



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

October 13, 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: Wendy Coit

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 students, staff, and parents from Welland Centennial Secondary School who were in the gallery.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Dale Robinson
Seconded by Lora Campbell

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

CARRIED

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Linda Crouch

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:28 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed by the Beamsville District Secondary School orchestra, via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Lora Campbell opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Linda Crouch

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Diane Chase

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated September 22, 2015, 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 Kevin Maves

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

CARRIED

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. Director’s Report and Recognition****Update from Provincial, Regional and Local Perspective:****(a) Recognition of John Woods, Volunteer, Welland Centennial Secondary School**

This item was deferred until after the Director’s Update to Trustees.

(b) Director’s Update to Trustees**i. Teaching Awards**

Melanie Brown-Robson, teacher at Lakeview Public School, was honoured as the recipient of the 2015 OTIP Teaching Award in the category of Elementary Teacher at a ceremony on Tuesday, September 29, 2015. Many worthy teachers are nominated by colleagues, parents and students in acknowledgement of their commitment to teaching and to the teaching profession. Melanie’s contributions to education make her an outstanding recipient of this award.

A short video was shown highlighting Melanie’s work, the strategies she uses, and her belief that with hard work, every child can learn.

Kindergarten teacher Jack Pickett recently received an honourable mention after being nominated by parents at Parnall Public School for the 7th Annual Toronto Star Teacher Award. Jack was among 100 teachers from across Ontario to be nominated for the award.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Director's Update to Trustees****ii. Community Care at Twenty Valley Public School**

On Saturday, September 19th, Twenty Valley Public School administrators Lorne Gretsinger and Danielle Mikolic, along with student ambassadors, opened their doors as a Community Care drop-off centre. This opportunity drew 500 community members to the school and over 1,000 pounds of food was collected while the students provided guided tours of the new building. This was a great event to support the community and to showcase the students' pride and excitement for their new school.

iii. Good News from Simcoe Street Public School

Congratulations to students and staff at Simcoe Street Public School who raised \$282.11 during the Terry Fox run!

iv. Communities in Bloom

During the spring, the Niagara-on-the-Lake Communities in Bloom committee was given a tour of the Walker Living Campus. They were impressed by the green living roof, the TD TreeHouse-outdoor classroom, the native and pollinator gardens, and the role the SHSM Horticultural DIG IT! students played in the landscape design and planting.

The Walker Living Campus was included as part of the Niagara-on-the-Lake Communities in Bloom submission for the national competition which was held during the summer. Niagara-on-the-Lake Communities in Bloom were successful in their submission and received the highest honour, a "5 Bloom Rating", qualifying them for the 2016 National Communities in Bloom competition, in which the Living Campus will be included.

v. Beamsville District Secondary School Unique Learning Experience

This past May, 21 students from the Beamsville District Secondary School Music and Specialized School to Community departments travelled to New York and departed on a cruise aboard the Norwegian Gem. Not only were these students immersed in cultures rich in people, music, traditions and history but they were given a unique opportunity to become part of one of the CW Networks, One Magnificent Morning's, new show this season titled "Dream Quest." The experience was rewarding, enriching, educational, and definitely one-of-a-kind!

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Director's Update to Trustees**vi. **Duty to Report**

The DSBN partnered with the Ontario College of Teachers, Family and Children Services Niagara and the Niagara Regional Police Service to launch the OCT's Professional Advisory - Duty to Report. The launch which occurred on October 8, provided information for educators and those working with students to help them recognize the signs of abuse and neglect, and how to report suspicions immediately.

a) **Recognition of John Woods, Volunteer, Welland Centennial Secondary School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized John Woods for being a dedicated volunteer, a valued community member and a role model for the students at Welland Centennial Secondary School. Mr. Woods has supported students and teachers in the DSBN for over 40 years. Despite retiring almost 20 years ago from a 24 year career with the Board as an electrician, he continues to stay up to date with new developments and he embraces the ongoing changes and advances in audio/visual technology that are needed to ensure that the auditorium at Welland Centennial Secondary School remains a state-of-the-art facility.

Director Hoshizaki presented John Woods with a token of the Board's appreciation for his extraordinary contributions to students.

With respect to Duty to Report, Superintendent Dickson clarified for Trustees that authorities try not to inform parents of the identity of the person who made the report. Staff may be named in some cases, and while this may cause some difficulties for the teacher, the child's needs come first. Director Hoshizaki reinforced that advocacy for the child is most important.

Chair Barnett congratulated Mr. Woods and thanked guests in the audience for supporting Mr. Woods for his long time contribution.

2. **Educational Showcases**(a) **Savings by Design**

Superintendent Veld presented the showcase that featured the Savings by Design Program. Over the past year, Facility Services has been aggressively looking at energy conservation at the Board. Superintendent Veld introduced Bob Dunn, Manager of Projects and Maintenance, and Graeme McKenzie, Energy Co-ordinator for the Board.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Savings by Design**

Bob Dunn explained that the department has been focusing on the continued partnership with local utility providers and highlighted some of the projects that have been completed to date. These projects have resulted in utility rebates of over \$45,000 and have reduced utility bills by \$50,000.

This past spring, a team of independent experts attended a full day workshop looking at the design of the new West Fort Erie public school. A short Enbridge promotional video was shown that highlighted the Savings by Design Program and the work being done at the DSBN. Graeme McKenzie explained that the program encompasses the DSBN core values and leads to a healthy learning environment.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

**Moved by Helga Campell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

“That the Board receive the report on the 2014-15 Grade 10 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT).”

CARRIED

Superintendent McGregor provided a summary of DSBN's 2014-2015 Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test results.

H. DELEGATIONS

Wayne Robinson – Mr. Robinson requested a delegation to address an issue related to transportation. The family's catchment area is Quaker Road Public School. The eldest student is in grade 2 and attends Gordon Public School as a French Immersion student and is eligible for transportation. The younger sibling is in JK and has been granted an alternate school request to attend Gordon Public School but is not eligible for transportation as per Policy J-01.

Mr. Robinson requested revisions to Policy J-01 to allow transportation to be provided for both siblings, should one sibling attend a school strictly for programming, and the other sibling attends the same school but on an alternate school basis.

Chair Barnett thanked Mr. Robinson for his presentation and indicated he will receive a response to his presentation.

DELEGATIONS – continued

Peter Sawatzky - parent of Governor Simcoe Secondary School student, addressed an issue related to transportation and Policy J-01. Mr. Sawatzky's son is in grade 10 and wanted to attend Governor Simcoe Secondary School in order to take technology courses not offered at his home school. He was granted an alternate school request to attend Governor Simcoe Secondary School but is not eligible for transportation.

Mr. Sawatzky requested a review and revisions of Policy J-01 to allow his son to receive transportation.

Chair Barnett thanked Mr. Sawatzky for his presentation and indicated he will receive a response to his presentation.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Linda Crouch

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1596 to 1624, for the month of August 2015, totaling \$15,374,177.97 be received.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Veld had nothing to add to the report.

2. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

Moved by Justin Dubé
Seconded by Katelynn Hilborn

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated September 22, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE – continued

Student Trustee Hilborn provided highlights from the Student Trustee Senate meeting which included a discussion about continuing with a focus on mental health. Guest speakers included Brett Sweeney, Ann Harrison, and Cindy Paskey. The group also enjoyed team building activities, a group discussion, and a brainstorming session.

Student Trustee Dubé provided highlights from the Ontario Student Trustees' Association Conference held early in October. Student Trustees from across Ontario took part in discussions and enjoyed guest speakers Andrea Horwath, Alyx Duffy, Bruce Rodrigues, and Janet Ecker.

In response to a Trustee question, Superintendent Dickson explained that it is the intention that teachers will be given the opportunity to receive training in mental health issues this year, and that Student Trustees will also be given this opportunity.

3. REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE

Vice-Chair Robinson reported that tonight, on October 13, 2015, the Ad Hoc Governance Committee met briefly to approve the amendment to the Ad Hoc Governance Committee meeting minutes dated October 1, 2015 and to approve the minutes. Vice-Chair Robinson indicated the committee members had met six times since March 2015 on Governance Committee matters and she thanked committee members for their hard work and careful consideration.

The Ad Hoc Governance Committee had its final meeting on October 1, 2015 at which time it approved its final report that contains a number of recommendations relating to its Terms of Reference.

Vice-Chair Robinson read the report recommendations and asked Trustees if they would like to vote on the recommendations as a whole or separately. Trustees indicated that they would like to vote on the recommendations as a whole.

**Moved by Dale Robinson
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

“That the minutes of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated October 1, 2015, be received as amended”; and

“That staff be asked to arrange a pre-Board Trustee information session on First Nations / Aboriginal matters prior to the Board making a decision regarding the request to have all Board meetings begin with an indigenous acknowledgement.”

“That the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated October 1, 2015, be received and the recommendations adopted as follows:

REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – continued**Trustee Responsibilities****Committee Recommendations:**

1. That Trustees familiarize themselves with provisions of the Education Act concerning duties and responsibilities of Trustees and the Board, specifically s. 169.1 and s. 218.1
2. That staff be authorized to create a preamble for the Trustees portion of the Board website using s. 169.1 and s. 218 as the basis for describing the role of the Trustees and Board.
3. That Trustees access the resources and modules available on the OPSBA website for personal and professional development.

and

Code of Conduct for Trustees**Committee Recommendations:**

“The Ad Hoc Governance Committee is not recommending the creation of a Trustee Code of Conduct for the DSBN at this time.”

and

DSBN Website & Revision of Board By-Laws and Rules of Order

- It was agreed that the notice given in the June 9, 2015 Board package in accordance with By-Law Q-2 is deemed as sufficient notice to discuss and consider the following recommendation and amendments to the By-Laws and Rules of Order of the District School Board of Niagara at the October 13, 2015 Board meeting with such amendments to take effect thereafter.

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| G – 9 | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) The Board will post the Board agenda <u>with supplementary materials</u> on the Board’s website at least 24 hours prior to the Board meeting, exclusive of matters to be considered in Committee of the Whole - Private Session, for access by the public. b) The Board meeting minutes, without supporting material, shall be posted on the Board’s website once they are approved by the Board <u>(exclusive of matters considered in a closed session)</u>. c) The Board will post the Committee meeting agenda <u>with supplementary materials</u> on the Board’s website at least 24 hours prior to a Standing or Statutory Committee meeting, exclusive of matters to be considered in a Closed Session, for access by the public. d) <u>Committee meeting minutes, without supplementary materials, shall be posted on the Board’s website once they are approved by the Committee (exclusive of matters considered in a closed session).</u> |
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REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – continued

- It was also agreed that the posting of the Board’s agenda with supplementary materials will not include unapproved Committee minutes.

and

Committee Recommendations:

“That all committee agendas will follow a common template of “Approval of Agenda; Approval of Minutes; and Business Arising from the minutes.”

and

Minutes & Privacy Issues

Committee Recommendation:

“That the content of Board meeting minutes be a reflection of action taken and that any ancillary commentary be recorded in a general fashion.”

and

Video Recordings

Committee Recommendation:

“That the Board not adopt videotaping or live streaming of Board or Committee or Committee of the Whole meetings at this time. Any further discussion regarding video recording and live streaming of Board or Committee or Committee of the Whole meetings be deferred for two (2) years while staff monitor any new legislation that may impact on a reconsideration of this practice.”

and

Social Media & Communication Devices

Committee Recommendation:

“That Trustees recognize that the rules of conduct for appropriate usage apply to Trustees in their usage of social media and communication devices, such as tweets, Facebook, blogs and e-mails. Trustees cannot disclose discussions about confidential matters held in camera through social media, or demean staff or the Board or other Trustees and they must follow the rules of supporting a motion once a decision has been reached.”

and

REPORT OF THE AD HOC GOVERNANCE COMMITTEE – continued**Public Inquiries and Engagement****Committee Recommendations:**

1. That the Board adopt the attached G-37: Complaints Resolution Policy, as amended, which will be shared with the Ombudsman and posted on the Board website upon its approval.
2. Trustees may use the 4 step chart entitled “Parent and/or Community Guideline for Trustees” as a guideline for directing public inquiries to appropriate staff to handle.

CARRIED**4. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE**

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

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated October 1, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Keddy Scott reported that 11 cases were reviewed by the Committee and strategies were developed for the students’ success.

5. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Diane Chase**

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated October 6, 2015, be received”; and

“That the report of the Educational Research Committee of May 21, 2015, be received”; and

“That the Board receive the West Pelham Initial Staff Report; and, that the Board initiate the West Pelham Modified Accommodation Review for E.W. Farr PS and Pelham Centre PS; and, that staff be directed to provide notice of initiation as set out in the DSBN Accommodation Review Policy (F-2)”; and

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE – continued

“That the Board receive the South Central St. Catharines Initial Staff Report; and, that the Board initiate the South Central St. Catharines Modified Accommodation Review for Glen Ridge PS and Oakridge PS; and, that staff be directed to provide notice of initiation as set out in the DSBN Accommodation Review Policy (F-2).”

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel provided a summary of the report and recommended motions. Trustee Schaubel thanked staff for compiling the information in a detailed and easy to read manner.

In response to Trustee questions, Superintendent Veld explained that Oakridge Public School has estimated renewal needs in the amount of \$3.2 million, with the majority being accessibility requirements.

In response to Trustee questions, Superintendent Pisek explained that Oakridge Public School can accommodate Grade 1-8 students from Glen Ridge Public School, however, an additional ELP classroom would be needed. Superintendent Pisek added that Oakridge is the most centrally located option.

Trustees requested clarification on the impact of including Briardale Public School in the South Central St. Catharines Modified Accommodation Review.

Discussions took place on the possibility of adding Briardale Public School to the review process at a later time, the impact on students and the community, and the current environment at Oakridge Public School.

Superintendent Pisek explained that through the process, public input will be gathered that will help inform the final report which Trustees will make a final decision on.

6. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

**Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Helga Campbell**

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated October 7, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Ajandi provided a brief summary of the report and reminded the Board of the upcoming Parent Involvement Committee Conference November 4, 2015.

7. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated October 13, 2015, be received and the recommendation adopted”; and

“That the low bid received from Struct-Con Construction Ltd., in the amount of \$22,980,000 (plus HST) be accepted and a contract awarded for the construction of the new Greater Fort Erie Secondary School.”

CARRIED

Trustees were provided a hand-out of the Finance Committee meeting minutes prior to the Board meeting. Trustee Maves reported that the Finance Committee met prior to the Board meeting to expedite the start of the construction of Greater Fort Erie Secondary School.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee Ajandi will contact Trustees who are interested in going to Woodland Cultural Centre in Brantford Ontario in December or January to tour the residential school and attend workshops.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**1. Staff Reports****a) Primary Class Size Report**

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Helga Campbell**

“That the Primary Class Size Report dated October 13, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Morgan provided a brief summary of the Primary Class Size Report dated October 13, 2015.

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 Helga Campbell reported that Motts Canada Dry, along with volunteers from Stamford, Westlane, and Grimsby Secondary Schools, built a park beside Victoria Public School. The park will service approximately 1,000 kids in the area and is a wonderful asset for the community.

(b) Trustee Keddy Scott reported that over the Thanksgiving weekend, the 23rd Annual Art Fest took place at Twenty Valley Public School. Over 15,000 people were in attendance.

(c) Trustee Lora Campbell reported that on October 6, 2015, Pine Grove Public School won the DSNB Junior Soccer Tournament.

(d) Vice-Chair Robinson thanked Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, and Elizabeth Mellon, Legal Assistant for their hard work with the Ad Hoc Governance Committee.

(e) Chair Barnett reported that an intermediate soccer tournament took place on October 6, 2015 with 20 teams taking part in the tournament.

(f) Chair Barnett reported attending the retirement celebration for Janet Booth, Chief Executive Officer at the Welland Public Library. Many visitors at the event were interested in learning about the partnership between the DSNB Diamond Trail Public Library and the Welland Public Library.

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

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

Trustee Ajandi reported highlights from the last OPSBA Board meeting. The Regional meeting will be held in Stratford Ontario on October 24, 2015. Trustees are invited to attend.

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

