

(b) Children and Youth in Care (CYIC) Pilots: Pilot Programs to Improve Educational Outcomes for Students in the Care of Children's Aid Societies

Director Hoshizaki reported that the Ministry of Education has allocated funding for pilot programs that will generate innovative education delivery models to improve educational outcomes for children and youth in care of Children's Aid Societies. The District School Board of Niagara was successful in receiving funding for two pilot programs from September 2013 to June 2014, one at Eastdale Secondary School, and one at Stamford Collegiate. Both pilots include partnerships with Family & Children's Services Niagara, Crown Ward Education Championship Team, Niagara College, Community Business Partners, and other Community Agencies.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Director’s Report and Recognition****(c) Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School – Boys’ Curling**

Director Hoshizaki congratulated the Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School Boys’ Curling team and coaching staff on an impressive season and for winning the recent Ontario Championships in Ottawa.

(d) Summer H.E.A.T. 2013

Director Hoshizaki reported that Summer H.E.A.T., the Board’s primary summer learning opportunity, will again be running at sites across the jurisdiction from July 15 to August 2 thanks to a \$135,000 grant from the Council of Directors of Education. The grant will cover the cost of staffing, resources, breakfast programs and excursions. Learning activities will focus on developing literacy and numeracy skills, including through Aboriginal stories which allow students to develop a deeper understanding of Aboriginal culture. Further information on programs and registration is available at www.dsbno.org/summerheat

(e) On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves extended condolences on the recent passing of Peter Kormos, former long serving local MPP.

(f) Superintendent Cam Hathaway provided an update on the Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review reporting that Board staff are currently engaged in positive discussions with City of St. Catharines officials and staff to review a variety of alternative options with respect to the schools under review. A report on the discussions will be brought forward at a later date.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

1. Erin Campbell – parent representative on the East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review Report, asked that Trustees support the sustainability of a rural elementary school by endorsing the Woodland Public School option. Ms. Campbell noted that the Vineland community supports a new build but she asked that the schools under review be kept open until the new build is complete.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

2. Sofie Learn – student, spoke in support of retaining Memorial Public School and the impact of a school closure on students in the Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review. Sofie asked why the Board is pushing to build a new school at 185 Carlton Street when there is no public support.
3. Tisha Polocko – Executive Director of the St. Catharines Downtown Association, expressed concerns regarding the impact of the potential loss of elementary schools in the downtown core and she addressed the value of retaining schools in the downtown area (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review).
4. Lisa Toms - spoke of the importance of retaining neighbourhood schools. Ms. Toms asked Trustees to consider a sustainable and transferrable modular school design to address declining enrolment and to continue to meet the educational needs of students (East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review).

In response to a question of clarification from Trustee Bradnam, Ms. Toms noted that examples of transferrable modular school design are included in her report including models in Australia and the United States. Ms. Toms added that companies which design this model are able to address weather and sustainable maintenance measures.

5. John Bullivant – expressed opposition to the Board’s Senior Administration option of amalgamating three elementary schools and building a new school on the proposed 185 Carlton Street site (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review). Mr. Bullivant recognized that the Board must act in a fiscally responsible manner as a result of declining enrolment but questioned whether the Board’s option, which is contrary to the ARC Committee’s recommendations, is a resolution to the problem.
6. Melanie Vanderveen – Chair, Jordan Public School Parent Council, spoke in support of Jordan Public School and the impact of a school closure on students. Ms. Vanderveen asked that students from Jordan Public School be provided with transportation and be allowed to attend Woodland Public School (East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review).
7. Mayor Brian McMullan - addressed the impact of the potential loss of elementary schools in the downtown core and the importance of retaining schools in the downtown area. Mayor McMullan welcomed ongoing discussions with Board staff to develop alternative options to a proposed new build on 185 Carlton Street. Mayor McMullan asked that a decision on the 185 Carlton Street site be deferred until further options can be fully investigated (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review).

Trustee Clark noted that it is encouraging that Board and City staff are able to dialogue to resolve issues concerning accommodation reviews and other matters.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

8. Joanne Tenyenhuis – presented a report prepared by parents of children at Memorial Public School which included alternative recommendations to the Board's option of closing Alexandra, Maywood and Memorial Public Schools and building a replacement school at 185 Carlton Street. The report recommends retaining and renovating Alexandra and Memorial Public Schools, and closing Maywood Public School. A second alternative requires the City of St. Catharines and the Board to seek alternative locations for a new build. Ms. Tenyenhuis added that parents do not support the Senior Administration option of building a new school at 185 Carlton Street as a long term viable option for educational outcomes (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review).
9. Jennifer Hayes – spoke in support of retaining older facilities, Alexandra and Memorial Public Schools, and she noted that the rationale relied upon in the Senior Administration's option are not applicable to central St. Catharines (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review). Ms. Hayes asked that Trustees consider a motion to retain and renovate Alexandra and Memorial Public Schools, and to work with the City to seek an alternative location for a new build.
10. Julie Ann McGeorge – spoke in support of Memorial Public School and the importance to children and municipal revitalization of retaining downtown schools. Ms. McGeorge expressed concerns that closing downtown schools is adverse to provincial and City guidelines on revitalization and urban development, and has a negative impact on students. Ms. McGeorge asked Trustees to consider the retention and renovation of Alexandra and Memorial Public Schools and to work with the City to find an alternative location for a new build (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review).
11. Katreena Scott – questioned the rationale of the Board's Senior Administration proposal to build a new school at 185 Carlton Street. Ms. Scott asked the Trustees to consider the views and options presented by the community, to consider the retention and renovation of Alexandra and Memorial Public Schools, and to work with the City to find an alternative more central location for a new build (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review).
12. Juliana Galessiere – questioned the rationale of building a mega school to accommodate students from Vineland, Jordan, Maple Grove, and Campden Public Schools. Ms. Galessiere asked that Jordan Public School students be given the choice of attending Woodland Public School, and be provided with transportation by adjusting the boundaries (East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review).
13. Dean Wakil – opposed the Senior Administration's proposed new build at 185 Carlton Street. Mr. Wakil expressed support for the ARC Committee's Option 4 to retain Alexandra and Memorial Public Schools noting that the option satisfies community and provincial smart growth guidelines, and what is best for children. Mr. Wakil also encouraged continued dialogue with the City of St. Catharines to

DELEGATIONS – continued:

find an alternative location for a new build (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review).

14. Dawn Shikluna – presented a video clip of an interview with Bill Irwin who addressed the implications of school closures on downtown revitalization efforts (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review). Ms. Shikluna asked the Board to recognize that central St. Catharines is a unique urban downtown area and that the impact of school closures on the vulnerable students residing in the area should be given consideration.
15. Tom McConnell – questioned the Board’s proposed location for a new build and noted that a critical component of downtown revitalization is the proximity of a neighbourhood school. Mr. McConnell also questioned the impact on student achievement of a larger enrolment school, and whether the amalgamation of three elementary schools will result in significant savings to the taxpayer (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review). Mr. McConnell expressed support for the ARC Committee option of retaining and revitalizing Alexandra and Memorial Public Schools.
16. Tina Ruetz – expressed concern about the negative impact on students who will attend a large enrolment, renovated Vineland Public School. Ms. Ruetz noted her experiences as an educator in a large enrolment school in the Stoney Creek area. Ms. Ruetz expressed support for a smaller school setting and asked that Jordan Public School students be allowed to attend Woodland Public School and be provided with transportation (East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review).

Ms. Ruetz noted for Trustee Barnett that the enrolment at her school is approximately 740 students.
17. Heath Hudson – spoke of the positive impact on students in a smaller school setting and the importance of a neighbourhood school to instill a sense of community. Mr. Hudson questioned the Board’s projected enrolment for Jordan Public School. Mr. Hudson asked that Jordan Public School families be given the choice of where to send their children (East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review).

Chair Maves thanked the Delegations for their comments and reminded the Board that deliberations in the East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review will take place at the April 23, 2013, Board meeting.

I. BOARD RECESS

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

“That the Board recess.”

CARRIED

The Board recessed at 9:38 p.m.

Trustee Ed Fulford left the meeting at 9:38 p.m.

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

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 9:50 p.m.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated April 2, 2013, be received;” and

“That the report of Religious Accommodations Guidelines be received and approved as amended;” and

“That the report on French Immersion – Parliament Oak Grade 4 Redirection be received and approved with the following recommendations:

- 1) That the French Immersion – Parliament Oak Grade 4 Redirection Report of April 2, 2013, be received and adopted with the redirection of Grade 4 registration to be implemented immediately for September 2013; and**
- 2) That an Interest Survey be conducted for Parliament Oak and Crossroads Public Schools for a Grade 1 Entry French Immersion Program commencing September 2013.”**

CARRIED

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

Trustee Bradnam provided an overview and summary of the report and the recommended motions.

2. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (SAL) COMMITTEE

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee dated April 3, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dave Schaubel reported that the Committee reviewed 18 cases. Trustee Schaubel expressed appreciation to the Committee’s community partners for their continued support of students. Superintendent McGregor clarified for Trustee Clark that the John Howard Society will continue to provide a range of supports for students with the pending closure of the Job Gym.

3. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (PIC)

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

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) dated April 3, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Robinson provided an overview and summary of the report. The meeting included preliminary planning for the November 6th, 2013, Parent Involvement Committee Conference, entitled “*Plugged In Parents - Be Informed, Be Empowered.*”

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Maves requested a moment of silence in remembrance of A. N. Myer Secondary School student, Miranda Bauer, who recently passed away.

Vice-Chair Barnett welcomed representatives of the Lake Erie Corridor Secondary Schools Accommodation Review Committee to the Board meeting.

L. NEW BUSINESS

- (a) **Report of the Accommodation Review Committee of Lake Erie Corridor Secondary Schools dated April 2013** (distributed at the meeting)

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Dalton Clark**

“That the Board receive the report of the Accommodation Review Committee of Lake Erie Corridor Secondary Schools.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Hathaway commended all the members of the Review Committee for participating in the Accommodation Review process.

Superintendent Hathaway presented background information on the Lake Erie Corridor Secondary Schools Accommodation Review and he reminded the Board that at its meeting of June 25, 2012, the Board passed a motion to conduct an Accommodation Review of the area comprised of boundary districts for Fort Erie Secondary School, Port Colborne High School, and Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School. Superintendent Hathaway noted that the overall review area includes the entire municipalities of Fort Erie, Port Colborne and Wainfleet, and portions of Niagara Falls and Welland. It was also noted that the secondary school students from the Township of Wainfleet have the option of attending either Port Colborne High School or E.L. Crossley Secondary School.

Superintendent Hathaway proceeded with a detailed overview of the final report which included information on the accommodation review process, school programming, school facilities, demographics and housing, ARC meeting highlights, guiding principles, public meeting highlights, the findings and recommendations of the Accommodation Review Committee, and the school valuation based on the recommendations.

- (b) **Report of Senior Administration on the 2012-2013 Accommodation Review of Lake Erie Corridor Secondary Schools dated April 2013** (distributed at the meeting)

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Sue Barnett**

“That the Board receive the report of Senior Administration on the 2012-2013 Accommodation Review of Lake Erie Corridor Secondary Schools.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Morgan noted that declining enrolment, aging school buildings, diminished provincial funding and the development of new learning technologies and program opportunities are all placing pressure on Boards' limited financial resources. These factors are leading Boards across the Province to explore creative solutions to revitalize education in a long-term, sustainable fashion.

NEW BUSINESS – continued:**Report of Senior Administration on the 2012-2013 Accommodation Review of Lake Erie Corridor Secondary Schools dated April 2013**

Superintendent Morgan presented a detailed overview of the Report of Senior Administration and recommendations, which included background information on declining enrolment, capacity and utilization, educational program, and aging facilities. Superintendent Morgan also presented a summary of the rationale / financial considerations for the recommended motions in the Senior Administration options on the 2012-2013 Accommodation Review of Lake Erie Corridor Secondary Schools.

Superintendent Morgan clarified for Trustee Keddy that the current enrolment at E.L. Crossley Secondary School is approximately 750 students.

Chair Maves thanked everyone who participated in the Accommodation Review process. Information on the Accommodation Review process is available at www.dsbns.org/arc

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 communication.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Barnett thanked Superintendent Hahn for taking her on recent tours of the new Diamond Trail Public School and addition at Gordon Public School.
- (b) Trustee Barnett expressed her appreciation for the opportunity to attend Niagara College's recent gala.
- (c) Trustee Barnett gave a reminder of tomorrow evening's Tech Skills presentation and tomorrow evening's Education Foundation of Niagara meeting.

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

- (d) Trustee Barnett gave a reminder that tomorrow evening is the last night of the Sears Drama Festival being held at Welland Centennial Secondary School.
- (e) Trustee Bradnam noted that on Friday, April 26, 2013, at 1:15 p.m. Laura Secord's auditorium will be renamed the *James H. Smith Performing Arts Centre* in honour of the former Administrator and Superintendent.

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

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

Trustee Keddy distributed a preliminary agenda for the Annual General Meeting being held from June 6-8, 2013. The AGM will feature a variety of informative workshops and professional development opportunities for Trustees. Trustee Keddy noted that the Central West Region is developing OPSBA priorities for the coming year and she asked the Trustees to review the Central West Region meeting minutes and provide her with their input.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of April 2013 meetings and the draft calendar of May 2013 meetings were provided.

Brenda Stokes Verworn noted that the Ad Hoc Properties Disposal Committee will meet on May 15, 2013, at 4:30 p.m.

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Barbara Ness**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:48 p.m.