



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

**BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE**

**October 23, 2012**

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, 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, Karen Bellamy

**Regrets:** Trustee Dalton Clark

**Recording Secretary:** Irene Foster

**Technical Support:** Linda Gonschior and 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 7:30 p.m.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves welcomed Brock University Faculty of Education students who were observing the Board meeting. Chair Maves also welcomed Don Fraser, Education Reporter for The St. Catharines Standard.

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**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 Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy

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

**CARRIED**

Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“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 by students from Parnall Public School, St. Catharines, on video clip.

The singing of “O Canada” was followed by a moment of silence in memory of an E.L. Crossley Secondary School student who passed away from injuries he sustained in a recent skateboarding accident.

**D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING**

Trustee Ed Fulford opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

**E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

1. **Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved by Ed Fulford  
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

**CARRIED**

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

Moved by Cheryl Keddy  
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated October 9, 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 Dale Robinson  
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“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****(a) Director’s Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Rob Dunlop**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Rob Dunlop, a Grade Eight teacher at Prince Philip Public School in Niagara Falls, for his exemplary classroom practice and involvement in the school’s athletics program. Director Hoshizaki also recognized Rob Dunlop for his passionate support of the Terry Fox Foundation which includes motivating the students at Prince Philip to be physically active and to be aware of whom Terry Fox was and the legacy that he left world-wide. This year Rob expanded his efforts to include six other Niagara Falls public schools in his “Around the World for Terry Campaign.” This past summer, Rob was selected to be part of a national team of teachers that produced lesson plans which connected curriculum expectations with the story of Terry Fox. These lessons are available on the Terry Fox Foundation website and have been used by

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****Director's Report****Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Rob Dunlop**

many teachers throughout Canada ([www.terryfox.org/SchoolRun/](http://www.terryfox.org/SchoolRun/)). Director Hoshizaki noted that Rob was given an honorarium for his work on the lesson plans which he donated directly back to the Terry Fox Foundation.

The Board viewed a video clip entitled *Around The World For Terry Fox* which highlighted the Area One schools' involvement in the Terry Fox Run on September 27, 2012.

Director Hoshizaki and Superintendent Roberto presented Rob with a token of the Board's appreciation of his commitment to students and the greater community.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Rob for his exemplary support and commitment to students and the community, and for his enthusiasm.

**(b) Beamsville District Secondary School Scares Away Hunger!**

Director Hoshizaki commended Beamsville District Secondary School on its first ever Halloween food drive last year which was run by the school's *Me To We Club*, a group of keen students who embrace the ideals and philosophy of *Free The Children* in their everyday lives. The food drive collected over 860 pounds of food for the local Community Care. This year, the number of students participating in the *Me To We Club* has grown and through the *We Scare Hunger* campaign the goal is to collect 1500 pounds of food.

**(c) Technological Skills Challenges**

Director Hoshizaki recognized the organizers and students who participated in last year's District School Board of Niagara's Technological Skills Challenges. The Technological Skills Challenges provide students with an opportunity to "Show off their Skills," competing with the best in DSNB and moving on to regional, provincial and national competitions. Our Board had 34 students participating at the Ontario Technological Skills Challenges, held in Waterloo in May 2012. The following students achieved Gold and moved on to the Canadian Skills Competition in Edmonton, Alberta.

Blake Hannahson and Stephanie Stanov - TV and Video Production

Niki Harris – Hairstyling

Daniel Dressel – Welding

Cameron Principi - Mechanical CAD

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****Director's Report****Technological Skills Challenges**

At the Canadian Skills Competition, Blake Hannahson and Stephanie Stanov won a National Gold Medal in TV and Video Production and Niki Harris was a National Gold Medalist in Hairstyling.

**(d) FIRST Robotics**

Director Hoshizaki commended the Governor Simcoe Secondary School Team #1114 – Simbotics, for being recipients of the Chairman's Award and for being inducted into the *FIRST Hall of Fame* at the 2012 FIRST World Championship, held in St. Louis, Missouri. The Chairman's Award is given to the team that best demonstrates the greatest commitment to spreading passion about science and technology to other people around the world. Simbotics is the first Canadian team to win the Chairman's Award and has been a robotics powerhouse since their emergence in FIRST Robotics in 2003.

**(e) Specialist High Skills Major Construction Home Builds**

Director Hoshizaki recognized the Board's very successful SHSM Construction Home Build Program. In 2011-2012, students worked with DeHaan Carpentry to build a home in St. Anns, and also worked with Park Lane Homes to build a home in Ridgeway. Director Hoshizaki noted that over the past seven years, District School Board of Niagara students have built 16 homes, 10 in partnership with Habitat for Humanity, and 6 in partnership with area contractors. In addition, students from across the region were selected to participate in DSBN's 6<sup>th</sup> international home build. The team will be traveling to Vietnam in March 2013, to build a home in partnership with Habitat for Humanity's Global Village.

**(f) Walker Living Campus at Woodend**

Director Hoshizaki reported that plans for the new Walker Living Campus at Woodend have been developing quickly and the fundraising efforts have been tremendous. The Walker Living Campus at Woodend will be a progressive, 21st Century ecological learning environment for both the community and students at the DSBN. The facility will completely reinvigorate the outdoor education centre and will include a school house consisting of two classrooms, a gathering place where students will explore sustainable building practices and renewable energy sources, and an outdoor classroom for students to become immersed in the beauty of the natural landscape. Thanks to the support of our schools and local communities, \$1,318,240 has been raised to date.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued:****2. Speak Up Grants**

Superintendent Helen McGregor introduced the showcase.

Fred Louws, Student Achievement Leader of Student Success, explained that the Ministry of Education makes grants available for students in Grades 7-12 to get involved in initiatives that make schools a better place to learn and to take action on issues that are important to them. This past year, the DSBN received \$42,000 in grants that supported 43 Speak Up initiatives, 29 secondary and 14 elementary. Students participated in a variety of initiatives which supported the greater community.

Paul Brunet, Technology Teacher at Westlane Secondary School, Sheri Ainslie, Vice-Principal, and Geoff Twocock, Teacher at Forestview Public School, showcased Forestview Public School and Westlane Secondary School's outdoor furniture building initiative which supported Bethlehem Place in Niagara Falls. Students who participated in the program shared their experiences and explained how the initiative benefitted them personally.

The Board viewed a video clip entitled *Building to Learn* which highlighted Forestview Public School and Westlane Secondary School's Speak Up initiative.

On behalf of the Board, Vice-Chair Robinson thanked the students and staff for their role in supporting Bethlehem Place.

**G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS****(a) French Immersion Homework Report**

Superintendent Sue Greer provided a verbal report of the French Immersion Homework Help initiative which was implemented to support students in the French Immersion program. The total cost of implementing the program, which will operate from November 1, 2012 to June 2013, is \$11,000 and is supported by a grant provided by the Ministry of Education. Superintendent Greer noted that the Homework Help website is currently being tested and it will be available to 1900 students once the site is operational. The site will be available to students Sunday through Thursday from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

**H. DELEGATIONS**

There were no Delegations.

**I. BOARD RECESS**

There was no Board recess.

**J. OLD BUSINESS****1. ACCOUNTS**

Moved by Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1079 – 1100 for the month of September 2012 totalling \$21,224,300.12 be received.”

**CARRIED**

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

Moved by Alex Bradnam  
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated October 11, 2012, be received.”

**CARRIED**

Trustee Alex Bradnam reported on the meeting of the Special Education Advisory Committee noting that information was provided on the 2011-2012 EQAO results. Strong achievement results and low exemption rates are attributed to modifications and accommodations that support each student. Trustee Bradnam added that a number of informative presentations were given on supports for students with autism.

**3. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

Chair Maves noted that the recommended motions will be voted on separately. Prior to a vote on the recommended motions, Trustee Ed Fulford provided a summary of the issues discussed at the meeting.

Moved by Ed Fulford  
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated October 16, 2012, be received.”

**CARRIED**

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

**Moved by Ed Fulford  
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

**“That the Educational Research Committee Report dated September 24, 2012, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

West Park Secondary School Utilization

**Moved by Ed Fulford  
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

**“That the Brock Faculty of Education and DSBN School Partnership Proposal be received in principle with an update to be provided at the November 6<sup>th</sup> Program and Planning Meeting by way of a formal report and recommendation.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Alex Bradnam declared a conflict of interest with respect to the recommended motion and did not vote or participate in the discussion regarding the Brock Faculty of Education and DSBN School Partnership Proposal.

Superintendent Hathaway explained that Brock University provided the Board with two models of the proposed partnership where Universities are working together with School Boards.

Trustee Fulford added that the proposed partnership is a great opportunity to explore potential benefits for both the University and the Board.

Fort Erie Spears Road Estates Storm Water Management Pond

**Moved by Ed Fulford  
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

**“That the Fort Erie Spears Road Estates Storm Water Management Pond Report be received in principle dependent upon further planning.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Fulford reported that discussion has taken place with the Town of Fort Erie regarding the proposed storm water management pond to be located adjacent to Garrison Road Public School. Prior to voting on the recommended motion, Trustees Barnett, Bradnam, and Keddy raised questions and concerns regarding the potential



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

impact on student safety with respect to the pond's proximity to the school, appropriate fencing of the pond area, the size of the drainage area, the potential impact on student and staff safety in the event of a catastrophic storm due to the slope of the land towards the school, and what options are being proposed to prevent stagnant water in the pond. The question of who would be responsible for maintaining the storm water management pond and the surrounding fence was also raised.

Trustee Fulford clarified for Trustees that lengthy discussion has taken place with the Town on these issues and the Town has expressed a willingness to take the Board's concerns and questions into consideration. Superintendent Hathaway noted that a number of neighbouring residents have expressed concerns about the potential impact of the proximity of the storm water management pond to their property and they have also been invited by the Town to provide their input. Trustee Bradnam suggested that, in the interests of student safety, it may be prudent for the concerns to be heard at an Ontario Municipal Board hearing. Trustee Schaubel stated that the Trustees' concerns for student safety are understandable. Trustee Schaubel noted that the proposed pond will not be located on the school's property and he expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to provide input into the planning and design of the pond. Trustee Schaubel added that the pond will provide opportunities for outdoor education as well as opportunities for students to learn about water safety. Chair Maves stated that issues impacting on student safety can be addressed through discussions with the Town.

Trustee Bradnam requested a recorded vote. Chair Maves called the question, "all in favour of the recommended motion?"

Trustee Barnett	In Favour	Trustee Keddy	Opposed
Trustee Bradnam	Opposed	Trustee Maves	In Favour
Trustee Campbell	In Favour	Trustee Ness	In Favour
Trustee Fast	In Favour	Trustee Robinson	In Favour
Trustee Fulford	In Favour	Trustee Schaubel	In Favour

**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****(a) Primary Class Size Report**

Superintendent Jim Morgan reported that in accordance with the Ministry of Education's Primary Class Size initiative, Boards must be fully compliant with the parameters for primary class size as established by the Ministry. Superintendent Morgan reported that the Board is in full compliance with the Ministry's expectations and the Board's Primary Class Size Report as at September 17, 2012, will be submitted to the Ministry. Superintendent Morgan clarified that there is no cap for class size in Grades 4-8, rather class size must be within the parameters of average class size as stated in the Collective Agreement. Current Grades 4-8 class size average is 25.8, which meets the parameters.

**2. Trustee Information Session**

There was no Trustee Information Session scheduled prior to the Board meeting.

**3. Correspondence and Communication****(a) Letter from Ontario Urban Forest Council asking the Board to call for a Federal and Provincial Role in Urban Forestry**

Chair Maves noted that the letter is provided for information purposes only.

**4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

- (a) Trustee Barnett thanked everyone who participated in the successful "DSBN Beat the Brainiacs Trivia Night" which was held on Friday, October 12<sup>th</sup> at the St. Catharines Collegiate.
- (b) Trustee Barnett gave a reminder of the Education Foundation of Niagara's Holiday Celebration being held on Saturday, November 24, 2012. Tickets are available by contacting the Education Foundation of Niagara at (905) 641-2929, Ext. 54103.
- (c) Trustee Barnett reported that Welland Centennial Secondary School is hosting the "Rocking for Ross" event on Saturday, November 10<sup>th</sup>. The event which features live bands will raise funds to support the Breakfast Programs at Ross Public School and Quaker Road Public School. Tickets are available by contacting the schools.

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

- (d) Trustee Barnett reported that she has been invited to attend a presentation at the Niagara Regional Safety Village on November 5<sup>th</sup> where two local students will be honoured as heroes for rescuing their grandparents from a fire.
- (e) Trustee Barbara Ness commended students, teachers, parents, alumni, and school partners from the A.N. Myer Secondary School community for participating in the Myer Memory Walk project to beautify the green space at the school.
- (f) Trustee Dave Schaubel commended the staff at General Vanier Public School, Rose Seaton Public School, and Fort Erie Elementary School for hosting a recent Technology Night which demonstrated the benefits of technology. Trustee Schaubel noted the excellent presentation by guest speaker, Paul Davis, which focused on cell phone use and parenting.
- (g) Trustee Alex Bradnam reported that he and Trustee Fast attended the recent Eden Spiritual Life Department fundraiser at Coppola's where approximately \$16,000 was raised in support of the Eden Spiritual Life Department.
- (h) Trustee Bradnam reported that Welland Centennial Secondary School will be hosting a "Holocaust Symposium and Anti-Discrimination Day" on November 7<sup>th</sup>.
- (i) Trustee Ed Fulford commended Superintendents Cam Hathaway and John Dickson on their recent informative presentation to the Township of West Lincoln Council on the Board's Accommodation Review process, which was well received.
- (j) Trustee Fulford reported that discussion took place at the well attended October 22<sup>nd</sup> Township of West Lincoln Council meeting on the issue of wind turbines in the community.
- (k) Trustee Lora Campbell expressed her appreciation to everyone for their support and encouragement during her recent surgery and recovery.
- (l) Chair Maves thanked Superintendent Roberto for facilitating a tour of the newly renovated schools in Niagara Falls (Simcoe Street, James Morden, River View, and Greendale Public Schools). Chair Maves commended staff in Facility Services on the condition and cleanliness of the schools.
- (m) Director Hoshizaki noted that the second annual Smart Board Educator's Technology Conference was held recently at Crossroads Public School. Trustee Fast suggested that information from the Conference be presented at a future Trustee Information Session.

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

- (n) Director Hoshizaki reported that Chair Maves, Vice-Chair Robinson, and Superintendent Stainsby will be travelling to Vietnam to represent the Board at the upcoming official opening of the Bilingual Canadian International School.
- (o) At the Trustees' request, Superintendent Wes Hahn provided an update on Diamond Trail Public School, noting that the transition process is underway with the School Councils, and a mascot for the new school is being designed.

Superintendent Joe Weinberg reported that construction is progressing well at the Diamond Trail Public School site. The brick work is 75% complete on the first level, and brick work on the second level will commence shortly.

- (p) Trustee Ness gave a reminder of the upcoming Parent Involvement Committee Conference being held on Wednesday, November 7<sup>th</sup> at Eden High School. On-line registration is available on the Board's website.

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

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

Trustee Cheryl Keddy reported on the recent Central West Region meeting held on October 12/13, 2012. The meeting had a full agenda, including an update on labour negotiations around the Province, an exercise in School Board governance, and a presentation by Marilyn Gouthro on Managing Conflict, where Boards participated in a session on characterizing their Board. Trustee Keddy commended the Trustees and staff of the District School Board of Niagara for being able to work together in supporting our goal of student achievement. Trustee Keddy added that there was also a presentation on Student Trustees and the importance of their voice. Trustee Keddy encouraged the Board to ensure that the Student Trustees continue to have opportunities to contribute to the Board. Trustee Keddy also noted that Donna Danielli, Trustee for the Halton District School Board, is the new Chair. Discussion also took place on planning for the 2013 Annual General Meeting.

Chair Maves commended the Trustees and staff of the District School Board of Niagara for maintaining their focus on the interests of students.

**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:**

**6. Future Meetings**

The revised calendar of November 2012 meetings was provided together with a draft calendar of December 2012 meetings. The following revision was made:

November 28                      Parent Involvement Committee – 4:45 p.m.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Barbara Ness**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:54 p.m.

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**KEVIN MAVES**, Chair

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