



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

March 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, 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, Peter Doan, Kim Yielding, Marian Lamb, Karen Bellamy

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 7:40 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 Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

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

CARRIED

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:28 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed on video clip by students from Connaught Public School, St. Catharines.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Barbara Ness opened the meeting with an Aboriginal reflective reading and prayer.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Dale Robinson
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy

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

CARRIED

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**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

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****(a) Recognition of Joe Merkies, Kernahan Park Secondary School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Teacher Joe Merkies for his exceptional contributions to students and the Board. Joe has been a well respected member of the Kernahan Park Secondary School staff since 1984 where he is currently responsible for the horticulture and landscaping programs both at Kernahan Park and at the Board Office throughout the year. Joe’s unassuming and gentle nature exudes calm, and he teaches his students to be safe, calm and responsible. Over the course of a semester, he teaches students how to take plants from seed to customer. Plant sales are organized and well advertised and always generate a profit for the school. The quality of the plants produced by Joe and his students is remarkable, and many of the plant customers are return customers. During the summer months Joe also maintains the gardens and the lawns with a small team of dedicated and loyal students. As a master teacher, Joe is an invaluable member of the Kernahan Park Secondary School staff, and his students are his students for life. The skills that they learn from Joe are transferable to many walks of life. Director Hoshizaki presented Joe with a token of the Board’s appreciation.

(b) Recognition of Tom Reynolds, Principal, DSBN Academy

Director Hoshizaki recognized Principal Tom Reynolds for being named one of Canada's Most Outstanding Principals by the Learning Partnership for his dedication to his students, staff, and community. The award recognizes the extraordinary contributions of dynamic education

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

leaders in publicly funded schools. Principal Reynolds currently serves students as Principal of the DSBN Academy and he was instrumental in its development. Principal Reynolds is a positive role model and leader, always representing the Academy with a great deal of sensitivity, commitment, optimism, and hope. He believes in every member of the Academy community and he demonstrates this wholeheartedly on a daily basis through support, encouraging words and actions. Principal Reynolds tirelessly goes above and beyond to provide the best possible opportunity for his students and their families and he is referred to as a father figure and male role model. Director Hoshizaki added that Tom is more than a Principal - he is a visionary, a team player, and a mentor, who respects others and in turn, is well respected. His passion and dedication are inspiring and empowering. Director Hoshizaki presented Principal Reynolds with a token of the Board's appreciation.

Vice-Chair Barnett commended Principal Reynolds for creating a culture of respect in his school community. Trustee Bradnam also commended Principal Reynolds for being recognized as one of Canada's outstanding Principals.

(c) Westlane Spartonics take Gold in Pittsburgh!

Director Hoshizaki recognized Westlane Secondary School's Team 1503 Spartonics who traveled to Pittsburgh over the March Break to compete in their first Regional of the year. The team faced tough competition and brought home the Gold, qualifying them for the World Championships in St. Louis. The team was also awarded the Creativity Award for their unique design and strategy. Director Hoshizaki congratulated students Ben Beatty, Andrew Sladden, and Nathan Nguyen for their excellent operation and game play, and to the pit and scouting teams for making sure everything ran smoothly. The team will compete again in Toronto in two weeks time and we wish them the best of luck in this competition!

(d) Governor Simcoe Robotics

Director Hoshizaki recognized the Governor Simcoe Robotics team on their recent success in Waterloo where they qualified for the Robotics World Championships in St. Louis.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:**Director’s Report and Recognition****(e) Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge (COMC)**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Senbo Fan, a Grade 9 student at A.N. Myer Secondary School for winning the Gold Award for Best in Canada for Grade 9 in the 2012 Canadian Open Mathematics Challenge (COMC). The COMC is an international Math competition that is open to any student who has an interest in Mathematics. The purpose of the COMC is to present students with opportunities to develop problem solving abilities beyond the current curriculum and to provide teachers with an engaging enrichment activity. The COMC is the first in a series of Mathematics competitions held by the Canadian Mathematical Society (CMS) that lead to the selection of Math Team Canada – a group of Canada’s top students who participate at the International Math Olympiad.

(f) OSSTF Student Achievement Awards

Director Hoshizaki recognized the following recipients of the OSSTF Student Achievement Awards, and their teachers.

- Jordan Thiessen, Welland Centennial Secondary School, on winning the French Award for his entry entitled “*La désobéissance civile.*” Thanks go to his teacher Yann Marais.
- Kathryn Hrycusko, E.L. Crossley Secondary School, on her successful entry in the Senior Prose/Poetry section entitled “*Dragging Feet.*” Thanks go to her teacher, Kim Yallup.
- Casandra Millington, Stamford Collegiate, for her work entitled “*Where is the Love.*” Thanks go to her teacher, Lynda Mills.

(g) 2013 Provincial Special Olympics

Director Hoshizaki recognized the following students who have qualified to participate in the Provincial Special Olympics Track and Field events based on their results at the DSBN track and field day last June 2012.

- Josie Guilbeault, Beamsville District Secondary School - 100 M run, Long Jump, and Shot Put;
- Jennifer Hardy, Gainsborough Public School - 50 M run, Shot Put and Long Jump;
- Talin Najarian, Governor Simcoe Secondary School - 100M run, 200 M run and Long Jump;
- Kobe Selmen, Grapeview Public School - 100 M, 200 M and Long Jump;

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

- Grant Flagg, Gainsborough Public School - 100 M, 200 M, Long Jump and Shot Put;
- EJ Peck, Kernahan Park Secondary School - 100 M, 200 M and Shot Put.

The students will be competing in Unionville at Bill Crothers Secondary School from July 11th to July 14th, 2013. Director Hoshizaki also recognized Coaches Andy Dermatas, LRT at Power Glen Public School, and Kim Bartlett from School Support Services for the tremendous support and encouragement they give to the students.

Further information regarding the summer events is available at www.specialolympics2013games.com.

2. Showcase**(a) Kylie Lambert, Grade 4 Student at Richmond Street Public School**

Superintendent Wes Hahn introduced the showcase. Principal Brad Butler introduced Kylie Lambert, a Grade 4 student at Richmond Street Public School. Kylie spoke of her passion for writing and read an excerpt from her first published book entitled “*Stripes*.”

Kylie presented Director Hoshizaki and Chair Maves with a signed copy of her book. Director Hoshizaki presented Kylie with a certificate in recognition of her achievement. Chair Maves commended Kylie on her success and for being an inspiration to her peers.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

1. Michelle Labatte – Jordan resident, expressed support for the Woodland Public School Option in the East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review Report.
2. Sam Pearson – student, read a letter from his father which expressed support for Memorial Public School in the Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

3. Lorraine Simpson – asked that families be permitted to decide where their children will attend school in the East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review process and she also asked that the closure of Jordan Public School be deferred for a year while a new school is being constructed.
4. Oscar Rogers – student, spoke about the impact of change on students and also expressed support for Jordan Public School in the East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review. Oscar asked that the community be given more time to adjust to the closure of Jordan Public School prior to transitioning to the new school.
5. Bernie Slepko – expressed concerns about the impact of constructing the proposed new school on Carlton Street in the Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review. Mr. Slepko asked that the Board pass a motion to ensure compatibility between various processes and guidelines for school closures.
6. Karen Bowen – spoke in support of merging the Jordan and Vineland Public School communities but addressed concerns about the capacity of Vineland Public School while the new school is being constructed. Ms. Bowen also supported retaining Woodland Public School in the East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review process and extending Woodland's boundaries while the new school is being constructed.

Ms. Bowen explained for Trustee Bradnam that Jordan and Woodland Public Schools are similar in that they are both small community schools which demonstrate a similar culture.
7. Hans-Jörn Eich – expressed concerns regarding the financial impact on taxpayers to construct a new school in the Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review.
8. Chris McKie – parent, spoke in support of Memorial Public School and its benefits for students and the community in the Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review. Mr. McKie questioned the fiscal and ethical responsibility of the Board's options.
9. Matt Cary – parent, expressed concerns about the impact on students with the construction of a new school on Carlton Street and he also expressed support for Memorial Public School and its role in meeting the needs of students and the community (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review).
10. Lisa Wale – realtor, asked Trustees to reconsider the proposal to construct a new school on Carlton Street and to consider non-monetary factors that have an impact on students (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review).
11. Lindsay Milburn – withdrew delegation request.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

12. Peter Dillman – presented a video interview with Dr. Charles Pascal regarding Provincial EQAO achievement testing as a factor in an Accommodation Review process. (Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review).

Chair Maves thanked the Delegations for their comments.

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

I. BOARD RECESS

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

“That the Board recess.”

CARRIED

The Board recessed at 9:07 p.m.

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

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 9:25 p.m.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

**Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Barbara Ness**

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1157 to 1169 for the month of February 2013, totaling \$16,345,832.02 be received.”

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**2. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE**

**Moved by Mackenzie Ceci
Seconded by Tara Lundy**

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated February 27, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustees Mackenzie Ceci and Tara Lundy presented verbal highlights of the report and thanked the Trustees for supporting their attendance at the recent Provincial Student Trustees' conference.

3. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Moved by Ed Fulford
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy**

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated March 5, 2013, be received;” and

“That the report on Expansion of Grade 1 French Immersion Pilot be received and approved with the following recommendations:

- 1) That, if there is enough interest, a Grade 1 French Immersion program be offered at McKay Public school in Port Colborne effective September 2013; and**
- 2) That, if there is enough interest, a Grade 1 French Immersion program be offered at Garrison Road Public school in Fort Erie effective September 2013;” and**

“That the report of Modernizing Child Care in Ontario Schools be approved and the implementation of the process proceed;” and

“That the report for Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars 2013-2014 be received and approved for submission to the Ministry of Education by May 1, 2013; and, that a tentative calendar, pending Ministry approval, be released to the public following the April 9 Board meeting.”

CARRIED

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

OLD BUSINESS – continued:**4. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (SAL) COMMITTEE**

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

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee dated March 6, 2013, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dave Schaubel reported that the Committee reviewed 19 cases, including meeting with a number of students electronically. Trustee Schaubel expressed appreciation to the John Howard Society of Niagara for their continued support of students.

5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

**“That the report of the Finance Committee dated March 20, 2013, be received;”
and**

“That the low bid received from Serianni Construction, in the amount of \$227,400 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Year 4 FDK Renovations at Lakeview and Nelles Public Schools;” and

"That the low bid received from Serianni Construction, in the amount of \$434,500 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Year 4 FDK Renovations at Fitch Street, Princess Elizabeth, Ross and Port Weller Public Schools;" and

"That the low bid received from Bromac Construction, in the amount of \$977,055 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the renovations to St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School;" and

"That the low bid received from Serianni Construction in the amount of \$545,000 (plus HST) be accepted and a contract awarded for the Addition and Renovations to Garrison Road Public School."

CARRIED

Trustee Dalton Clark provided an overview and summary of the report and the recommended motions. Trustee Clark clarified for Trustees that discussions are ongoing with Senior Staff to review options for accommodating Kernahan Park's Horticultural program at the St. Catharines Collegiate. Trustee Clark added that many exciting plans are being implemented to accommodate Kernahan Park's programs at the Collegiate in order to meet the needs of students.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Keddy noted that the Lake Erie Corridor Secondary Schools Accommodation Review Reports will be presented to the Board at its meeting of April 9th. It is anticipated that Delegations will also be heard on April 9th in the East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review and the Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review. Trustee Keddy suggested that deliberations in the East and South Lincoln Elementary Accommodation Review be scheduled for the April 23rd Board meeting and that deliberations in the Central St. Catharines Elementary Accommodation Review be scheduled for the May 14th Board meeting. There were no objections to Trustee Keddy's suggestions.

Trustees also agreed that no delegations would be heard at Board meetings on dates when Accommodation Review deliberations were taking place.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**1. Staff Reports****(a) Report of the Renaming of General Vanier Public School Committee**

Assistant Superintendent JoAnna Roberto reported on the process undertaken to rename General Vanier Public School in accordance with Board Policy A-9: Naming/Renaming of Schools. Assistant Superintendent Roberto reminded the Board that renovations at General Vanier Public School are expected to be complete for September 2013 when students from Fort Erie and Rose Seaton Public Schools will transition to the newly renovated school. Assistant Superintendent Roberto set out the criteria, Committee composition, and the consultation process and she reported that following the consultation process the Committee made the following recommendations.

“That the 1st, 2nd and 3rd choices as determined by the New School Naming Committee be received and that the Trustees vote by ballot to choose the name for the new Fort Erie school.”

1 st	Peace Bridge Public School
2 nd	Torrance Street Public School
3 rd	Terry Fox Public School

Prior to the ballots being distributed Trustee Schaubel spoke to the significance of the proposed name, Peace Bridge Public School.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**Staff Reports****Report of the Renaming of General Vanier Public School Committee**

Trustees deliberated and following a vote by ballot, which was distributed by Marian Lamb, Chair Maves reported that the Trustees voted unanimously to adopt the name *Peace Bridge Public School*. It was agreed that the new name will be officially unveiled by students at a future Board meeting.

(b) School College Work Initiative (SCWI) – Dual Credit Program Board Report

Superintendent Helen McGregor reported on the Board's SCWI – Dual Credit Program. Superintendent McGregor explained that the Ministry approved dual credit programs allow secondary school students to earn credits towards their Ontario Secondary School Diploma by participating in college or apprenticeship courses. Superintendent McGregor provided an overview of the programs that are currently offered (Niagara Link, Connecting to College (C2C), and Specialist High Skills Major Connecting to College). Superintendent McGregor clarified for Trustees that the costs associated with the College component and transportation for students are covered by the Ministry.

Further information on the SCWI program is available at www.dsbn.org/studentssuccess.

(c) Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement

Superintendent Sue Mark provided an update and highlights of the 2012-2013 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement which included a mid-year overview of elementary and secondary school initiatives and an overview of Special Education initiatives. Superintendent Mark acknowledged Superintendent Sue Greer, Assistant Superintendent Kelly Pisek, Student Achievement Leaders Fred Louws, Cheryl Mancuso, and Jen Tye, as well as Ministry of Education representatives for participating in the development and review of the Board Improvement Plan. Superintendent Greer clarified for Trustees that the term "*bansho*" is a new strategy for teaching mathematics which promotes discussion by students about how they see and explain math.

Trustees suggested that the Parent Involvement Committee and the Special Education Advisory Committee be provided with an overview of the Board Improvement Plan at future meetings of the Committees.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**Staff Reports****Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement**

Trustees commended the Senior Staff for their dedication to students and they also expressed their appreciation to the Senior Staff for providing valued input on a variety of issues and for supporting Trustees in the decision making process.

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 Ness commended all staff who organize and facilitate staff recognition and presentation events.
- (b) Trustee Keddy acknowledged the Education Foundation of Niagara and all the contributors for their support of Prom Project Niagara which will benefit students in West Lincoln.
- (c) Trustee Bradnam expressed his personal appreciation to everyone for providing their support over the past couple of months.
- (d) Chair Maves reported that the DSBN Connect Conference recently held its kick-off event. It is expected that there will be 1200 attendees at the May conference being held at the Scotiabank Convention Centre. Chair Maves recognized Dino Miele, Chief Information Officer, for his role in organizing the conference.

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

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

Trustee Keddy reported that a website is being developed to facilitate communication and interaction between Trustees in the Central West Region.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of April 2013 meetings was provided.

MOTIONS

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

“That the Board do now enter Committee of the Whole.”

CARRIED

The Board returned to Committee of the Whole at 10:15 p.m.

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

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 10:18 p.m.

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 10:19 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer