



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

September 22, 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 7:28 p.m.

Chair Barnett welcomed students, staff, and parents from Twenty Valley Public School who were 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.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued:

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Diane Chase
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 7:19 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed by the Lakeview Public School Choir, on video.

The Board remained standing for a moment of silence in memory of Mekhia Bowen, Port Weller Public School student, who passed away.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Helga Campbell opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Diane Chase
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Linda Crouch
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated June 22, 2015 be confirmed as originally submitted at the September 8, 2015 board meeting, without amendments”; and

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated September 8, 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 Susan Cunningham, Secretary, Twenty Valley Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Susan Cunningham for her hard work and dedication to Twenty Valley Public School. In the short time that Susan has been at the school she has become a valued member of the Twenty Valley Team. The school motto last year was ‘we will make good things happen for other people’ and Susan has taken that to heart by making Twenty Valley a better place to be.

Director Hoshizaki presented Susan Cunningham with a token of the Board’s appreciation for her extraordinary contributions to students.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS - continued**(b) Director's Update to Trustees****i. Young Citizen Award Winner**

Last school year, students across the DSBN and Canada participated in heritage fairs, presenting research projects about stories of Canadian heroes, legends and key events. Canada's History Society then identified students with the best projects and encouraged them to record short videos of their research into Canada's past.

Congratulations to Charlotte Fritz from Woodland Public School for receiving an Honourable mention in the Canada's History–Young Citizens Video Contest. Charlotte earned recognition for her "Discovery of Insulin" video project.

ii. Canadian Author Visits Ferndale Public School

Over the course of the past year, the grade 8 class at Ferndale Public School read a variety of books written by Eric Walters. One student in particular, Payton, really enjoyed his most recent novel, the "Rule of Three."

Payton spent March Break working on a model based on a "Rule of Three" situation, and after he shared the model with his class, Payton's teacher forwarded a photo of the model to Eric Walters. Mr. Walters tweeted it to his fans, sent a signed copy of the sequel to Payton, and then later visited Ferndale Public School where Payton had the opportunity to share ideas about a novel he would like to write.

In addition, Eric Walters created a contest encouraging his readers to share how much they enjoyed the "Rule of Three" series. Payton won the contest and the opportunity to have a character named after him in the final book of the trilogy, which is due out this fall. Everyone at Ferndale PS is looking forward to the release of Eric Walter's final book to find out what role the character "Payton" will play.

iii. Reconnecting with Nature

A bronze sculpture is now a focal point in the front garden at the Walker Living Campus. Sculpted by retired DSBN Visual Art Teacher and Artist, Perry Wakulich, it is entitled "Reconnecting with Nature."

iv. Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School - Blue Devils Football

As part of the Nissan Kickoff Project, the Ridgeway Crystal Beach Blue Devils football team was presented with \$15,000 worth of new equipment and re-designed jerseys. Six Hamilton Tiger-Cats attended the presentation of the award and helped at practice.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Director's Update to Trustees**

Trustee Keddy Scott thanked Susan Cunningham for her hard work and dedication during her short time at Twenty Valley Public School and congratulated her on receiving the award.

Trustee Ajandi congratulated Charlotte Fritz and thanked friends and family who helped support the project.

2. Educational Showcases**(a) EduTravel Program**

Superintendent Courtois presented the showcase that featured the EduTravel pilot program, and introduced Ed Stavnitzky, Principal of Adult and Community Education, and Secondary Summer School.

Ed Stavnitzky provided an overview of the EduTravel program, which gave 74 students the opportunity to earn their required Grade 10 Civics and Careers credit while travelling to Ottawa, Montreal, and New York. Ed Stavnitzky thanked teachers Karen Douglas, Jeanine Barette, and Tyler Marr who were responsible for the highly successful program.

Korynne Cousineau, Welland Centennial Secondary School student, and Antonio Romero, Governor Simcoe Secondary School student, provided highlights of the thirteen day program and thanked everyone involved for giving them the opportunity to take part in the program.

Ed Stavnitzky presented each Board Member with an EduTravel memento.

In response to Trustee questions, Korynne Cousineau confirmed that the program is expected to be offered again next year with additional destinations being investigated, and the cost is approximately \$1,500 plus spending money.

Chair Barnett thanked Ed Stavnitzky, tour guides, teachers, and students for making the program so successful.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no Student Achievement Reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

The scheduled delegation by Fred Bracken was cancelled.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated September 9, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Ajandi provided a summary and highlights of the report. Trustee Ajandi reported that Parent Involvement Committee Conference planning is underway for the event being held on November 4, 2015.

Trustee Ajandi congratulated Lisa Mooney for being elected Chair of the Parent Involvement Committee for a second two year term.

2. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Moved by Dale Robinson
Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi**

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated September 10, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

Vice-Chair Robinson provided a summary and highlights of the report. Superintendent Dickson provided an overview of the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement and discussed DSBN plans and undertakings to meet the accessibility guidelines.

3. REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

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

“That the report of the Audit Committee dated September 14, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE – continued

Trustee Fast reported that the committee met on September 14, 2015. Superintendent Veld provided a summary of the report.

4. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Helga Campbell**

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated September 15, 2015, be received”; and

“That the Board receives the Health and Physical Education Curriculum Report”; and

“That the Board approves the final Accommodation Review Policy (F-2)”; and

“That the Board receives the Annual Facility and Planning Report, 2015, and the Long Term Accommodation Plan; and that the Board direct Senior Administration to prepare an Initial Staff Report and School Information Profile Report to be presented to the Board of Trustees for consideration to initiate an Accommodation Review for each of the following groups of schools:

- 1. E.W. Farr PS and Pelham Centre PS;**
- 2. Glen Ridge PS and Oakridge PS; and**
- 3. North Niagara Falls (Victoria PS, Martha Cullimore PS, John Marshall PS, Prince Philip PS.”**

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel thanked staff for their hard work in putting together the report and provided a summary of the recommended motions.

Trustee Chase brought to the attention of the Board that the Accommodation Review Policy (F-2) as recommended with revisions by the Program and Planning Committee was not included in the Board Package.

Staff circulated the final Accommodation Review Policy (F-2) as revised, approved and recommended by the Program and Planning Committee on September 15, 2015. Trustees agreed to accept the newly provided policy.

5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated September 16, 2015, be received”; and

“That the report on the projects approved under the 2015 Delegation of Authority be received”; and

“That the low bid received from Serianni Construction, in the amount of \$734,000 (plus HST), be accepted and a contract awarded for the Interior Alteration Project at DSBN Academy”; and

“That Borrowing Resolution 2015-02, authorizing the Board to borrow up to \$11,052,462 for the short-term financing of capital projects being funded under the Ministry’s School Condition Improvement Funding Program pursuant to the provisions of section 243(1) of the Education Act, be approved”; and

“That the revised Policy B-02 Mileage Reimbursement be approved.”

CARRIED

Trustee Maves provided a summary of the report and recommended motions.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of and by Board members.

L. NEW BUSINESS**1. Policy Proposal**

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

“That the Board receive the Report on the DSBN Policy Committee dated September 22, 2015 and that Policy i-02: Policy Committee dated September 2015 be approved as modified and adopted.”

CARRIED

Trustee Keddy Scott provided an overview of the report of the DSBN Policy Committee including an overview on the important role of the Trustees in the creation, monitoring, and evaluation of Board Policy.

Trustee Chase requested clarification of the wording on page one, Composition of the Committee, with regards to the frequency of Policy Committee meetings.

NEW BUSINESS – continued**Policy Proposal**

Discussions followed on the frequency of meetings of the Policy Committee meetings and Trustees agreed to modify the wording as follows: *The Policy Committee shall be a standing committee of the Board which will meet a minimum of three times per year between the months of September and June or as required.*

Discussion also took place on the Three Step Process outlined on page two of the policy. Trustees agreed on modified wording as follows: *At the Policy Committee Meeting, after the expiration of the review timeframe, the revised policy will be presented.*

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

There were no Staff Reports.

2. Trustee Information Session

Prior to the Board Meeting, Trustees participated in an information session about the Welcome Centre.

3. Correspondence and Communication

- (a) Chair Barnett gave a reminder of the upcoming retirement party for Janet Booth.
- (b) Trustee Keddy Scott congratulated students and staff of Twenty Valley Public School on their successful open house.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Chase reported that she attended the South Lincoln High School Terry Fox Run Event that raised over \$2,000 for the Terry Fox Fund.
- (b) Trustee Schaubel reported that he visited Fort Erie Secondary School. The painting upgrades provide a fresh positive atmosphere in the school.
- (c) Student Trustee Dubé thanked the Board for making him feel welcome and reported the Student Trustee Senate meeting occurred at the Education Centre earlier that day. Student Trustee Hilborn reported that the Student Trustee Senate will continue with the Mental Health Project and shared some possible events that may be planned throughout the year.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued

Vice-Chair Robinson complimented the Student Trustees for their energy, enthusiasm, and for attending various committee meetings.

Chair Barnett thanked Trustees for the extra time they are giving to committee meetings.

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 she will be representing the Board at the OPSBA Board Meeting in Toronto later this week.

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

6. Future Meetings

There were no revisions to the calendar of September 2015 meetings.

The following meeting was added to the October 2015 calendar:

October 1 Ad Hoc Governance Committee Meeting 5:00p.m.

Discussions followed on whether Trustees would like the Ad Hoc Governance Committee to draft a Trustee Code of Conduct.

Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, explained that the Ad Hoc Governance Committee has previously looked at Trustee Code of Conduct templates. The Education Act outlines expected Trustee conduct, and if there are violations, then there are potential sanctions. A Code of Conduct would outline a process for imposing potential sanctions.

Vice-Chair Robinson requested a show of hands as to whether the Ad Hoc Governance Committee should move forward at this time with a Trustee Code of Conduct. By show of hands, the majority of Trustees agreed to have further discussion at a later date on the Trustee Code of Conduct.

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Linda Crouch**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

SUE BARNETT, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer