



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

February 14, 2017

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

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

Student Trustees: Samir Alazzam and Karling Luciani

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, John Dickson, Wesley Hahn, Jennifer Feren, Paula MacKinnon, Helen McGregor, Kelly Pisek, Marian Reimer Friesen, JoAnna Roberto, Michael St. John, 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 called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

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

Chair Robinson noted that Trustee Ajandi would be participating via telephone.

2. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent

There were no members absent.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued**2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

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

C. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

D. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**1. Staff Reports****a) West Niagara Secondary Accommodation Review Final Staff Report**

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Diane Chase

“That the Board of Trustees receive the West Niagara Secondary Accommodation Review Final Staff Report.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Pisek provided a verbal overview of the West Niagara Secondary Accommodation Review Final Staff Report.

On September 20, 2016, the Program and Planning Committee received the Initial Staff Report for the West Niagara Secondary Accommodation Review of Beamsville District Secondary School, Grimsby Secondary School, and South Lincoln High School.

The Initial Staff Report outlined the accommodation and programming challenges faced within the Planning Area, details for each secondary school, and provided a potential accommodation option.

On September 27, 2016, the DSBN Board of Trustees approved the initiation of the Accommodation Review.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS - continued**West Niagara Secondary Accommodation Review Final Staff Report**

The West Niagara Secondary Accommodation Review is being undertaken in accordance with the DSBN Accommodation Review Policy F-2. An Accommodation Review Committee was established, and the Committee and public meetings were held between November 2016 and January 2017.

The notice of Trustees' decision to initiate the Accommodation Review was given to community partners, municipal partners, and the public, which included information on the ARC working meetings, the public meetings, how to participate in the process, and how to obtain more information.

Preliminary consultation with the Town of Grimsby, Town of Lincoln, Township of West Lincoln, and Niagara Region was undertaken prior to, and after, the initiation of the accommodation review and has been ongoing throughout the process.

Answers to key questions asked by the public or submitted in writing were posted on the DSBN website following each ARC and public meeting. In addition, at each ARC working meeting following a public meeting, the ARC was provided with answers to questions or topics raised by the public for further discussion.

Alternative solutions were suggested during the consultation process, and the community raised a number of issues which are detailed in the Final Staff Report.

Superintendent Pisek listed concerns and feedback received from community members as well as the DSBN staff review and comments to each.

After reviewing and considering the information and data provided to date, the recommended accommodation option is:

To close the three secondary schools in Planning Area 1 and build a new school for the 2020/2021 school year with priority given to a site location within the planning area below the Niagara Escarpment.

Should the recommendation be approved by Trustees, it would be completed in two phases, which are outlined in the Final Report.

The recommended option will bring together communities, teachers, and resources into a single school, which will provide the benefits of a larger school population. Students will benefit from an increased variety of programming, extra-curricular activities, as well as a new school that will have innovative and modern technology and facilities. Enrollment levels and facility utilization rates are improved with a single consolidated school rather than maintaining three lower enrolment and/or underutilized schools. Approximately 1,100 empty surplus pupil spaces are eliminated in the planning area. Grade 8 to 9 retention rates would improve as the programming benefits and new modern school would be more appealing.

The recommended option has the potential to address facility and capacity concerns at College Street Public School. Should the Board of Trustees decide to close South Lincoln High School for instructional purposes, it is recommended that College Street Public School students be considered for relocated to South Lincoln High School for September 2017 or January 2018.

Public delegations will be received at the February 28, 2017 Board Meeting and following

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS - continued**West Niagara Secondary Accommodation Review Final Staff Report**

the delegations an Addendum to the Final Staff Report will be prepared and presented at the March 28, 2017 Board Meeting for Trustees' consideration.

In response to a question from a Trustee, former DSBN Superintendent Cam Hathaway explained that the geographic mid-point for secondary school students in the West Niagara area that is found in Appendix E of the Final Report is based on where families reside within the geographic area, not the entire area. Superintendent Pisek clarified the difference between the two geographic mid-points seen in Appendix E.

Trustee Chase requested additional information about offering shared boundary for all current South Lincoln High School students.

Trustee Chase requested additional information regarding projected enrollment numbers at South Lincoln High School over the next three years if 100% of grade 8 students attending feeder schools were retained. Director Hoshizaki noted that students have the right to choose a school, and projections are based on the choices that have been made historically.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Superintendent Pisek clarified that should College Street Public School be relocated to South Lincoln High School, West Lincoln Co-operative Nursery School would have the opportunity to continue to provide services in the building.

Former DSBN Superintendent Cam Hathaway explained that DSBN's margin of error rate in enrollment projections for 2015/2016 was under 1%.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Superintendent Pisek clarified that by offering a single school, DSBN would retain more students and it would have a positive effect on enrollment. Director Hoshizaki added that projections estimate 100 additional students if the schools amalgamate.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Superintendent Pisek clarified that public input is still being accepted through the DSBN website and will continue to be shared with Trustees.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Superintendent Pisek explained that the additional programming opportunities and extra-curricular activities would be available for students at the newly built school when it opened.

Trustees commended DSBN staff for the time and effort taken to prepare the report, and added that it reflects input received from the community.

E. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

CARRIED

ADJOURNMENT – continued

The meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

DALE ROBINSON, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary