



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

February 26, 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, Dalton Clark, Jonathan Fast, Ed Fulford, Cheryl Keddy, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel

Student Trustees: Mackenzie Ceci

Regrets: Trustee Lora Campbell, Student Trustee Tara Lundy

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

Recording Secretary: Irene Foster

Technical Support: Wendy Coit and Philip Ihewuokwu

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 7:30 p.m. Chair Maves noted Superintendent Hahn's absence due to his attendance at a celebration in Toronto where Elementary Principal Tom Reynolds is being recognized by the Learning Partnership as one of Canada's Outstanding Principals for 2013.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Ed Fulford

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

CARRIED

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Dale Robinson

“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 on video clip by the Lakeview Public School Choir, Grimsby, with saxophone accompaniment.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Dave Schaubel opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 12, 2013, be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**3. Business Arising from the Minutes****Accommodation Review Reports**

Superintendent Hathaway provided a verbal response to questions raised by the Trustees at the February 12th Board meeting related to the Accommodation Reviews of Elementary Schools in Central St. Catharines and East and South Lincoln.

- (a) Superintendent Hathaway noted that with respect to school size, Senior Administration reviewed research projects completed by Dr. Ken Leithwood, Professor Emeritus of OISE, University of Toronto, (2007 project), and Jones and Eziefe, University of Windsor, (2011 project). Senior Administration also reviewed the work of John Hattie, former OISE graduate and Professor of Education at the Melbourne Educational Institute, (2009). Superintendent Hathaway indicated that based on this research, the recommendations in the Senior Administration's reports are valid.

Superintendent Hathaway clarified for Trustees that Dr. Leithwood's report does not appear to differentiate between urban vs. rural schools, and it does not comment on optimal classroom size.

- (b) Superintendent Hathaway explained the Senior Administration believe it would not be responsible or fair to the Jordan community to recommend a transition to Woodland Public School knowing that an accommodation review of Woodland Public School is possible in the near future.
- (c) Superintendent Hathaway addressed the variation in the overall Board-wide elementary enrolment, in particular the rate of decline, between the preamble in the Central St. Catharines Elementary Schools ARC Report to that of the Senior Administration Report. Superintendent Hathaway explained that the variation reflects the timing of the implementation of the Full Day Early Learning Program and that Kindergarten students are now counted for Ministry purposes as 1.0 Full Time Equivalent, as compared to 0.5 Full Time Equivalent in 2010. Superintendent Hathaway added that the Senior Administration report had access to more current data available from the Ministry of Education whereas the Accommodation Review Committee referred to the June 2011 Facility Utilization Report which reflected 2010-2011 school year data. Superintendent Hathaway explained that the projected decline in enrolment remains the same but appears to have less of an impact due to the way Kindergarten students are counted for Ministry purposes.
- (d) Superintendent Hathaway explained that if Memorial Public School is approved to continue as a Grades JK-8 model, the projected enrolment indicates a decline to approximately 200 students. Superintendent Hathaway noted that Senior Administration would continue to express concerns regarding the impact of projected low enrolment in Grades 7/8.

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**Business Arising from the Minutes**

- (e) Superintendent Hathaway explained that the Board's Planning staff contacted the Town of Lincoln's Planner and obtained updated information on new residential developments in the East and South Lincoln program area, as follows:
- No new applications in the Campden Public School area to date; a revision to the draft approved "Campden Estates" plan from 24 total units to 21;
 - With respect to Vineland Public School, an application was circulated on February 20th for vacant land condominium totaling 20 block towns (possibly for seniors or empty nesters); no applications are on file regarding the Prudhommes lands;
 - There is no change or applications circulated for new development in the Jordan Public School area since the ARC reports.

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

**Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

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

CARRIED

Chair Maves reported that in Committee of the Whole (Private Session) the Board accepted with regret the retirement of Secondary School Principal Marc Blouin and Secondary School Vice-Principal Cairine Coulis-Brown, effective June 30, 2013. Chair Maves recognized Principal Blouin for 31 years of service to the Board. Chair Maves recognized Vice-Principal Coulis-Brown for 21 years of service to the Board. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves wished the Administrators well in their retirement and he expressed the Board's appreciation for their contributions to education.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director's Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Irene Foster, Legal Assistant to the Board Lawyer**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Irene Foster, Legal Assistant, for her 32 years of exemplary service to the Board in a variety of support staff roles. He noted Irene's tremendous ability to multi-task, deal with a variety of difficult and complex issues calmly and efficiently and thanked Irene for her outstanding support of schools and central staff. Director Hoshizaki

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Director’s Report and Recognition**

presented Irene with a token of the Board’s appreciation. Vice-Chair Sue Barnett thanked Irene for her welcoming and informative assistance when she arrived as a new Trustee. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Irene for her years of service and wished her well in her upcoming retirement.

(b) DSBN’s 17th Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Home Build

Director Hoshizaki reported that last week the official ground breaking for the Board’s 17th SHSM Regional Construction home build took place. The build which is located in Niagara Falls in partnership with Habitat for Humanity will provide 15 DSBN secondary school students with an opportunity to participate. Director Hoshizaki added that the Board offers 40 SHSM programs in 11 different sectors with approximately 810 students participating. Further information on the SHSM program and its benefits to students is available at www.dsbno.org/SHSM.

(c) Great Learning at College Street Public School

Director Hoshizaki reported that new technology has recently been installed into every classroom at College Street Public School making it possible to increase student engagement in the classroom. The technology was made possible through the Board’s computer allotment, school funds, and a great tech team who helped and advised staff along the way.

(d) Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP)

Director Hoshizaki reported that as part of the Ministry of Education’s TLLP Program the following two proposals submitted by DSBN Teachers were approved by the Ministry:

Elementary Proposal – approval in the amount of \$87,970 to support 57 teachers on the topic “*Creating Junior Division Numeracy Collaboration Classrooms.*”

Secondary Proposal – approval in the amount of \$57,106 to support 10 teachers on the topic of “*Numeracy Transitions for the Applied Learner.*”

The projects will support teachers participating in self-directed professional development related to improved student learning.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Director’s Report and Recognition****(e) New Parent and Family Literacy Centre (PFLC) in St. Catharines**

Director Hoshizaki reported that on February 20th the Board’s fifth PFLC opened at Connaught Public School. Parent and Family Literacy Centres provide children from infancy to six years old an opportunity to get a head start in their learning through a variety of engaging and educational activities at no cost to parents and caregivers.

2. Showcase**(a) School to Work-College Initiative**

Superintendent Helen McGregor introduced Fred Louws, Student Achievement Leader – Student Success. Fred Louws recognized Kate Shepherd, Dual Credits Teacher, for overseeing the Niagara Link program. Fred Louws introduced Sylvie Gregoire, Dual Credits Support Teacher, who provided an overview of the Niagara Link Program which provides students with an opportunity to complete their education by earning four secondary school credits and a college general education dual credit. The program is an alternative to a traditional secondary school classroom setting. Tannika Stephenson, Fort Erie Secondary School student, shared her experiences and the benefits of participating in the Niagara Link Program. Sylvie Gregoire also provided an overview of the SHSM Connecting to College Program and the Specialist High Skills Major Programs and their benefits to students. Further information on the Alternative Programs is available at www.dsbns.org.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves, thanked the Board’s valued community partners for their support of students.

(b) Therapy Tails

Superintendent JoAnna Roberto welcomed representatives from Simcoe Street, Greendale, Orchard Park, and Heximer Avenue Public Schools to showcase a unique reading program involving specialty trained dogs as reading buddies. Tina Hill, of Therapy Tails, explained that the non-profit charity / dog therapy program was established in April 2010 and currently has a membership of 152 with 160 dogs participating in the program. Ms. Hill provided an overview of the Therapy Tails Programs, including “Tell Tails” a program where students read stories to dogs. Teachers Lorna Lane (Simcoe Street Public School), Catherine Christian (Greendale Public School), Robyn Smylski (Greendale Public School), and Principal Tracy Vetrecin (Heximer Avenue Public School), shared how the program was implemented in DSBN schools, and its positive impact on students. Students Andrew and John shared their experiences in the program.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Therapy Tails**

On behalf of the Board, Director Hoshizaki thanked Tina Hill and presented her with a Certificate of Recognition. Further information on the program is available at www.therapytails.ca

(c) OSSTF – Presentation to DSBNi Students

Superintendent Jim Morgan introduced Daniel Peat, President – OSSTF District 22 Niagara; and students Lexie Penny (Grimsby Secondary School) and Stewart Joyner (South Lincoln Secondary School). Superintendent Morgan noted that staff and students from the Board will be participating in an upcoming family home build in My Tho, Vietnam, and the project will provide the students with an opportunity to develop leadership skills and an awareness of global citizenship. Superintendent Morgan recognized OSSTF District 22 Niagara for supporting the students in their requirement to raise \$3,500.

Daniel Peat addressed the Board noting that the Federation has taken an interest in the innovative Habitat for Humanity Program which involves the Board and community partners, and the Federation is proud to provide support to the students.

Students Lexie and Stewart provided an overview of their upcoming itinerary and expressed their appreciation to the Board for providing students with an opportunity to participate in the DSBNi program. The students also thanked the Federation for providing them with financial support.

Daniel Peat presented the students with a donation on behalf of the Federation.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Daniel Peat and the Ontario Secondary School Teachers' Federation for supporting the students' participation in the program.

Follow the DSBNi build at <http://dsbni.blogspot.ca>.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

1. Linda Crouch – Sent regrets
2. Bobby Jo Smith, spokesperson from Bethlehem Housing and Support Services, expressed concerns regarding the potential closure of Memorial Public School for families who are residing in transitional housing in the Memorial Public School area.
3. Maureen Young – expressed concerns regarding the potential closure of Alexandra Public School, and the Accommodation Review process.
4. Nellie Pijl – recognized the Board for its effort to make the best decisions in the St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review process. Ms. Pijl asked why the Board refuses to close St. Catharines Collegiate.
5. Lorraine Snihur, Jordan Public School Community, spoke in support of extending the Jordan Public School boundary in order to retain a viable school.
6. Shawn Watson, Jordan Public School Community, spoke in support of retaining a small school community option in the South/East Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review process.
7. Krista Whittard – presented a Powerpoint overview of the geography of Central St. Catharines, and data provided to the Accommodation Review Committee, as they relate to the Senior Administration's proposed recommendation in the Central St. Catharines Elementary Schools Accommodation Review.
8. Debbie Dobrowolski – spoke in support of Memorial Public School as a vibrant school which meets the needs of students.
9. Terry Resney – shared his experience as the ARC Representative for Memorial Public School and he questioned the Senior Administration's response to the ARC Committee's options.
10. Matthew Speck – Memorial Public School parent, spoke in support of Memorial Public School and he raised issues regarding the fiscal responsibility of the Senior Administration's Accommodation Review options.
11. Melissa Ingoldsby – Memorial Public School parent, played a recorded interview with Dr. Ken Leithwood on school size and its impact on student learning.
12. Melissa Smith – questioned the Board's rationale in its decision-making process in the Central St. Catharines Elementary Schools Accommodation Review.
13. Liz Fleming, spoke in support of Memorial Public School and its role in promoting community.

Chair Maves thanked the Delegations for their comments. There were no questions of clarification from Trustees.

I. BOARD RECESS

**Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

“That the Board recess.”

CARRIED

The Board recessed at 9:50 p.m.

**Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Ed Fulford**

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 10:05 p.m.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. ACCOUNTS

**Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1145 to 1156 for the month of January 2013, totaling \$16,745,002.86 be received.”

CARRIED

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 February 6, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dave Schaubel expressed appreciation to the partners who continue to support students.

OLD BUSINESS – continued:

3. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated February 6, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Barbara Ness provided verbal highlights of the report.

4. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated February 14, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Ness provided verbal highlights of the report.

5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the Report of the Finance Committee dated February 25, 2013, be received and the recommendations adopted;” and

“That Senior Staff be authorized to proceed with the execution of the Walker Living Campus @ Woodend project at an estimated cost of up to \$2,451,000, to be financed according to the Project Financing Plan as outlined in this report, and subject to Ministry approval prior to the tendering of the project;” and

"That the low bid received from TRP Construction, in the amount of \$3,566,000 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Addition and Renovations to General Vanier Public School;" and

"That the low bid received from Serianni Construction, in the amount of \$468,900 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Year 4 FDK Renovations at Ridgeway, Oakwood, Winger and Gainsborough Public Schools;" and

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

“That the Good Places to Learn (GPL) Financial Status Report be received;” and

“That Bylaw Number 2013-01 authorizing a loan from the Ontario Financing Authority, in the amount of \$19,668,789, pursuant to the execution of a loan agreement under Ontario Regulation 41/10 be approved;” and

“That the newly developed Policy B-07: *Board Vehicles*, be approved;” and

“That the 2013-14 Budget Process and Timelines schedule be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dalton Clark provided an overview and summary of the report and the recommended motions. In response to questions from Trustees, Trustee Clark stated that in future there may be fundraising initiatives for specific purposes and needs at Woodend which would be brought back to the Finance Committee for consideration, and that the anticipated timeline for repayment of project costs under the Project Financing Plan is over the next three years.

Superintendent Greer confirmed for Trustees that Policy B-07: *Board Vehicles*, will be included on the list of Policies approved by the Board.

In response to a question regarding seeking efficiencies in bringing the Year 4 Full-Day Kindergarten renovations forward, Superintendent Weinberg confirmed for Trustees that staff continually look for efficiencies in all projects through a variety of strategies.

Director Hoshizaki commended the Trustees for their support and approval of projects which enabled the Board to reduce \$6.5 million in unspent Good Places to Learn (GPL) funding to \$320,000. Chair Maves also recognized Superintendent Weinberg and his staff for identifying and moving projects forward that were eligible under the GPL program. Director Hoshizaki acknowledged former Superintendent of Business Jane Roth for being instrumental in initiating many Board projects and initiatives, including the Woodend project.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of and by Board members.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

MOTION**Moved by Ed Fulford****Seconded by Alex Bradnam****“That the business of the Board, Agenda Items M (1) to M (6), be deferred to the next Board meeting.”****CARRIED**

Trustees agreed to adjourn the meeting due to the inclement weather. Prior to adjourning the meeting Trustee Sue Barnett gave a reminder of the Education Foundation of Niagara's *Make Change for Children* campaign. Trustee Cheryl Keddy noted that registration is open for Beamsville District Secondary School's 125th anniversary celebration.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**1. Staff Reports****(a) School College Work Initiative (SCWI) – Dual Credit Program Board Report**

This report will be presented at the March 26th Board meeting.

(b) Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement

This report will be presented at the March 26th Board meeting.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no Trustee Information Session.

3. Correspondence and Communications**4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison****5. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report****6. Future Meetings**

The calendar of March and April 2013 meetings was provided.

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy
Seconded by Barbara Ness**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer