



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

February 23, 2016

6:15 – 7:00 p.m. (Private Session)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

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

Regrets Trustee Linda Crouch (Committee of the Whole session)

Recording Secretary: Christina Dero

Technical Support: Linda Gonschior and Evan Verworn

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 7:00 p.m.

Chair Robinson welcomed students, staff, and parents from Stevensville, Pelham Centre, E.W. Farr Memorial and Jeanne Sauvé Public Schools, as well as those from the Glen Ridge community who were in the gallery.

Chair Robinson opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued

Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent

Trustee Crouch was absent during the Committee of the Whole private session.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Diane Chase
Seconded by Kevin Maves

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

CARRIED

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy Scott

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:23 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed by the E.L. Crossley Orchestra, via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Student Trustee Hilborn opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Kevin Maves

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

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

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Linda Crouch

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 9, 2016 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 Diane Chase
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“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 Diana and Matt Woehl, Parent Volunteers, Stevensville Public School**

A short video was shown highlighting the hard work and accomplishments of Diana and Matt Woehl at Stevensville Public School.

Director Hoshizaki recognized Diana and Matt Woehl for their outstanding contributions at Stevensville Public School.

Diana and Matt Woehl are parent council members who have always been actively involved in their children’s education – volunteering their time in the classroom as well as supporting all parent council and school initiatives.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Recognition of Diana and Matt Woehl, Parent Volunteers, Stevensville Public School**

Their commitment and contribution to cleaning up the outdoor classroom for the students of Stevensville Public School is most extraordinary. The couple, along with their two children, spent over 250 hours of their time this past year revitalizing the outdoor classroom. They cleaned out the pond by hand and saved the school over \$2000 in excavation fees.

Not only did they complete this difficult work but they cleared an extensive amount of brush, removed a rotten deck, installed a pump and filter, installed an alarm system, rebuilt old gardens, installed a drainage system, and helped the grade 8 students spread over 10 yards of stone and 10 yards of mulch.

As a result of their contributions, other community members are inspired to become involved in this project. Stevensville Public School's outdoor classroom is once again a source of pride for their community. Teachers are using the space to enhance student skills in literacy, numeracy, science, the arts, character education and leadership.

Director Hoshizaki presented Diana and Matt Woehl with a token of the Board's appreciation for their extraordinary contributions to students.

(b) Director's Update to Trustees**i. Turning High Poverty Schools into High Performing Schools Conference**

On February 17, 2016, the DSBN welcomed authors William Parrett and Kathleen Budge to present their work focused on "Turning High Poverty Schools into High Performing Schools." 209 DSBN staff and 183 staff from other Boards across Ontario attended.

The presenters shared their findings gleaned from years of research in schools where poverty was seen as a barrier to academic achievement, and shared effective strategies that schools can use to improve school culture, student/family supports, and academic achievement for this vulnerable population. Participants were delighted to have the opportunity to hear from internationally renowned experts, confront the issues facing their students as a school team, and build plans to transform the learning environment.

Director Hoshizaki thanked Superintendent Reimer Friesen and Administrative Assistant Karen Sawatsky, for organizing the conference.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**ii. A.N. Myer Robotics**

In the first semester of a new grade 11 robotics focused computer engineering technology course, the A.N. Myer Secondary School team was crowned Tournament Champions at a VEX Robotics qualifying tournament.

As a result of this win, the team not only qualified for the Ontario Provincial championships, but also qualified for the C.R.E.A.T.E US National Championships in Iowa in April. Two hundred teams from the USA, Canada, and China will be competing in Iowa. As of today, A.N. Myer is the only DSBN school qualified for this event and one of only three teams registered from Canada.

This is a major accomplishment considering the infancy of the program and students are extremely excited about this opportunity. The students have set up a GoFundMe site to fundraise for this trip.

iii. Lego Robotics Challenge

DSBN's annual Lego Robotics Challenge recently took place at Brock University with over 80 elementary teams in attendance. The theme this year was "Cross Canada." Students were given four separate tasks their robot had to perform autonomously, ranging from feeding livestock in the prairies, gathering diamonds up north, rescuing lobster from the sea in Newfoundland, and tapping maple trees for syrup in Quebec.

Schools were represented from both the junior and intermediate divisions with many schools holding pre-event tryouts to determine who would attend the one day challenge. Points were awarded for each challenge to determine the overall winner for each division.

The event was attended by over 500 people including elementary principals, teachers, students, and parents. 16 SHSM students from A.N. Myer and E.L. Crossley Secondary Schools were also in attendance to act as scoring judges.

Congratulations to Kevin Graham and the Tech Team on organizing and running a terrific event and for providing an amazing opportunity for students!

iv. Active and Safe Routes to School Summit

The Heart and Stoke Foundation, together with Green Communities Canada, are hosting summits in four Ontario regions to share research and best practices, and provide support to local communities wanting to integrate the *Active and Safe Routes to School* and *School Travel Plan* models into school district transportation policies.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Active and Safe Route to School Summit**

The Niagara summit was recently held at DSBN's Education Centre. Congratulations to the following schools who received the Golden Shoe Awards:

1. Lakeview Public School, Grimsby
2. Nelles Public School, Grimsby
3. Glynn A. Green Public School, Pelham
4. College Street Public School, West Lincoln

Thank you to the award winning schools for their leadership in creating a positive environment for active travel.

v. Kindergarten Math Strategies

Power Glen Public School kindergarten teachers have created interesting 'math talk videos' and are sharing them with parents. The videos are great examples of how the kindergarten students are using different strategies to solve math questions.

A sample video was shown that highlighted a math strategy being used in the classroom by teacher Andy Dermatas and his students.

vi. Harriet Tubman - House of Commons

In honour of Black History Month, Chris Bittle, St. Catharines Member of Parliament, spoke in the House of Commons about the important role that St. Catharines played in the abolitionist movement.

He spoke of Harriet Tubman as a legendary civil rights activist and added that Harriet Tubman Public School and the statue commemorating her achievements are a reminder to students of the importance of standing up against hate and intolerance.

A video was shown of Chris Bittle's statement in the House of Commons.

Trustee Schaubel thanked Diana and Matt Woehl for their contributions and hard work at Stevensville Public School.

2. Educational Showcases**a) Stolen Freedom – Jeanne Sauvé French Immersion Public School**

Superintendent Reimer Friesen introduced the showcase, explaining that February is Black History month and in schools across the DSBN, teachers are helping students to gain insight into experiences of black Canadians. As students learn about black history, they come to value the many

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Stolen Freedom – Jeanne Sauvé French Immersion Public School**

achievements and contributions of black Canadians who, throughout history, have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate, and prosperous nation it is today.

Superintendent Reimer Friesen introduced Lori Moccio, teacher at Jeanne Sauvé French Immersion Public School, and students.

Lori Moccio explained how the students looked at and discussed images of the slave trade taken from the book, “The Sound that Jazz Makes.” This launched the group into a study of the blues, which starts in Africa and moves to North America in the form of slave song, becomes spirituals, ragtime, dixie, honky tonk and blues itself. The students needed to have a deep appreciation of the struggle from which comes this style of music. The class was divided in half and created two tableaux to represent each of the images. Each group was asked to create a sound carpet for the other group’s tableau. They were instructed to not write songs but to encapsulate the emotion in the images through sound. They worked for several weeks on this assignment, offered feedback to each other, and tweaked their work as they went along. Everyone participated and contributed.

The students played musical instruments and used dramatic movements to perform their work for Trustees.

Chair Robinson thanked the students for their moving and emotional presentation.

Trustee Lora Campbell thanked the students for taking the time to perform and encouraged the students to continue with their musical studies.

b) DSBN Celebrates Pink Shirt Day

Superintendent Dickson introduced the showcase by explaining that on February 10, 2016, DSBN students from grade 7 to 10 participated in the DSBN Pink Shirt Forum. Superintendent Dickson introduced Brandie Lancione, Consultant of Cultural and Linguistic Diversity.

Brandie Lancione reported that February 24, 2016 is DSBN Pink Shirt Day. The DSBN has been celebrating Pink Shirt Day since 2012, and starting in November of this year, schools were encouraged to take part in the Pink Shirt Every Day campaign.

Brandie Lancione introduced students from Beamsville District Secondary School and Twenty Valley Public School, who shared examples of activities that are being held in their schools that encourage inclusion, acceptance, and tolerance. Some of these examples include assemblies, clubs, contests, guest speakers, and community partnerships.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**DSBN Celebrates Pink Shirt Day**

A slideshow highlighting the Pink Shirt Forum, DSBN Pink Shirt Day 2015, and campaigns from previous years was shown.

Brandie Lancione encouraged those in attendance to use the hashtag #DSBNpinkshirt on February 24, 2016 to participate and see all of the great things that are happening around the Board.

Trustee Keddy Scott commended the students and thanked them for the positive examples of what is happening in our community.

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. ACCOUNTS**

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Kevin Maves

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1689 to 1699, for the month of January 2016, totalling \$17,837,459.28 be received.”

CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated February 11, 2016 be received.”

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued**REPORT OF THE SPEICAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Trustee Ajandi provided a summary and highlights of the report.

3. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

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

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated February 17, 2016 be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Dubé reported attending the Student Trustee Senate retreat held at School Support Services on February 17, 2016. The retreat focused on planning the mental health awareness walk scheduled for the morning of May 7, 2016. Committees have been responsible for acquiring permits and assembling volunteer packages. The Communications Department has assisted with creating a logo and a video which will be used to promote the walk.

Student Trustee Hilborn reported that a sponsorship letter and partnership letter have been drafted for the walk, with the hopes of community organizations being in attendance. The committee is also looking for student and teacher bands to perform throughout the day.

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 February 13, 2016 be received and the recommendation adopted.”

CARRIED

Trustees were provided with a handout prior to the start of the Board meeting.

Trustee Schaubel provided a summary of the report and read the recommended motion.

OLD BUSINESS – continued

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moved By Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars – 2016-2017 be received and approved for submission to the Ministry of Education by March 1, 2016.”

CARRIED

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of or by Board members.

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Change Board By-Law G-10

Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy Scott

“That the Board By-Law G-10 be amended as follows

G-10 The order of business for regular meetings of the Board shall be:

- A. Commencement of the Meeting of the Board
 1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory
 2. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent
 3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest”

CARRIED

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

a) West Pelham Modified Accommodation Review

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Kevin Maves

“That the Board approve the recommended option contained in the Final Staff Report for the West Pelham Accommodation Review, attached as Appendix A; specifically,

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued**West Pelham Modified Accommodation Review**

That E.W. Farr Memorial Public School students be redirected to Pelham Centre Public School for the 2016/2017 school year while construction at the E.W. Farr Memorial site takes place, pending Ministry approval;” and

That Pelham Centre Public School be closed for instructional purposes as of June 30, 2017, and that students be redirected to E.W. Farr Memorial Public School site.”

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Superintendent Courtois provided a brief overview of the process and timelines for the West Pelham Modified Accommodation Review.

Chair Robinson provided each Trustee with an opportunity to speak to the recommended motion. The Trustees each expressed their position on the recommended motion and provided their rationale and reasons in support of their position.

b) South Central St. Catharines Modified Accommodation Review

**Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

“That the Board approve the recommended option contained in the Final Staff Report for the South Central St. Catharines Accommodation Review, attached as Appendix A; specifically,

That Glen Ridge Public School be closed for instructional purposes as of June 30, 2016, and that students be redirected to Oakridge Public School; and

That the boundary for Oakridge Public School be modified as shown in Appendix B and be effective as of June 30, 2016.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Courtois provided a brief overview of the process and timelines for the South Central St. Catharines Modified Accommodation Review.

Chair Robinson provided each Trustee with an opportunity to speak to the recommended motion. The Trustees each expressed their position on the recommended motion and provided their rationale and reasons in support of their position.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued**South Central St. Catharines Modified Accommodation Review**

In response to a statement, Director Hoshizaki clarified for Trustees that architects have confirmed that there will remain approximately 3 acres of play space at Oakridge Public School.

In response to a question about a community hub, Superintendent Courtois clarified that the DSBN has explored the viability of a daycare and a Parent and Family Literacy Centre at the Glen Ridge Public School site. At the six meetings that DSBN staff had with the Municipality/Niagara Region, proposals for partnership opportunities were requested and as of this date none have been brought forward.

In response to a question, Superintendent Courtois clarified that with projected enrollment at Glen Ridge Public School, it is estimated that the composition of classes for the 2016/17 school year would consist of one junior/senior kindergarten split class, one grade 1/2 split class, and one grade 2/3/4 triple split class.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no Trustee information session.

3. Correspondence and Communication

- a) Trustee Barnett reported receiving a letter from Education Foundation of Niagara Executive Director Cindy Paskey, thanking the Board for their support with the Diamonds, Denim, and Diplomas fundraiser on February 20, 2016. There were 275 people in attendance and approximately \$22,000 was raised for bursary start-ups for DSBN Academy students.
- b) Student Trustees Hilborn and Dubé reported attending the Ontario Student Trustees' Association (OSTA) Conference held in Ottawa earlier in February.
- c) Student Trustee Dubé reported that he is working on an OSTA committee that is promoting an Orange Shirt Day campaign in support of FNMI.
- d) Student Trustee Dubé reported that he will be presenting during a parent council conference at Gordon Public School on the topic of mental health issues.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- a) Trustee Barnett reported that the Education Foundation of Niagara open house has been delayed until March, 2016.
- b) Trustee Barnett reported that Eastdale Alumni will be holding a 55th Anniversary Reunion, and Welland Centennial Secondary School will be holding a 50th Anniversary Reunion. Graduates can contact Trustee Barnett for information about the events.
- c) Trustee Lora Campbell reported that she helped judge the Pine Grove Public School public speaking competition on February 23, 2016.

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

- d) Trustee Lora Campbell reported that the Education Foundation of Niagara *Make Change for Children* campaign is underway.
- e) Trustee Keddy Scott reported that she will be attending the Honour Roll Breakfast at Beamsville Secondary School on February 25, 2016 where 221 students will be recognized.
- f) Trustee Helga Campbell thanked Parent Involvement Committee Chair, Lisa Mooney, for inviting her to speak at the parent council meeting on February 24, 2016 at Gordon Public School.
- g) Trustee Crouch provided a reminder of the production *Anything Goes*, being presented by Laura Secord Secondary School students starting this week.
- h) Vice Chair Chase reported that she will be attending a free parenting workshop called Respectful Communication, Developing Relationships with Teens, at South Lincoln High School on February 24, 2016.
- i) Chair Robinson provided a reminder of the DSBN Winter Gala taking place on February 25, 2016 in support of the St. John's Outdoor Centre.

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

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

Vice Chair Chase presented the report on behalf of Trustee Ajandi.

- The government is citing low voter turnout as a reason for wanting to eliminate elections for Trustees for the Quebec English School Board Association. OPSBA is concerned about this and sees it as challenging a democratic process.
- OPSBA is pleased with the way that Boards have been welcoming refugee children and their families.
- The Child Care Modernization Act includes the requirement for schools to have before and after school programming (this can include third party groups and even possibility of off-site programming for children ages 9-12). This transitional stage of implementing this programming will be long. The regulation pertaining to before and after school programming will be no earlier than September 2017.
- A discussion took place around what it means for schools to be a shared space and how to approach community use of schools. Developing shared language or policy around fees was discussed. Currently some boards charge for community use of schools and others subsidize groups, while others don't charge at all.
- The Ministry of Community Safety and Correctional Services is looking at revising and standardizing their 3 types of record checks and are currently gathering input and feedback.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued**Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report**

- OPSBA has been asked if schools would be interested in holding municipal elections on a PA Day. As of yet, no interest has been shown.
- The Ministry is rolling out the Community Hub Framework. The examples that have been used of community hubs have mostly been in centers rather than schools. The focus is on integrated service delivery. OPSBA's focus is how this framework will impact schools.
- First Nations Trustee Report: There was a discussion about which language would be best to use to acknowledge traditional territories at the opening of meetings. It was determined that a motion be approved to use general language and that the expertise of First Nations Trustees could be sought in regard to specific locations as they arise. The group reviewed the advocacy position, maintaining that curriculum be mandatory on residential schooling and FNMI issues. Public workers will be provided education modules on this topic.
- One school board has a 6-video module called Walking in My Shoes and provides training to all employees, Trustees, etc... Many have Trustees represented on their Aboriginal Education Advisory Committee.
- A hand out was provided to Trustees regarding the 2016 Education Labour Relations & HR Symposium that will run from March 31 – April 1, 2016.
- A hand out was provided to Trustees regarding the 2016 Summit on Children & Youth Mental Health that will run from April 7 – 8, 2016.
- The OPSBA Annual General Meeting will be held in Ottawa from June 9 – 11, 2016.

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

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of March 2016 meetings was provided.

In response to a question, Superintendent Veld clarified that a Community Partnership and Planning meeting will be held on March 9, 2016. Invitations have been sent to community partners, municipalities, and the region.

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:28 p.m.

DALE ROBINSON, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer