



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

March 25, 2014

6:15 – 7:00 p.m. (Private Session)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Kevin Maves (Chair), Sue Barnett (Vice-Chair), Alex Bradnam, Lora Campbell, Dalton Clark, Jonathan Fast, Ed Fulford, Cheryl Keddy, Barbara Ness, Dale Robinson, Dave Schaubel

Student Trustees: Tara Lundy and Courtney Steingart

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), John Dickson, Wesley Hahn, Helen McGregor, Jim Morgan, Kelly Pisek, Marian Reimer Friesen, JoAnna Roberto, John Stainsby, Stacy Veld, Joe Weinberg, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy

Recording Secretary: Cheryl Bujacz

Technical Support: Linda Gonschior and Wendy Coit

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent

Chair Maves called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Barbara Ness
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy

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

CARRIED

Moved by Cheryl Keddy
Seconded by Dalton Clark

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:45 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed by Vineland Public School, on video clip.

D. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Dale Robinson opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Barbara Ness

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Ed Fulford

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 25, 2014, be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**3. Business Arising from the Minutes****a) Response to Trustee Questions from the February 25, 2014, Board Meeting: Report on the Accommodation Review of Niagara on the Lake Elementary Schools**

Superintendent Stainsby noted that during the Board meeting of February 25, 2014, there was a question as to whether 5 years had passed since the last accommodation review in Niagara on the Lake (NOTL). Superintendent Stainsby confirmed for Trustees that the date of the previous accommodation review was in the school year 2007-08; 6 years ago. The Board of Trustees made a final decision pertaining to the elementary schools on June 17, 2008. During that meeting a separate decision was made concerning the high school, providing Niagara District Secondary School a 1 year extension to increase enrolment. The consolidation of Colonel John Butler and Virgil schools into Crossroads, the renovations to Parliament Oak, and the combining of Laura Secord with St. Davids took place in the decision on June 17, 2008.

1) The area surrounding Crossroads and the potential need for additional parking

Superintendent Weinberg explained the number of parking spaces at a school is based on the number of teaching and support staff at the school, plus the allowance for parent volunteers and guests.

If the Parliament Oak students were consolidated at Crossroads, the minimum number of parking spaces based on a student population of 580 would be 65 spaces. Crossroads was built with a total of 91 parking spaces or 40% above the calculated minimum number of spaces.

2) What a class organization chart would look like if Parliament Oak remained open

Superintendent Morgan commented it has been suggested that the phasing out of French Immersion will eliminate the requirement for triple splits at Parliament Oak.

While referring to page 2 of the handout, Superintendent Morgan explained that using projected enrolments up until 2018 and the staff allocation model, triple splits would continue to exist.

These organizations reflect Ministry of Education primary class size and grade 4-8 parameters. In addition, the organizations are aligned with how all schools in DSNB are staffed. The Board is not funded to staff grade 4-8 classes of a size of 20 students.

3) Questions regarding transportation

Superintendent Stainsby explained Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) calculated the length of the bus ride from Old Town to Crossroads. This calculation included the current Parliament Oak students, those currently attending

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**3. Business Arising from the Minutes****a) Response to Trustee Questions from the February 25, 2014, Board Meeting: Report on the Accommodation Review of Niagara on the Lake Elementary Schools**

Crossroads as alternates, and current French Immersion students who may choose not to attend Dalewood.

According to NSTS calculations, 60% of the students will have a 15 minute bus ride or less, and 40% of the students will be on the bus no longer than 30 minutes.

In order to provide clarification on questions relating to enrolment, housing development etc., Superintendent Stainsby emphasized when reading or hearing statistics about NOTL, the information needs to be in the proper context specific to this accommodation review (ARC).

This ARC focuses only on the populations living within the Old Town and Virgil, which are the catchment areas for Parliament Oak and Crossroads. The majority of the information provided to Trustees including housing starts, census data, and demographics pertain only to Old Town and Virgil.

For example, when comparing data between DSBN and the Niagara Catholic District School Board (NCDSB), it is important to note that the NCDSB has 1 school for all of NOTL. This means their students come from the entire official boundary for NOTL. As such, their enrolment data reflects students living in all of NOTL, including Glendale and St. Davids.

Superintendent Stainsby noted it would not be accurate to compare the enrolment data and aggregated trends from the entire NOTL area with the data from this ARC which pertains only to Virgil and Old Town.

4) Enrolment

Superintendent Stainsby referred to the graph on page 4 of the handout and noted the difference in using the school enrolment data for just the planning area of Crossroads and Parliament Oak, indicated in red in the middle of the graph, and the difference in using the enrolment data for all 3 DSBN elementary schools in NOTL.

Superintendent Stainsby commented as stated in page 6 of the Senior Administration report, an analysis of student transfers over the past 3 years illustrates that overall DSBN schools, meaning Crossroads and Parliament Oak only, have increased enrolment by 26 students from other school systems.

5) Housing in NOTL

Superintendent Stainsby explained the Town's own housing forecasts, found in their Watson and Associates report dated October 11, 2013, demonstrates there will

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**3. Business Arising from the Minutes****a) Response to Trustee Questions from the February 25, 2014, Board Meeting: Report on the Accommodation Review of Niagara on the Lake Elementary Schools**

be minimal development projects in the northern tier of NOTL (18% in Old Town and 16% in Virgil). The same data suggests future potential development will occur predominantly in the southern portions of NOTL, specifically in the St. Davids and Glendale areas (65%). These speculated developments will not come into effect all at once, but are proposed to extend over time to an estimated build-out in 2030. DSBN's staff researched the Town's website to locate this material.

Superintendent Stainsby referred to the chart on page 5 of the handout, which was taken from the NOTL's planning report on the Town's website, and noted that the chart clearly shows the number of people living in each home has been decreasing since the mid 90's and will continue to decrease until after 2030 as evidenced by the ongoing decline in PPU's (people per unit) as illustrated in the last column of the chart.

Superintendent Stainsby referred to page 6 of the handout which illustrates the forecasted annual housing developments to build-out in 2030. He referenced the historical annual average of residential builds within the last 10 years and noted the forecasted annual average never exceeds the historical average of housing builds.

The graph encompasses future development for all of NOTL. Old Town is projected to see only 18% of potential growth.

6) Full Day Kindergarten

Superintendent Stainsby explained Full Day Kindergarten has been an important initiative across the province over the past 7 years. DSBN funded a number of Full Day Kindergarten programs before the Ministry mandated and funded the program. Once the Ministry was involved, both school Boards were directed to work and plan together with Ministry staff in order to place the programs across the region. Crossroad's full day programming began in September 2011 to align with the new build and available funding. St. Davids began their program September 2013.

7) How many students have signed up for the Full Day Kindergarten at Parliament Oak for September 2014?

Superintendent Stainsby confirmed there are currently 9 students enrolled for the junior kindergarten portion for September 2014.

8) Information regarding apportionment rates

Superintendent Stainsby explained when determining the percentage used for apportionment rates, planning staff typically uses the 3 most recent years. This is a

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued:**3. Business Arising from the Minutes****a) Response to Trustee Questions from the February 25, 2014, Board Meeting: Report on the Accommodation Review of Niagara on the Lake Elementary Schools**

consistent practice across all municipalities and planning areas. However, as stated in the Senior Administration report, this was not the figure used when projecting future enrolment at Parliament Oak. Staff made a manual upward adjustment in consideration of the factors that might attract more students.

Staff worked through 4 different scenarios with respect to apportionment rates, illustrated in the handout provided.

Superintendent Stainsby referenced the graph on page 7 of the handout which shows the Planning Department's apportionment rate that was shared at the ARC meetings. This rate was 10.5%

The graph illustrates the enrolment for the school would be less than 100 students for the next 10 years. Superintendent Stainsby noted the red line on the graph is the capacity of Parliament Oak of 328 pupil spaces. The utilization rate is under 30% for most of these years.

Superintendent Stainsby referenced page 8 of the handout and noted planning staff based the apportionment rate average for the "best 3 years." In this scenario, the enrolment is projected to reach 132 students in 2023. This enrolment results in the school being below capacity with a utilization rate of 40%.

Superintendent Stainsby referred to page 9 of the handout and noted in each of the 4 scenarios, Parliament Oak continues to experience low enrolment over the projection period and a low utilization rate throughout. This low enrolment does not allow for optimal programming for students.

9) Municipal partnerships and relationships

Superintendent Stainsby explained the chart on page 10 of the handout which outlines the many projects in which DSBN is working in partnership with municipalities across the entire Niagara Region.

Vice-Chair Barnett thanked Superintendent Stainsby for the valuable report.

b) Response to Trustee Question re: Property Disposal Process

Superintendent Weinberg provided a handout to Trustees regarding the property disposal process.

4. **Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole (Private Session)**

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Barbara Ness

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

CARRIED

Chair Maves noted the Board accepted the retirement of Rick Karr, Principal of Governor Simcoe Secondary School and Krista Miller, Principal of Thorold Secondary School, effective June 30, 2014. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked Rick and Krista for their contribution to public education and wished them well in their retirement.

F. **EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**

1. **Director’s Report and Recognition**

(a) **Recognition of Bert Poort, Facility Renewal Administrator**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Bert Poort for his outstanding leadership and expertise in school maintenance and capital project management. Bert has played a pivotal role in ensuring that the Board’s capital projects are completed on time and on budget. He is regularly on-site dealing with construction issues, most recently at Crossroads and Diamond Trail Public Schools, and has provided the same expertise in managing many school additions, renovations and Full Day Kindergarten projects.

Director Hoshizaki noted Bert’s quite and kind demeanour, strong work ethic and positive attitude.

Director Hoshizaki presented Bert with a token of the Board’s appreciation for his demonstrated results in improving the learning environment for all DSBN students.

Trustee Bradnam commended Bert Poort for all of his hard work throughout the years and for his commitment to making improvements to DSBN schools on a regular basis.

(b) **Director’s Update to Trustees**

i. **Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Program**

Director Hoshizaki was extremely pleased to share the Ministry’s most recent data which showed DSBN continues to lead the province in successful SHSM programs. This has been achieved through planned expansion and commitment to the intent of the program, which is helping all students achieve success.

DSBN SHSM programs have grown from 1 program, 1 sector and 75 students in 2007/08 to 42 programs, 13 sectors and 860 students in 2013/14 and achieved the Ministry goal of having 10% of students participate in the program.

When SHSM students complete all the requirements of the program, they graduate with a special OSSD with an embossed red SHSM seal on it. The Red Seal completion rate is the percentage of SHSM students who achieve this OSSD by completing all of the components of the program. The DSBN has a 64% SHSM Red Seal completion rate while the provincial rate is 40%.

DSBN is providing students with some of the hands on skills they will require to be successful in their future endeavours.

ii. **Kinder Olympics at Gainsborough Public School**

A video was shown highlighting kindergarten students at Gainsborough Public School showing their Olympic spirit with their own version of the games.

iii. **Woodend – The Work Begins!**

DSBN Specialist High Skills Major students recently began the demolition work at Woodend. This represents a whole new beginning for outdoor education opportunities for students of the DSBN. Thank you to the students and their teacher, Ken Willms, for their tremendous support of this initiative.

The official ground breaking ceremony will take place at Woodend on April 2, 2014.

iv. **High School Students Make Connection to College Life**

Students from Laura Secord, Stamford Collegiate and Welland Centennial recently spent a day at Niagara College's Welland Campus to see first hand how the work they are doing in class will prepare them for the rigors of college life.

Students viewed 3 different programs at the college; automotive, culinary and pharmacy.

Students noted it was an interesting experience as they were able to see how their in-class learning can be used in real life situations.

Thanks was given to Student Achievement Leader, Fred Louws, and to Niagara College for their support of this initiative.

2. Educational Showcases**(a) DSBN Academy – Youth and Philanthropy Initiative**

Superintendent Stainsby introduced the showcase which featured 4 students from the DSBN Academy who participated in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative. This initiative gives students the opportunity to venture into the community, explore social issues and raise awareness about various charities. As well as learning that with dedication and hard work it's amazing how much can be accomplished, the students also won a \$5000 grant for the charity of their choice – Niagara Children's Centre.

Trustee Bradnam thanked the students for their efforts and noted that the Niagara Children's Centre is fortunate to have received the grant which resulted from the students' initiative and hard work.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked staff and students of the DSBN Academy for their hard work and dedication.

(b) Student Achievement Awards – Established by OSSTF in Honour of Marion Drysdale – Winners of the Writing and Creative Arts Competition

Daniel Peat, President of OSSTF D22, introduced the winners of the OSSTF Marion Drysdale award. This year's theme was "You Cannot Lock Up an Idea."

Director Hoshizaki recognized the following recipients:

- Regional Winner – Meagan Kendrick, Eden H.S. – Teacher Karyl Stefanidis
- Provincial Winner – Quincey Turnbull, Fort Erie S.S. – Teacher Chuck Stone/Darren Moore

Vice-Chair Barnett commented on the many programs and initiatives students are taking advantage of and noted the exceptional growth of students in the DSBN.

On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves thanked OSSTF for their continued support of DSBN students.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There was no report.

H. DELEGATIONS

Chair Maves reminded the Delegations of the 5 minute timeframe to deliver their comments. He noted that once the clock reaches the four and a half minute mark Delegations will have 30 seconds to make final comments.

Chair Maves reminded the Board that once each Delegation has finished Trustees will have the opportunity to ask clarification questions only.

1. Mayor David Eke – Mayor Eke spoke on behalf of Niagara on the Lake Town Council in support of Parliament Oak Public School. He spoke about the previous accommodation review in Niagara on the Lake and the research done by “Citizens for Accountable and Responsible Education (C.A.R.E.) for NOTL Schools.” Mayor Eke commented on the growth in both St. Davids and Old Town which includes new single-family residences.

There were no questions of clarification from Trustees.

2. Steve Hardaker – Congregational and Official Board Chair of the St. Davids-Queenston United Church spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School emphasizing the successes of the small community church and how it has thrived with an increase in membership. Mr. Hardaker drew comparisons to how the small church successfully functions with regard to the benefits of right-sized, multi-functional, community based public schools.

There were no questions of clarification from Trustees.

3. Brad Nixon – spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School and the importance of it as an essential feature of NOTL’s living heritage landscape. Mr. Nixon asked the Board to consider what must be done to revitalize and enhance educational opportunities in small schools such as Parliament Oak Public School which provides unique and rich educational opportunities.

There were no questions of clarification from Trustees.

4. Phill Lambert – spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School with the emphasis on the potential growth in the Crossroads Public School area which would result in more students and overcrowding. Mr. Lambert commented on 4 areas which would lead to taxpayers paying more money with the closing of Parliament Oak Public School.

There were no questions of clarification from Trustees.

5. Jim Mezon – spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public school. On behalf of C.A.R.E., Mr. Mezon responded to Trustee questions and requests for clarification on a number of issues raised at the Board meeting of February 25, 2014. Mr. Mezon noted the overwhelming support in the greater community for keeping Parliament Oak Public School open.

There were no questions of clarification from Trustees.

Trustee Fast thanked Mr. Mezon for an informative presentation.

DELEGATIONS – continued:

6. Mark Polgrabia – spoke in support of Parliament Oak Public School with an emphasis on the review of financial information in the Senior Administration report and the recommendation to close Parliament Oak Public School. Mr. Polgrabia noted Effective Stewardship of Board Resources calls for keeping Parliament Oak Public School open.

There were no questions of clarification from Trustees.

Chair Maves thanked the speakers for their presentations.

I. BOARD RECESS

**Moved by Dale Robinson
Seconded by Barbara Ness**

“That the Board recess.”

CARRIED

The Board recessed at 8:44 p.m.

**Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 9:00 p.m.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

**Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1323 to 1352 for the months of January and February 2014, totaling \$33,370,893.44 be received.”

2. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE (PIC)

**Moved by Dale Robinson
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated February 12, 2014 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustees Bradnam and Robinson had nothing to add to the report.

3. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE (SAL)**Moved by Dave Schaubel****Seconded by Ed Fulford****“That the reports of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee (SAL) dated February 26, 2014 and March 5, 2014 be received.”****CARRIED**

Trustee Schaubel reported that at its meeting of February 26, 2014 the Committee reviewed 8 cases and on March 5, 2014 13 cases and developed strategies for the students' success in alternative programs.

4. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE**Moved by Tara Lundy****Seconded by Courtney Steingart****“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated February 26, 2014, be received.”****CARRIED**

Student Trustees Lundy and Steingart provided a verbal summary of the report.

Student Trustee Lundy highlighted the Environmental Waste Audit Challenge which involves two audits, one in April and one in May, at each participating school. Prizes will be given to the school who has the highest percentage of improvement. Winners will have the chance to win a water bottle filling station or a waste sorting recycling station for their school.

Student Trustee Lundy also noted that elections for the 2014/15 Student Trustee Senate will take place at the April meeting.

Student Trustee Steingart thanked Trustees for providing her and Student Trustee Lundy the opportunity to attend the OSTA-AECO conference held in February. They heard many interesting speakers and participated in informative breakout sessions.

5. REPORTS OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**Moved by Ed Fulford****Seconded by Barbara Ness****“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated March 5, 2014, be received”; and**

“That the Program and Planning Committee endorse the plan of Oakridge becoming the K-8 school for both the Briardale and Oakridge English program students for September 2014”; and

“That the Program and Planning Committee endorse the plan of French Immersion Grades 1-8 being offered at Central P.S. and that the English program boundary for Central school be incorporated into the Lakeview boundary for September 2014”; and

“That the Report from the Educational Research Committee be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Fulford provided a summary of the report dated March 5, 2014 and the recommended motions.

Trustees Fulford and Bradnam thanked Superintendents Dickson and Pisek, principals and staff at Briardale and Oakridge Public Schools for their hard work in the preparation for the consolidation of the 2 schools.

Trustee Fulford commended everyone involved in the reorganization of Central and Lakeview Public Schools and noted the meetings with parents were very positive.

Trustee Keddy commented the changes will provide students with vibrant and sustainable programs at each school.

Trustee Bradnam expressed concern over moving forward with the reorganization of Central and Lakeview Public Schools under such short timelines.

At the request of Trustee Fulford, Superintendent Dickson provided highlights of the Educational Research Committee report.

6. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE (Handout at Meeting)

Moved by Dalton Clark

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated March 25, 2014, be received and the recommendations adopted”; and

“That Raimondo & Associate Architects Inc. be appointed Architect for the Renovations to Pine Grove Public School”; and

“That the Report on Accessibility of DSBN Facilities be received”; and

“That the Interim Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2014, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Clark presented a verbal summary of the report and the recommended motions.

Highlights of the report included:

- The appointment of the architect for renovations at Pine Grove Public School. Renovations are to begin in July for a September 2014 opening.
- An update on accessibility of DSBN facilities which indicated 13% of DSBN's elementary schools are 100% accessible and 64% are at least 90% accessible. In the secondary panel 35% are 100% accessible and 45% are at least 90% accessible. In most of the 90% cases, the most common deficiency is a lift to the stage area.
- The interim financial report which summarized the significant changes in staffing, enrolment, revenue expenditures and special initiative Provincial grants since the initial interim report for the period ending October 31, 2013.

Trustee Clark confirmed for Trustee Bradnam that as per Ministry of Education requirements all schools are to be fully accessible by 2025.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of and by Board Members.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no Trustee Information Session. Chair Maves asked Trustees to provide suggestions for information sessions to the Director's office.

3. Correspondence and Communication

- (a) **Memorial, Maywood and Alexandra Public Schools – Request to Begin School Naming Process**

**Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

“That the Board grant permission for Memorial, Maywood and Alexandra Public Schools to form an ad hoc committee for the purpose of naming the new consolidated downtown St. Catharines school.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Reimer Friesen spoke to a letter regarding a request from Memorial, Maywood and Alexandra Public Schools to begin the school naming process and establish an ad hoc committee in accordance with Policy A-9.

Superintendent Reimer Friesen noted the school community is eager to begin the school naming process as another step in blending the 3 amalgamated school communities.

Chair Maves noted this is a positive step for the school community.

(b) **Correspondence from Bluewater DSB regarding Charter of Commitment on First Nation, Métis and Inuit Education**

Trustee Keddy noted on November 25, 2014 OPSBA joined the first charter. Further information will be brought to a future meeting.

(c) **Correspondence from Carousel Players**

Chair Maves noted the correspondence reaffirms the Board’s partnership with Carousel Players which benefits DSBN students.

(d) **Correspondence from Niagara on the Lake Conservancy Re: Niagara on the Lake Accommodation Review**

The letter was included for information.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- (a) Trustee Schaubel noted the parent council at Port Colborne High School (PCHS) is focused on ways in which they can promote their school. They are appreciative of the Communications Department for advertising in local newspapers to help in their efforts.

Trustees were asked to contact Trustee Schaubel to receive correspondence from the PCHS parent council.

A suggestion was made by Trustee Ness for a Parent Involvement Committee meeting to be held at PCHS.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued:

- (b) Trustee Bradnam recently attended the open house for the “Dig-It” Specialist High Skills Major Program.
- (c) Vice-Chair Barnett commended the Welland Centennial Secondary School Senior Basketball Team for their excellent year.
- (d) Vice-Chair Barnett noted the success of the Sears Drama Festival which took place at Welland Centennial Secondary School and encouraged Trustees to attend next year’s event.
- (e) Vice-Chair Barnett invited Trustees to register with the Education Foundation of Niagara as a “Friend of the Foundation.”
- (f) Superintendent Dickson commented on the wonderful turn out for the Young at Art Artshow at the Education Centre. Over 300 pieces of art is on display representing all schools with kindergarten programs in the DSBN. Superintendent Dickson thanked the PCHS band which performed during the opening.

Further information on events and news happening within the Board can be found at <http://www.dsbn.org> and/or on the schools’ websites.

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

Trustee Keddy updated Trustees on the OPSBA Board of Directors’ meeting which was held February 28 – March 1, 2014. Items discussed at the meeting included:

- A presentation on the First Nations cultural practices/protocols and a legal report on copyright activities and responsibilities of Boards.
- A report on Bill 143, Child Care Modernization Act, 2013.
- The new EQAO CEO and launching the strategic planning process.
- The release of French as a Second Language new curriculum.

Trustees Campbell and Keddy noted the OPSBA Labour Relations Conference held in March was very informative and included workshops on labour relations and collective bargaining focusing on student achievement.

Trustee Campbell commented that she was pleased by the discussion with the Panel of Presidents and their view which emphasized it is important to work together for student achievement.

Information published by the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association is available at <http://www.opsba.org>.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of April 2014 meetings was provided and revised as follows:

Program and Planning Committee – April meeting is cancelled; June meeting is rescheduled to Monday, June 2, 2014.

Audit Committee – there is no April meeting.

N. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Cheryl Keddy**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer