



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

November 10, 2015

6:15 – 7:00 p.m. (Private Session)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

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

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 Barnett called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

Chair Barnett welcomed those in the gallery.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

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

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

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

“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 6:36 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Crouch opened the meeting by sharing a video which honoured Canadian soldiers.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

**Moved by Linda Crouch
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

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

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated October 27, 2015, 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 Dale Robinson
Seconded by Kevin Maves**

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

CARRIED

Chair Barnett reported that in the Committee of the Whole session, both Maywood and Memorial Public Schools were declared surplus to the Board's needs effective November 11, 2015. Board staff have been authorized to dispose of the property in accordance with Ontario Regulation 444/98.

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director's Report and Recognition****Update from Provincial, Regional and Local Perspective:****(a) Director's Update to Trustees****i. Your Future Starts Now**

On Tuesday, November 3, 2015, the District School Board of Niagara hosted the third annual technology conference for female students in grades 9-12. The “Your Future Starts Now” conference gave over 250 young women from across the DSBN the opportunity to meet, interact and learn from female professionals working in skilled trades. Through DSBN's Specialist High Skills Majors programs and Ontario Youth Apprenticeship opportunities, students are finding more ways than ever to prepare themselves for a rewarding career in the skilled trades.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Director's Update to Trustees**ii. **DSBN Pink Shirt (Every) Day**

The DSBN Pink Shirt (Every) Day Kick-Off Campaign is taking place from November 16-20, 2015 during Ontario's Bullying Awareness and Prevention Week. The intent of this campaign is to engage schools in the process of embedding the theme of Pink Shirt Day regularly into the school calendar. Any day is an appropriate day to have a Pink Shirt Day throughout the school year, but DSBN will acknowledge February 24, 2016 as a unified DSBN Pink Shirt Day to celebrate each school's accomplishments towards a more positive school climate.

iii. **Burst the Bubble for Autism**

Students at Martha Cullimore Public School recently became more aware of the characteristics of people with autism as well as how they can be good friends and classmates to students with autism by participating in the Niagara Chapter of Autism Ontario's *Burst the Bubble for Autism* campaign.

iv. **Take our Kids to Work Day**

On November 4, 2015, DSBN sites hosted many students for "Take Our Kids to Work Day." This is an annual program in which grade 9 students are hosted by parents, friends, relatives and volunteers at their workplaces. The program supports career development by allowing students to explore the profession of their host for a full day and to experience a workplace environment.

v. **Residential School Tour**

On November 3, 2015, this event brought DSBN teachers and administrators to Six Nations for a guided tour of the Mohawk Institute Residential School and the Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford. The tour was led by Dawn Hill who attended this residential school in the early 1960s. The tour shed light on some of the historical and contemporary issues faced by our FNMI students and their families.

vi. **Cultural Competency Training by Ontario Federation of Indigenous Friendship Centres (OFIFC)**

On October 16, 28 and 29, 2015, staff participated in full day workshops which provided a unique program designed to increase knowledge, enhance self-awareness, and strengthen the skills of those who work both directly and indirectly with First Nation, Métis and Inuit students and families. The goal for these sessions was to further develop individual competencies and promote positive partnerships. Teachers learned about terminology, diversity, aspects of colonial

SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Director’s Update to Trustees**

history, timelines of historical events, and contexts for understanding social disparities and inequities.

2. Educational Showcases

There was no educational showcase.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS**1. Report of Grade 9 Mathematics**

Moved by Jennifer Ajandi

Seconded by Cheryl Keddy Scott

“That the Board receive the report on the 2014-15 Grade 9 Math EQAO results.”

CARRIED

Superintendent McGregor provided a summary of the report. Superintendent McGregor highlighted DSBN results and gave examples of strategies that are being used in secondary schools to improve student achievement.

In response to a question, Superintendent McGregor clarified that the increase in results seen in special education students is a result of a culmination of a number of years work and the support around mathematics.

2. Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement 2015-16

Moved by Diane Chase

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Board receive the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement 2015/16.”

CARRIED

Director Hoshizaki outlined the purpose of the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) and explained that the plan helps direct the work of the DSBN as a system.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS – continued

Superintendent Dickson explained that the DSBN continues with a systematic approach and a commitment to uphold core values.

Superintendent McGregor and Superintendent Dickson guided trustees through the BIPSA, explained the data seen on each page, and highlighted strategies that have been successful in achieving student success.

In response to a question, Superintendent Dickson acknowledged the importance of parent involvement and listed some of the ways that parents can become involved.

In response to a question, Superintendent Dickson and Superintendent McGregor described some of the mental health initiatives and professional development opportunities available for staff in elementary and secondary schools.

In response to a question, Superintendent Dickson and Superintendent McGregor explained the strategies being used in schools that have contributed to an increase in results seen in English language learners.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

There was no old business.

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) Parent Involvement Committee Conference**

Superintendent Reimer Friesen provided a summary of the Parent Involvement Committee Conference “Parent Power”, which was held on November 4, 2015 at Eden High School.

Over 800 people attended this well organized event that included free childcare, a vendor fair, door prizes, and a choice of 17 sessions that ranged from Technology and Math, to Mental Health and Concussion Awareness. Session topics were generated from last year’s parent feedback and it was DSBN staff, as well as outside organizations who generously donated their time and expertise to make the sessions possible.

Superintendent Reimer Friesen thanked staff and students at Eden High School for the use of their facility and for the many volunteers they provided to help make the event successful.

Trustee Helga Campbell commended Superintendent Reimer Friesen, Parent Involvement Committee Chair Lisa Mooney, and the volunteers that helped organize and run the conference.

b) Information Technology Initiatives Report

**Moved by Linda Crouch
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

“That the Board receive the Information Technology Initiatives Report dated November 10, 2015.”

CARRIED

Director Hoshizaki introduced Chief Information Officer, Dino Miele, who provided a summary of the Information Technology Initiatives Report.

Dino Miele explained that school boards and the Ministry work together to make efficient use of resources and share operational best practices to support students and staff. Dino Miele shared examples of shared services solutions that the DSBN Information Technology Services Department is providing, which include Niagara Student Transportation Services, the Welland Public Library in Diamond Trail Public School, and Special Education software at Niagara Children’s Centre.

DSBN is providing leadership in an initiative that will allow connection between data centers at DSBN, Niagara Health System, Niagara Region, Niagara Regional Police Services, Brock University, Niagara College, and Innovate Niagara.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued**Information Technology Initiatives Report**

DSBN is also a key partner in implementing an initiative that furthers DSBN's ability to access and present rich and integrated data from the multiple data sources to increase effectiveness for evidence based decision making for staff and the Board.

These shared services and collaboration lay the ground work for achieving future savings by removing the duplication of resources, processes, and technology in the organizations.

In response to a question, Dino Miele explained that the software (Click) will allow the user to drill down the data and use note taking and portfolio capabilities to allow for both anecdotal evidence and data based evidence.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no trustee information session.

3. Correspondence and Communication

Superintendent Courtois provided an update on the accommodation review process and reported that meetings have taken place with the Town of Pelham, the City of St. Catharines, and the Niagara Region. The next public meeting for the West Pelham Modified Accommodation Review will take place on November 26, 2015 at E.W. Farr Public School, and the next public meeting for the South Central St. Catharines Modified Accommodation Review will take place on December 2, 2015 at Glen Ridge Public School. Meeting agendas, as well as information about the process to present at these meetings, can be found at dsbn.org/arc. Comments received through the website are being gathered and information continues to be collected which will inform the final staff report.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Helga Campbell reported that she will be attending the Stamford Collegiate Secondary School Remembrance Day Ceremony on November 11, 2015. Students will be reproducing their play "Invisible Wounds", which is based on the writings of veteran Ed Brown from British Columbia who will be in attendance.
- (b) Trustee Keddy Scott reported that she attended the Grimsby Secondary School Honour Roll Ceremony last week. The key note speaker was a former Grimsby Secondary School student who designed the school logo 25 years ago.
- (c) Trustee Chase reported that she attended a 50th Anniversary celebration at Gainsborough Public School on November 7, 2015.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued

- (d) Student Trustee Dubé reported attending the Ontario Student Leadership Conference where 2,000 students from across Ontario had a chance listen to key note speakers and attend workshops.

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 reported that the Public Education Symposium will be held from January 28-30, 2016. Registration is now open.

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

6. Future Meetings

The revised calendar of November 2015 meetings was provided.

November 19 Supervised Alternative Learning Meeting

The calendar of December 2015 meetings was provided.

N. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

SUE BARNETT, Chair

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