



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

December 8, 2015

6:00 – 6:15 p.m. (Organization Meeting)

6:15 – 7:00 p.m. (Private Session)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Dale Robinson (Chair), Diane Chase (Vice-Chair), Jennifer Ajandi, Sue Barnett, Helga Campbell, Lora Campbell, Jonathan Fast, Cheryl Keddy Scott, Kevin Maves, Dave Schaubel

Regrets: Trustee Linda Crouch

Student Trustees: Justin Dubé and Katelynn Hilborn

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, John Dickson, Wesley Hahn, Paula MacKinnon, Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, Kelly Pisek, Marian Reimer Friesen, JoAnna Roberto, Stacy Veld, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Bujacz

Recording Secretary: Christina Dero

Technical Support: Linda Gonschior

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent

Chair Robinson called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:06 p.m.

Chair Robinson noted the absence of Trustee Crouch.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Chair Robinson reported that she, Trustee Barnett, and Trustee Helga Campbell declared a conflict of interest prior to the Committee of the Whole (Private Session) with respect to an update on negotiations.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

This item was deferred until 8:37 p.m., after the business in the Regular Board Meeting had been conducted.

**Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

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

CARRIED

**Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy Scott**

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 8:49 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed by the Ross Public School choir, via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Fast opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued

2. Approval of Board Minutes

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Kevin Maves**

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated November 24, 2015, be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

Chair Robinson welcomed students, staff, and families who were in the gallery.

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)

This item was deferred until 8:50 p.m., after the business in the Committee of the Whole Session had concluded.

**Moved by Diane Chase
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

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

CARRIED

Chair Robinson reported that in the Committee of the Whole closed session the District School Board of Niagara, subject to a favourable ratification by the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Niagara, ratified the tentative September 1, 2014 - August 31, 2017 Collective Agreement with the Elementary Teachers' Federation of Ontario, Niagara.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director's Report and Recognition****Update from Provincial, Regional and Local Perspective:****(a) Recognition of The Rotary Club of St. Catharines**

Director Hoshizaki recognized The Rotary Club of St. Catharines for being a community partner and supporter of Lincoln Centennial Public School for the past 6 years.

Rotary Club members donate thousands of dollars and many hours of their time to the school. Each day, Rotarians and their family members cook a hot breakfast for between 20 and 60 students. This service is important for the social, emotional, and cognitive development of the students. Starting the day with a nutritious breakfast has helped remove a barrier so the students can focus their full efforts on academic tasks.

The Rotary Club has provided thousands of dollars to enhance literacy initiatives at Lincoln Centennial Public School. Some of the ways these funds have been used are for trips, technology, and library enhancements. Lincoln Centennial Public School has also been the recipient of a number of iPads, iPods, Netbooks and audio books. All of these technical devices have been used in multiple ways to support student learning. As well, the Rotary Club routinely donates funds for dual language, picture books, and novels. All of these resources have allowed the school to have an outstanding library collection which benefits all students.

Director Hoshizaki presented Anne Atkinson, representative from The Rotary Club of St. Catharines, with a token of the Board's appreciation for their extraordinary contributions to students.

(b) Director's Update to Trustees**i. Awards of Excellence**

Congratulations to the following DSNB staff who were recognized at the Early Childhood Development Centre Awards of Excellence in Early Childhood Education evening on November 19, 2015:

- Tammy Harris - Parent Facilitator at the Parenting and Family Literacy Centre at Peace Bridge Public School
- Mike Folino/Mary Schmagala - Cherrywood Acres Public School
- Melissa Philip/Amy Canning - Westdale Public School

ii. **2015 DSBN High School Open Houses**

From November 30 to December 3, 2015, DSBN schools rolled out the red carpet for Grade 8 students and their families. This annual event is designed to support the successful transition of students into high schools. Students have the opportunity to tour the building and experience what life will be like in high school.

Using the red carpet theme, schools looked like scenes straight out of Hollywood. They incorporated special lighting, photo booths and catered delicious snacks. Each school also took time to show off what they excel at – everything from athletics to performing arts and robotics.

This year's event was well attended with thousands of students taking time to walk the red carpet. Schools will keep the momentum going throughout the year with a number of different transition activities designed to help students feel welcomed and prepared for a great start in their new school in September.

iii. **Upload: Student Newspaper Project**

The DSBN and Postmedia Niagara have partnered for the Upload initiative. This initiative will see the St. Catharines Standard, Welland Tribune, and Niagara Falls Review publish columns written by DSBN students. Students write about the subject of their choice and share their thoughts and feelings with the community. So far, students at Port Colborne High School, the Alternative Education Centre, and Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School have had their articles published. It is a great way to give our communities some insight into our schools and give them a better understanding of the great work being done by students.

2. **Educational Showcases**

a) **FRAMES Video Competition**

Superintendent McGregor presented the showcase, which highlighted the DSBN short film competition. Superintendent McGregor introduced Jack Wieler, Secondary Consultant for Arts, Social Science, and Humanities.

Jack Wieler thanked Cheryl Mancuso, Student Achievement Leader, and Superintendent McGregor for their support with this initiative, where students are given 12 hours to write, plan, shoot, and then edit a film. The theme this year was "the secret."

Mr. Wieler highlighted the accomplishments of the Westlane students who created the winning film, "*What is the Secret to Happiness*", and presented the group with their DSBN Frames Competition trophies.

Educational Showcases – continued

Westlane Secondary School student Kevin Rodriguez spoke to the creative process for the film and thanked his team members.

The film, *“What is the Secret to Happiness”* was shown.

Jack Wieler acknowledged the second place team from DSBN Academy, and the third place team from Eden High School.

Chair Robinson thanked the students for sharing their film and commended them for their talents.

b) Director’s Holiday Card Contest

Kim Yielding, Manager of Communications and Public Relations/Printing, presented the showcase which recognized the winners of this year’s annual DSBN Director’s Holiday Card competition. Participating students were asked to create holiday cards based on what they love about this time of year. The following students were recognized for their submissions.

Aavah S. – Harriet Tubman Public School
Carter G. – Nelles Public School
Christie W. – Prince Philip Public School Niagara Falls
Derek C. – Eastdale Secondary School
Dighlan B. – Ross Public School
Drew S. – College Street Public School
Emily I. – Parnall Public School
Ishin T. – Forestview Public School
Mackenzie B. – Grimsby Secondary School
Meimei Y. – Governor Simcoe Secondary School
Mohamed M. – Peace Bridge Public School
Quinne G. – Ross Public School
Rebecka B. – Alternative Pathways Centre
Sophia H. – Harriet Tubman Public School
Zoë L. – DeWitt Carter Public School

Each student was presented with a package of printed holiday cards and a certificate of appreciation for their artwork. Kim Yielding thanked all the students throughout the Board who participated and she commended parents, guardians, and staff for supporting students with their submissions.

The holiday cards are available electronically at www.dsbn.org.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no student achievement 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 COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated November 19, 2015 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Keddy Scott reported that an additional Supervised Alternative Learning Committee meeting was added due to the high number of recommendations. 15 cases were reviewed by the Committee and strategies were developed for the students' success.

2. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

**Moved by Justin Dubé
Seconded by Katelynn Hilborn**

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate, dated November 25, 2015 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Hilborn reported that the third Student Trustee Senate meeting of the year took place last week and that planning is underway for the “A Step Past the Stigma” event.

Trustee Dubé explained that committees have been formed and will start meeting to plan the walk which will take place on May 7th, 2016, during Mental Health Awareness Week.

OLD BUSINESS – continued

3. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated December 1, 2015 be received”; and

“That the report of the Educational Research Committee of October 15, 2015 be received and that the report of the Educational Research Committee of November 12, 2015 be received”; and

“That the Board receive the Secondary School Program Review for the Current Year 2015-16”; and

“That the Board receive the Secondary School Program Review for the Subsequent Year 2016-17.”

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel provided a summary of the report.

4. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated December 2, 2015 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell provided a summary of the report and spoke to the importance of parent involvement, school councils, and Student Trustees.

5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated December 8, 2015 be received”; and

“That the low bid received from Aldor Builders Ltd., in the amount of \$3,382,700 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the cafeteria and accessibility upgrades at Laura Secord Secondary School.”

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE – continued

Trustees were provided with a handout of the Finance Committee meeting minutes and recommended motions.

Trustee Maves provided a summary of the report and described the accessibility upgrades necessary for the Laura Secord Secondary School cafeteria.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

Superintendent Courtois reported on the public input meeting held on November 26, 2015 for those wishing to participate in the Accommodation Review process for the West Pelham area. Superintendent Courtois provided answers to questions that were asked during the public meeting. These questions, along with the answers, will be posted on the DSBN website at dsbn.org/arc under Questions Asked and on the school websites under the Accommodation Review link.

Superintendent Courtois provided a timeline for the final staff report and public delegations.

In response to a question, Superintendent Veld clarified that the proposed addition to Pelham Centre Public School would include accessible washrooms.

In response to a question, Superintendent Courtois clarified that delegations for both the West Pelham and South Central St. Catharines Accommodation Reviews would be received at the January 26, 2016 Board Meeting.

Superintendent Courtois reported on the public input meeting held on December 2, 2015 for those wishing to participate in the Accommodation Review process for the South Central St. Catharines area. Superintendent Courtois provided answers to questions that were asked during the public meeting. These questions, along with the answers, will be posted on the DSBN website at dsbn.org/arc under Questions Asked and on the school websites under the Accommodation Review link.

Superintendent Courtois provided a timeline for the final staff report and public delegations.

In response to a question, Superintendent Courtois clarified that two meetings have taken place with the City of St. Catharines Planning Department to discuss planning and enrollment projections.

In response to a question, Superintendent Courtois explained that at the beginning of the public input meeting on December 2, 2015, former Superintendent Cam Hathaway made a presentation which outlined the modified accommodation review process, the initial staff report, and the purpose and process of the public input meeting.

Trustee Helga Campbell stated that it would be helpful to have data regarding the cost to the board to operate a school with 57 students versus the funding received from the Ministry to operate a school that size.

QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS – continued

In response to a question, Superintendent Veld clarified that the DSBN has spoken with the City of St. Catharines about potential opportunities to use excess space at Glen Ridge Public School as community space.

In response to a question, Superintendent Courtois clarified that there are currently no portables at Harriet Tubman Public School.

In response to a question, Superintendent Courtois clarified that if Glen Ridge Public School is consolidated with Oakridge Public School, there will be a need for some upgrades and accommodations to Oakridge Public School, but the need for portables is not projected.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

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

There were no staff reports.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no Trustee information session.

Chair Robinson reported that she has received requests for Trustee Information Sessions related to *Play Based Learning* and *Coding*.

3. Correspondence and Communication

Correspondence from Greater Essex County District School Board can be found in the Board Package

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

(a) Trustee Helga Campbell reported that the Parent Involvement Committee meeting on December 2, 2015 was held at Twenty Valley Public School. Trustee Helga Campbell received a tour of the new school and saw the technology available to students.

(b) Trustee Helga Campbell reported that there was an article in the Canadian Journal of Cardiology which mentions the Healthy Hearts Schools Program run by Heart Niagara, and the work being done with grade 9 students at the

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

DSBN. Medical information that is discovered through the program is sent to the student's family doctor and the doctor shares the information with families.

- (c) In response to a request, Superintendent Reimer Friesen reported that interior construction has been completed at Crossroads Public School, and that there is some minor work left to be done on the exterior of the building.

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

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

Trustee Ajandi presented highlights from the OPSBA meeting and provided Trustees with an OPSBA leaflet regarding the key work established for the 2015-16 year.

Trustee Ajandi reported that OPSBA passed a motion to advocate to the provincial and federal governments to provide School Boards with additional funds in order to meet the needs of refugee families.

Trustee Ajandi reported that she shared DSBN concussion curriculum and policy kits to member Boards at OPSBA. Toronto District School Board Trustee Shelly Laskin thanked the DSBN for sharing such a comprehensive package and emphasized the leadership the DSBN has taken and the need for all of our Boards to also share best practices.

Trustee Ajandi noted that Trustee Crouch will no longer be able to serve as the alternate Director for OPSBA.

Trustee Ajandi introduced a motion which would advocate for stronger and mandatory inclusion of Indigenous education in the Ontario curriculum and would be in support of the work that is already being done at the DSBN.

**Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy Scott**

“That the District School Board of Niagara write to Minister of Education Liz Sandals requesting that the Ministry, in consultation with First Nations, continue and expand the process of developing Kindergarten to grade 12 curriculum and learning resources on Indigenous peoples in Canadian history, including the history and legacy of residential schools, and Treaty Rights, in support of the Education for Reconciliation Calls to Action outlined in Sections 62 and 63 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission Report.”

CARRIED

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued

Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

In response to a question, Superintendent Dickson stated that the senior leadership team would support this motion as the DSBN has already been developing a curriculum package and looking at how to best support First Nations and Métis students.

Information published by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association is available at www.opsba.org

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of December 2015 meetings was provided.

The calendar of January 2016 meetings was provided.

**Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

“That we now do move into Committee of the whole.”

CARRIED

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy Scott**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

DALE ROBINSON, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer