



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

October 25, 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: Samir Alazzam and Karling Luciani

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, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Bujacz

Recording Secretary: Christina Dero

Technical Support: Linda Gonschior

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. **Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory**

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

2. **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 guests who were in the gallery.

There were no members absent.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no conflicts of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

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

CARRIED

Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded Sue Barnett

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:35 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed by E.L. Crossley Secondary School orchestra, via video.

The Board remained standing for a moment of silence in honor of E.L. Crossley Secondary School teacher Christine Rougoor, who recently 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 Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

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

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated September 27, 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 Cheryl Keddy Scott

“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 Sama Nanayakkara, Student, Governor Simcoe Secondary School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Governor Simcoe Secondary School student, Sama Nanayakkara, for her dedication, determination, and passion.

Sama Nanayakkara participates in a number of extracurricular activities such as rowing and jazz band, which takes a tremendous amount of dedication and effort in addition to her already industrious schedule.

Sama Nanayakkara is an exceptional student and a natural born leader who recently organized a DSNB event to raise funds for refugees arriving in the Niagara Region. She led a group of other compassionate students by following the WE Day format for event planning, and successfully

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Recognition of Sama Nanayakkara, Student, Governor Simcoe Secondary School**

executed the plan which concluded with a debrief session and celebration of her team's accomplishments.

Sama Nanayakkara was one of ten recipients presented with the 2016 Sovereign Medal for Volunteers, an award that recognizes the exceptional volunteer achievements of Canadians from across the country. Sama has the power to change the world and is immensely worthy of this award.

Director Hoshizaki presented Sama Nanayakkara with a token of the Board's appreciation for her extraordinary contributions.

b) Recognition of Linda Chown, Teacher, Lockview Public School (formerly Harriet Tubman Public School)

Director Hoshizaki recognized Lockview Public School teacher Linda Chown for her dedication and support with helping students and the community develop a deeper understanding of Harriet Tubman's impact.

As part of a grant, Linda Chown's students skyped with famous historians and authors, and had the chance to work with two musicians to compose a song for the Harriet Tubman Public School grand opening.

Linda Chown organized a narrated tour for her grade five students with Rochelle Bush from the Salem-BME Church, who took them through the Niagara Region to key destinations known to have been visited by Harriet Tubman. While at the Whirlpool Bridge, Rochelle told the students that she wished there was a heritage marker at the site where Harriet crossed into Canada.

After mounting a letter campaign along with posters and a formal petition on Change.org, the students were successful in their bid to convince the Niagara Parks Commission to mark the only documented site where Harriet Tubman brought freedom-seekers to Canada.

A team of students from Lockview and Harriet Tubman will collaborate and play a role in the development of an interpretive panel about Harriet Tubman and the site where she crossed into Niagara Falls. The panel is set to be unveiled in June 2017.

Director Hoshizaki presented Linda Chown with a token of the Board's appreciation for her extraordinary contributions to students.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**c) Recognition of Rosemary Findlay, Principal, Power Glen Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Power Glen Public School Principal, Rosemary Findlay, for leading by example, inspiring those around her, and challenging staff to grow and strive toward positive thinking.

Rosemary Findlay is caring and compassionate. Her leadership is focused on caring for all students and she sets the needs of her students as a priority. She models her passion for students by consistently collaborating with all stakeholders to find the best strategies, supports and interventions so that each child feels safe, respected and challenged to be a student of excellence. She develops relationships with students based on trust and mutual respect and asks for kindness and strong thinking from her students.

Rosemary Findlay leads by example and sets high standards for her staff to believe and support each child. She inspires all to work hard and pushes for change through the improvement of practice and the fine tuning of procedures. She puts her strengths into action by getting the best from those around her and pushes back at times in order to challenge her staff to grow and strive toward new positive thinking. Rosemary Findlay has always put into action the current DSBN message "I Matter." She sees every staff and student from a perspective of their strengths.

Rosemary Findlay has proved that her leadership skills are exemplary, her heart has no limit and she continuously portrays intelligence and fair professionalism. Her leadership results in students, staff and community members feeling valued and heard which builds a strong foundation for all to reach their potential.

Director Hoshizaki presented Rosemary Findlay with a token of the Board's appreciation for her extraordinary contributions to students.

2. Directors Update to Trustees**i. Excellence of DSBN Teachers Recognized**

Central French Immersion Public School teacher Lee Martin was awarded the OTIP Teaching Award for Excellence in the Beginning Teacher Category at a ceremony on September 27, 2016.

Lee Martin's passion for making learning fun and interesting brings his lessons alive for his students. Whether it be robotics, coding, green screening or blended learning, Lee Martin integrates it into his class and the school culture at Central Public School. Lee was also responsible for initiating the COMPUTERS4CHANGE crowd funding initiative which seeks to ensure access for all students to technology.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**Excellence of DSBN Teachers Recognized**

Central French Immersion Public School teacher Julie Arsenault-Howick was awarded The Right Honourable John Turner Award for Water and Environmental Leadership at the Niagara Peninsula Conservation Authority (NPCA) Gala on September 29, 2016.

Julie Arsenault-Howick has not only immersed her students in the French language, but also the importance of water conservation. Central Public School has enjoyed a very active 'Eco Fierté' Club (Eco Pride) with over 60 student volunteers.

The NPCA also recognized Julie Arsenault-Howick for her leadership with the Yellow Fish Road initiative.

ii. Premier Wynne Visits Glynn A. Green Public School

Premier Kathleen Wynne visited the onsite YMCA child care centre at Glynn A. Green Public School on October 11, 2016 to make a formal announcement about the Province's commitment to further their investment in child care. While at the school, students and staff were able to interact with the Premier and provide her with a tour of the building.

The Premier was very proud of the school and the child care facility. She also made specific mention of the Board's "I Matter" campaign while speaking with media.

Director Hoshizaki offered thanks to students Ben and Shalynn, who were exceptional ambassadors, and to school staff for their excellent preparations for the visit.

iii. Orange Shirt Day – Every Child Matters

The DSBN joined with others across Canada in celebrating Orange Shirt Day – Every Child Matters on September 30, 2016, to recognize the harm done to generations of children by Residential Schools and as an affirmation of our commitment to ensure that every child matters. This initiative calls for everyone to wear an orange shirt to honour the experience of survivors. It is an excellent opportunity to continue the discussion on Residential Schools in the spirit of reconciliation and hope for generations of children to come.

iv. "I Matter" Campaign Comes to Life in DSBN Schools**John Brant Public School**

John Brant Public School launched their "I Matter" campaign at the recent grand opening celebration.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**“I Matter” Campaign Comes to Life in DSBN Schools****John Brant Public School**

Students Michael Wiley and Giana Jarry made a speech at the Grand Opening about why they and their fellow students matter at John Brant Public School. All 500 students, together with teachers, staff and many guests participated in a community circle about why they matter.

At a recent PA Day, teachers addressed their needs as individuals, as learners and as community members.

Harriet Tubman Public School

Harriet Tubman Public School is using “I Matter” to promote their belief that we all matter as individuals, learners and as community members.

The school’s mascot is Freedom the North Star. With the help of the Communications Department, they printed 1,000 “Where in the World” post cards so students and families could take Freedom on adventures and tweet them out to the school community. From Toronto Blue Jays games, to Adele concerts, to pumpkin patches, Freedom and the “I Matter” message is getting around.

Director Hoshizaki congratulated Student Trustee Karling Luciani on receiving the Youth Citizen of the Year Award at the Ruby Awards Celebration that took place on October 14, 2016.

2. Educational Showcases**a) E.L. Crossley Secondary School**

The educational showcase was postponed.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS**1. Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) 2015/2016 End of Year Report**

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Linda Crouch

“That the Board receive the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) 2015/2016 End of Year Report.”

CARRIED

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS – continued

Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) 2015/2016 End of Year Report

Director Hoshizaki introduced the report and explained that the BIPSA is a document that is created from the DSBN Strategic Plan. The BIPSA identifies the Board's strategies and systematic approach to student achievement.

Superintendent Roberto summarized the progress made by DSBN elementary students and explained that many strategies are being used, and are making a positive impact on student achievement.

Superintendent McGregor highlighted the changes seen in student data for DSBN secondary students over the 2015/16 school year and noted substantial gains in some areas. Superintendent McGregor explained that DSBN will continue to set goals, identify where to focus attention, and then plan accordingly.

Superintendents shared examples of the positive impact of collaborative instructional leadership on student achievement. Superintendents highlighted focus schools that have seen significant gains in literacy and mathematics.

Student Trustees shared examples of the impact of student voice at the DSBN and highlighted the efforts of the Student Trustee Senate.

Trustees commended staff for their hard work and dedication to student success.

In response to a question from a Trustee about results seen in grade 9 applied mathematics, Superintendent Roberto explained that there was a coding error in the English language learner and grade 9 applied mathematics data which is being addressed. Superintendent McGregor outlined supports and strategies being used to address the results.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. ACCOUNTS

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

OLD BUSINESS – continued**ACCOUNTS**

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1779 to 1793, for the month of August 2016 totaling \$17,250,818.18 be received.”

CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE

**Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Sue Barnett**

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated October 5, 2016 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Lora Campbell reported that of the 10 cases heard by the committee, 9 were approved, and 1 required additional information which will be provided during the next meeting. Trustee Lora Campbell commended Susie Palumbo, Student Achievement Leader, Supervised Alternative Learning, for working with schools to create a streamlined process that ensures that a strong case is brought to the committee.

3. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

**Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated October 5, 2016 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell noted the importance of the Parent Involvement Committee, which allows parents to discuss topics that are important to them.

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that Superintendent Reimer Friesen shared EQAO results with the committee. Parents shared concerns about grade 9 applied math results and were reassured of the new curriculum.

Trustee Helga Campbell explained that parents were provided information about DSBN policies that will be under review during the school year and were given an overview of the West Niagara Accommodation Review.

OLD BUSINESS – continued**REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

Trustee Helga Campbell reminded the Board that registration is open for the Parent Involvement Committee Conference being held on November 2, 2016 at Eden High School.

4. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Kevin Maves**

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated October 13, 2016 be received.”

CARRIED

Chair Robinson provided a summary of the meeting which included a presentation from Superintendent Dickson about EQAO results and a presentation from Special Education Consultant Kelly Irvine-Minor who spoke to specific professional learning opportunities that are being offered to educators between September and November, 2016.

5. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

**Moved by Samir Alazzam
Seconded by Karling Luciani**

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated October 18, 2016 be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Alazzam reported that the Student Trustee Senate was provided information about the role of Trustees, the DSBN policies that will be under review during this school year, and the West Niagara Accommodation Review.

Student Trustee Alazzam reported that the Student Trustee Senate will be offering a number of \$500 grants to be used to help fund student-led mental health initiatives at DSBN schools.

Student Trustee Luciani reported that the Student Trustee Senate initiative for the 2016/17 school year will be “I Matter”, which aligns with the DSBN Strategic Plan. The committee will begin planning an event that will be held on May 5, 2017.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of or by Board members.

L. NEW BUSINESS

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Diane Chase

“Pursuant to By-Law K-2, the Chair of the Board is calling for a Special Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara to be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2017 for the purpose of staff presenting the Final Staff Report regarding the West Niagara Secondary Accommodation Review.”

CARRIED

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

There were no staff reports.

2. Trustee Information Session

Prior to the Board Meeting, Trustees attended an information session on Mental Health training at the DSBN.

3. Correspondence and Communication**a) Correspondence from Bluewater District School Board**

Correspondence from Bluewater District School Board can be found in the Board package.

b) Correspondence from Peel District School Board

Correspondence from Peel District School Board can be found in the Board package.

c) Online Administration of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)

Director Hoshizaki explained that technical issues occurred during the online administration of the OSSLT on October 20, 2016, which resulted in many students across the province being unable to complete the test. EQAO is in the process of determining if these tests will be graded or if students will need to re-take the test.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued**Correspondence and Communication****Online Administration of the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test (OSSLT)**

**Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Helga Campbell**

“That correspondence be sent to the Education Quality and Accountability Office (EQAO) requesting that student results for the tests written on October 20, 2016, be counted on students’ records.”

CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell stressed the importance of grading the OSSLT tests, adding that the testing causes anxiety for many students and requires a lot work on the part of administrators.

d) School Resource Officer (SRO) Program

Director Hoshizaki reported that secondary school principals recently sent a letter to Niagara Regional Police Services outlining the value of the School Resource Officer (SRO) program in DSBN schools and requested the continuation of the program.

Trustees requested that correspondence be sent on behalf of the Board in support of the SRO program as well.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Superintendent McGregor explained that some students were able to complete the EQAO testing before the technical difficulties occurred. Director Hoshizaki added that the DSBN Information Technology Department was very well prepared and ready to provide support.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- a) Trustee Barnett reported that Student Trustee Luciani was recognized by the Welland-Pelham Chamber of Commerce as the “Youth Citizen of the Year” on October 14, 2016.
- b) Trustee Barnett reported that the Welland Centennial Secondary School 50th Anniversary Reunion was very successful. Trustee Barnett thanked Kim Wylde and the Alumni Committee for their hard work on the event. Trustee Barnett added that Welland Centennial Alumni Committee has begun fundraising efforts to purchase bleachers for the new field.
- c) Trustee Barnett provided a reminder of the Education Foundation of Niagara Beat the Braniacs Trivia Night that will be held by on November 9, 2016 at Hernder Estates Winery.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued**Correspondence and Communication**

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 provided highlights from the OPSBA Board of Director's meeting held from September 30-October 1, 2016.

- The Honorable Mitzi Hunter, Minister of Education discussed the goal to create another 100,000 childcare spaces over the next 5 years. She spoke to expanding before and after school programming in all schools for children 6-12 years of age and to funding a renewed math strategy.
- The Honorable Mitzi Hunter, Minister of Education also spoke of meeting with Indigenous Councils to discuss the need to close the achievement gap for First Nations, Metis, and Inuit learners as well as expanding child and family programming on reserves.
- Other topics of discussion were the effectiveness and limitations in the collective Bargaining Act, community hubs, and the importance of raising the profile of trustees in Ontario.
- Ombudsman Ontario provided a report of complaints received and resolved since September 2015.
- The Ontario Association of Children's Aid Societies spoke to coordinating and improving outcomes for children. They also highlighted the need for reform and discussed looking at joint protocols for student achievement.

Trustee Ajandi added that the DSBNS will be hosting the Central West Regional OPSBA meeting on October 29, 2016.

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

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of November 2016 meetings was provided.

As a result of several Trustees being unavailable, Superintendent Veld will schedule an alternate date for the Finance Committee meeting.

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:13 p.m.

DALE ROBINSON, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary