



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

January 8, 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, Carol Purcer, JoAnna Roberto, John Stainsby, Joe Weinberg, Peter Doan, Brett Sweeney, Marian Lamb

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 Kevin Maves called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:45 p.m.

Chair Maves welcomed the visiting Brock University Faculty of Education students to the Board meeting.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued:

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Chair Maves reported that Trustees Sue Barnett, Alex Bradnam, Ed Fulford and Dale Robinson declared conflicts of interest in Committee of the Whole (Private Session).

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Dalton Clark

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

CARRIED

Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:35 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed on video clip by the choir from Prince Philip Public School, Niagara Falls.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Dalton Clark opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

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

Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 11, 2012, be confirmed as submitted;” and

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 11, 2012, 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 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 letter of resignation for retirement purposes of Irene Foster, Legal Assistant to the Board Lawyer, effective February 28, 2013. Superintendent Morgan thanked Irene for her 32 years of service to the DSBN and predecessor Boards. Superintendent Morgan noted that Irene’s wide range of experience and her expertise in legal issues will be greatly missed. The Board extended best wishes to Irene on her retirement.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Director’s Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Tracy Garratt, Teacher – Eastdale Secondary School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Tracy Garratt for her contributions to the Board and to her community. In addition to her love of Drama, Tracy’s school based accomplishments include spearheading a reading program, an exercise program, and a Girls’ Night, and as a result of Tracy’s

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

resourcefulness, Eastdale has received over \$8,000 in grant money since 2009.

Tracy also received a 2012 Ontario Teachers' Federation Grant and the school was provided with 40 copies of the Governor General's award winning novel, "*A Complicated Kindness*," and the unique opportunity to interview the author, Miriam Toews. Further, Tracy supports Eastdale's Safe School Council which has produced numerous anti-bullying initiatives including this year's student written play, "*Rumour Has It*," about cyberbullying. Another grant enabled the Eastdale students to perform the play for the Eastdale feeder schools. Tracy also produced a study guide of activities for teachers to further engage their students with the play's themes. Due to Tracy's guidance and efforts Eastdale was a recipient of a 2011 Premier's Safe School award.

Tracy was chosen to write curriculum for Kindergarten to Grade 12 on Equity and Inclusiveness due to her thorough understanding of curriculum and creativity in matching student learning styles and needs. Within her community, Tracy has been involved in community youth outreach with Rainbow Youth Niagara and she is a positive role model for lesbian, bisexual, gay, transgender and questioning youth. Tracy has extensive knowledge of the resources available for LBGTQ youth and an effective network into which she can link vulnerable students.

Director Hoshizaki and Acting Superintendent Purcer presented Tracy with a token of the Board's appreciation of her dedication to the Board and its students.

Trustee Barnett commended Tracy for her exemplary commitment to students and to education, and for her contributions which have had a positive impact on the Eastdale Secondary School community.

(b) **Sandy Hook Elementary School, Newtown, Connecticut**

Following the tragic shooting of 20 children and 6 adults at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut on December 14, 2012, DSBN staff from across the region wanted to reach out and support the school and community in some way. An online donation link was established through the Board's website where staff members could make a donation to the United Way of Western Connecticut, as requested by Sandy Hook Elementary School. Once again, the DSBN demonstrated its tremendous generosity.

(c) **Speak Up Grants**

Director Hoshizaki noted that the Board will share a total of \$47,500 for 48 Speak Up Projects at schools across the DSBN this year.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Director’s Report and Recognition****(d) DSBN International Concussion Summit**

Director Hoshizaki reported that the recent successful DSBN International Concussion Summit welcomed more than 200 people from all sectors of the Education and Health Care systems from Canada and the United States. As a result of the presentations and workshops provided by experts in the field of concussions, parents, teachers, coaches, athletes and health care workers received a greater understanding of and valuable information on this important issue. Sincere thanks go to Kevin Graham, Colleen Fast, Maria Hodgins, Jill Russell, Roy Smith and Carrie Thwaites for their outstanding work in making this conference such a huge success. Proceeds from the conference were donated to the Walker Living Campus at Woodend.

(e) Secondary School Open Houses

Director Hoshizaki noted that the posters have been printed to promote the upcoming Secondary School Open Houses. Further information on the Open Houses taking place in January is available at www.dsbn.org/yourfuture.

(f) Niagara Nutrition Partners

Director Hoshizaki reported that in December 2012, the District School Board of Niagara, along with The Niagara Catholic DSB signed an agreement with Niagara Nutrition Partners to confirm its ongoing and successful partnership. Over the years, Niagara Nutrition Partners has provided outstanding nutritional services to students at both the DSBN and the co-terminus Board. These programs continue to be essential for many of our students, and we are very grateful for the work of Niagara Nutrition Partners, our schools and volunteers for making these programs open and inclusive, and for removing any stigma for students accessing the program.

Director Hoshizaki commended schools, teachers, over 700 volunteers, and the Niagara Nutrition Partners for making this program such a huge success and for giving our students a healthy start to their day.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Director’s Report and Recognition****(g) Holiday Hampers**

Director Hoshizaki acknowledged schools across the Board for once again showing their incredible generosity of spirit by providing food, clothing and gifts to those less fortunate in their communities by supporting a number of community agencies and school initiatives. Director Hoshizaki commended the generosity of DSBN schools, teachers, students and parents for demonstrating “Character Education.”

(h) Young Mother's Outreach Program in Welland

Director Hoshizaki acknowledged Teacher Susan McGlynn for arranging for a guest speaker to join her Young Mother’s class in December 2012 to teach a hands-on lesson on cake decorating. Director Hoshizaki commended Susan McGlynn and the community worker for providing the students with an enjoyable opportunity to achieve success.

2. Minister’s Student Advisory Council (MSAC)

Superintendent Helen McGregor explained that the Minister’s Student Advisory Council provides an opportunity for students to engage in ongoing conversation with the Ministry of Education on a variety of topics impacting on student success. Superintendent McGregor introduced Fred Louws, Student Achievement Leader, Student Success, and Secondary School Principal Ann Harrison. Principal Harrison introduced Student Connor Bitter, an outstanding student and member of the Minister’s Student Advisory Council. Connor provided an overview of the Ministry of Education’s initiative which began in 2009, noting that the Minister’s Student Advisory Council is a group of about 60 Grades 7 to 12 students from across the province who share perspectives and act as change agents to benefit students by expressing their views directly to the Minister of Education. The current priorities of the Council are to modernize student engagement and to build life skills for success.

Further information on the activities of the Minister’s Student Advisory Council and how to become a member is available at www.edu.gov.on.ca/eng/students/speakup/msac.html

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Connor for his participation on the Council.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**3. Parenting and Family Literacy Centre (PFLC) at Connaught Public School**

Superintendent Sue Greer introduced the showcase and reminded the Board that the Ministry of Education recently awarded the location of the newest Parenting and Family Literacy Centre to Connaught Public School, St. Catharines. The Connaught Public School site will open on Monday, January 14, 2013, with a grand opening ceremony to be held at a later date. Other sites are located at Kate S. Durdan Public School (Niagara Falls), Rose Seaton Public School (Fort Erie), Lincoln Centennial Public School (St. Catharines), and Plymouth Public School (Welland).

Kelly McDonnell, Student Achievement Leader, and Tammy Dolinski, Parent Worker currently at the Plymouth Public School site, provided highlights of the Parenting and Family Literacy Centre Program. Kelly McDonnell provided a brief overview of the integral components of the Parenting and Family Literacy Centres. Ms. McDonnell noted that sites are fully funded by the Ministry to enhance early experiences for children up to six years of age in classroom settings in a range of play based learning activities that focus on developing literacy and numeracy skills. Parents and caregivers also participate in the interactive activities. Records of daily visits show increased participation from October 2011 to October 2012. Tammy Dolinski added that components of the Parenting and Family Literacy Centres include family literacy and numeracy, a quality and inclusive early learning environment, parent engagement, learning through play which offers a wide range of play-based activities that promote the development of the whole child, and links to community programs and resources.

More information is available on the Parenting and Family Literacy Centres on the Board's website at <http://dsbn.org/pflc/>

Trustee Lora Campbell offered to approach the Education Foundation of Niagara for possible assistance with transportation costs to the program sites.

Trustees commended staff for delivering an excellent program which enhances early student learning.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no Delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (SAL) COMMITTEE**

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Ed Fulford

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee dated December 5, 2012, be received;” and

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee dated December 13, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Ed Fulford reported that the Committee reviewed strategies to meet the needs of students. Trustee Fulford commended Superintendent McGregor and the Committee members for their dedication and commitment to students. Superintendent McGregor clarified for Trustees that approximately 120 students are involved in this program on an on-going basis.

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

Moved by Cheryl Keddy
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated December 13, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Cheryl Keddy reported that the meeting had indepth discussion on a variety of topics and included a presentation about the Learning Disabilities Association, Niagara Region. Trustee Keddy noted that Pathstone Mental Health will award the 4th Annual Hope Award on June 14, 2013, to Carol Maidens. Special Guest Speaker at the event will be Richard Dreyfuss. For further information go to www.pathstonementalhealth.ca

3. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated December 19, 2012, be received;” and

“That the proposal received from Racon Engineering Inc., in the amount of \$65,300 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for Engineering Services for the District School Board of Niagara’s Data Centre Modernization Project;” and

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

“That RWDI Consulting Engineers & Scientists be awarded a contract valued at up to \$119,600 (plus HST) to provide environmental engineering consulting services for the environmental registration of all DSBN buildings with the Ministry of the Environment;” and

“That the Ventin Group Ltd. (+VG Architects) be appointed as architects for the Education Centre Renovation Project;” and

““That the 2012-13 Revised Estimates, reflecting updated enrolments for October 31, 2012, and the resulting changes in revenues and expenditures, as submitted to the Ministry of Education, be approved;” and

“That the 2011-12 Interim Financial Report for the period ending October 31, 2012, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Clark provided a summary of the information that was reviewed and discussed by the Committee with respect to the recommended motions.

Trustee Clark clarified that the associated costs of The Ventin Group Ltd. (+VG Architects), recommended architect for the Education Centre renovation project, will be calculated as a percentage of the final contract costs for the project.

Superintendent Weinberg clarified that the “Non-Classroom Teachers” summarized in the 2012-2013 Interim Financial Report – Staffing (for the period ending October 31, 2012) represent teachers who provide support to schools in a variety of areas. Superintendent Greer added that the staff are Elementary and Secondary School Consultants and Resource Teachers who are assigned to areas of schools and who work in all schools within the Board to support teacher learning, with School Support Services serving as their home base.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of and by Board members.

L. NEW BUSINESS**Notice of Recommended Motion****NOTICE OF RECOMMENDED MOTION (TO BE READ AT THE JANUARY 8, 2013, BOARD MEETING)**

Take notice that in accordance with By-Law Q-2 it is recommended that the following amendments be made to the By-Laws and Rules of Order of the District School Board of Niagara at the next meeting of the Board scheduled for **Tuesday, January 22, 2013**.

(a) Election of Chairperson**F- 6.2 Voting**

- iii) Should no candidate receive a clear majority of the votes cast (void ballots not being counted), the scrutineers shall announce the name(s) of the person(s) receiving the least number of votes, whose name(s) shall be dropped from the ballot.

(b) Standing and Statutory Committees**L-6 Supervised Alternative Learning for ~~Excused Pupils (SAL)~~ Committee (SALEP)****(c) Delegations**

R - 8 Unless otherwise determined, delegations will be received by the Board at approximately 8:00 p.m. Presentations by delegations shall normally be for a maximum of **ten five** minutes. Permission of the Chair of the meeting shall be required to extend this time period.

NEW

R-8.1 Delegations shall speak only once to a particular topic (purpose). Subsequent requests may be accepted as a written submission.

R-8.2 To reduce the possibility of any misunderstanding, written copies of presentations must be received by the Director's Office by the morning of the Board meeting. Failure to do so would result in not speaking at that Board meeting.

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

There were no staff reports.

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

There was no Trustee Information Session.

3. Correspondence and Communication

- (a) Letter from City of St. Catharines regarding the DSBN Accommodation Review of Central St. Catharines Elementary schools

Chair Maves noted that this letter has been referred to Superintendent Hathaway for review as part of the Accommodation Review process.

- (b) Letter from St. Clair Catholic DSB – teacher pre-service orientation regarding special needs students

- (c) Letter from Waterloo Region DSB regarding storm water charges

The District School Board letters were provided for information purposes.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Barnett reported that Welland schools, the DSBN Academy and Glendale Public School, participated in a successful food drive challenge in December. Trustee Barnett commended both schools on their excellent efforts.

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

Chair Maves reminded the Trustees of the upcoming Public Education Symposium scheduled for January 31-February 2, 2013, in Toronto.

6. Future Meetings

The revised calendar of January 2013 meetings was provided.

N. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer