



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

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**BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE**

**January 23, 2018**

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, Linda Crouch, Jonathan Fast, Cheryl Keddy Scott, Kevin Maves (Vice Chair), Dale Robinson (Chair), Dave Schaubel

**Student Trustees:** Amal Qayum

**Officials:** Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, John Dickson, Wesley Hahn, Paula MacKinnon, Helen McGregor, Kelly Pisek, Marian Reimer Friesen, JoAnna Roberto, Michael St. John, Stacy Veld, Jennifer Feren, Brett Sweeney, Karen Bellamy

**Regrets:** Trustee Diane Chase, Student Trustee Emily Hilborn

**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.

**COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued**

**Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent**

Chair Robinson noted the absence of Trustee Chase and Student Trustee Hilborn.

**3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)**

Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Lora Campbell

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

**CARRIED**

Moved by Helga Campbell  
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“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 the Harriet Tubman Public School choir, via video.

**D. REFLECTIVE READING**

Director Hoshizaki opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

**E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott  
Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

**CARRIED**

**2. Approval of Board Minutes**

Moved by Dave Schaubel  
Seconded by Linda Crouch

“That the Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 5, 2017 be confirmed as submitted.”

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 5, 2017 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 Kevin Maves  
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“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 Gera Harvie, Educational Assistant, Greendale Public School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Educational Assistant Gera Harvie, for being a team player who always strives to do what is best for students.

Gera Harvie has been an Educational Assistant at Greendale Public School for seven years and she works with a wide variety of students with varying needs. Gera arrives at work every morning with a smile on her face and with words of positivity for those around her.

When a new student started at Greendale Public School mid-year, the student was very anxious about her new school, classroom and teachers. Gera stepped in to help make the student feel welcome. They set up a time to have a daily break together to talk about the day, to do a fun activity or just to

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued****Recognition of Gera Harvie, Educational Assistant, Greendale Public School**

take a walk. Within no time, the student was arriving at school with a smile on her face and a hug for Mrs. Harvie.

When Gera is working with students, she always does it with positivity, a sense of humour and innovation. She is creative in the activities she does with students so that they are engaged in what they are doing. Gera also helps with the Breakfast Club and offers her assistance with activities throughout the school. She is always there to lend a helping hand. She proudly embodies DSBN's I Matter philosophy.

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

**b) Recognition of Paul Kieffer, Head Caretaker, Greater Fort Erie Secondary School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Paul Kieffer for his forward thinking with things related to the building, student needs, flow of traffic, and safety at Greater Fort Erie Secondary School, all of which are a key reason why the start-up of DSBN's first new high school in over 40 years has been so successful.

Paul Kieffer has worked for the DSBN for 35 years, and is a valued member of the Administration Team at GFESS. Knowing the importance of getting things right, Paul quickly established and maintained a good working relationship with the construction crew during the build of GFESS. He worked with tradespeople and school staff offering help and expertise to ensure areas were completed on time and ready for the first day of school. Paul often went in early and stayed late on his own accord to personally see tasks completed.

Paul is an extremely dedicated and loyal employee who works hard every day to ensure that Greater Fort Erie Secondary School is clean and safe. He is known for his extraordinary work ethic and often goes above and beyond the call of duty. He is always willing to lend a hand whenever it is needed. Paul is a well-known, respected individual in the school and the community. He believes that everyone matters and makes sure they are set up for success in their daily responsibilities.

Director Hoshizaki presented Paul Kieffer with a token of the Board's appreciation for his extraordinary contributions.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued****b) Director's Update to Trustees****i. Project Share**

The School Council at Westlane Secondary School organized a Project Share event in December that was a huge success. With the help of the Special Needs class, 300 Project Share bags were delivered to the neighbours closest to Westlane Secondary School. A few days later, members of school council picked up the bags full of food and toys!

**ii. BT Gives Back**

Harriet Tubman Public School teacher, Deb McLean, was recognized on Breakfast Television as a part of their "BT Gives Back" Campaign.

Principal Ronna Lockyer submitted this nomination: For over 10 years, and in her spare time, Deb has organized a Christmas Hamper program to support needy families in our school community. This year, our staff nominated over 100 students in need - the most ever. Undaunted, Deb once again found 'elves' to sponsor each of these students. She also seeks out community donations and support to supplement donation baskets. The 'elves' bring all donations to Deb, who organizes and prepares hampers of gifts, warm items and food for the holidays. On Monday December 18, Deb was found at our local high school, St. Catharines Collegiate, in a room full of Christmas gifts, distributing hampers to over 100 students and families in our community. She is supported by many teachers in the school, who both help Deb, and/or sponsor families.

Deb and Ronna, along with other Ontario nominees, were part of the live Breakfast Television event and were awarded thousands of dollars in prizes. Outstanding!

**iii. Exciting News for James Morden Public School**

Some exciting news for students and staff at James Morden Public School:

- 1) James Morden Public School was selected to receive \$10,000 in e-gift cards to purchase new reading material for their Learning Commons from the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation.
- 2) The school applied for and will receive a Niagara Falls Schools in Bloom grant in the spring. They will receive about \$4,500 in goods from community partners to improve their Kindergarten play area. This program gives schools across the city the opportunity to participate in rewarding activities to landscape and beautify their schoolyard areas, while continuing to learn about horticulture and the environment.

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**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued****iv. Canada 150 Project**

Lockview Public School teacher, Linda Chown, learned about the Canada 150 Project at the St. Catharines Museum and decided to enlist her grade two class in creating a tribute to Harriet Tubman. Together they created a "collaborative story quilt."

With their submission, they attached a letter saying: This collaborative story quilt is a celebration of Harriet Tubman's extraordinary accomplishments and character.

Harriet has taught us many things including:

- Never judge people by the colour of their skin
- Stand up for what you believe in
- Never give up

Most importantly, even little grade 2's are capable of doing extraordinary things with the right amount of grit and determination. Her leadership and example make her an important member of our community. We strongly believe that Harriet Tubman's legacy must endure.

**2. Educational Showcases****a) Peace Bridge Public School – Musical Talent**

Superintendent Dickson introduced Peace Bridge Public School Principal Cindy Kohinski, and thanked her for sharing the musical talent of her students.

Cindy Kohinski introduced the 8 newcomer students from Venezuela who recently transitioned to Peace Bridge Public School. The students first shared their gift of music in December when they performed for their peers. The group not only sings, but they also play a number of musical instruments.

The students performed 3 songs in their indigenous language.

Trustees thanked the students for sharing their culture and talents with the Board.

**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 Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Lora Campbell**

**“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 2020 to 2053, for the months of November and December, 2017 totalling \$45,432,422.42 be received.”**

**CARRIED**

**2. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE**

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

**“That the report of Parent Involvement Committee dated December 6, 2017 be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Lora Campbell shared highlights of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting, which included a tour of Wellington Heights Public School, discussions around feedback for DSBN policies that are to be reviewed, and debriefing the Parent Involvement Conference.

**3. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE**

**Moved by Amal Qayum  
Seconded by Sue Barnett**

**“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated December 6, 2017 be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Qayum provided a summary of the Student Trustee Senate meeting, which included discussions around the important work that Education Foundation of Niagara does for DSBN students and the recently released OSTA survey results.

**OLD BUSINESS – continued****4. REPORT OF SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Moved by Jennifer Ajandi  
Seconded by Dale Robinson

**“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated December 14, 2017 be received.”**

**“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated January 11, 2018 be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Ajandi provided a summary of the Special Education Advisory Committee meetings, which included presentations around how DSBN is supporting all students in mathematics.

**5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Moved by Kevin Maves  
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

**“That the report of the Finance Committee dated January 15, 2018 be received.”**

**“That CS & P Architects Inc. be appointed Architects to the New West Niagara Secondary School project.”**

**“That the International Education 2016-17 Financial Report be received.”**

**“That \$263,000 be allocated to support the Board’s strategic initiatives as directed by the Finance Committee.”**

**“That the 2017-18 Interim Financial Report, reflecting updated enrolments for October 31, 2017, and the resulting changes in revenues and expenditures be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Vice Chair Maves provided a summary of the Finance Committee meeting, which included the appointment of an architect for the new West Niagara Secondary School and discussions around the International Education Financial Report and the 2017-18 Interim Financial Report.

Trustee discussed the positive effects of natural playgrounds and outdoor classrooms on mental health.



**OLD BUSINESS – continued****5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

Director Hoshizaki explained that most playground funds are raised by schools or school councils, however there are a number of grants that schools can apply for that can be used for natural playgrounds and outdoor classrooms.

Superintendents shared examples of instances where elementary schools have collaborated with secondary schools to design and create their outdoor spaces.

**K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS**

There were no questions asked of or 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.

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

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

Director Hoshizaki reported that Superintendent Veld met with NCDSB administration to review the proposal on the joint use school in Wainfleet and to seek clarification of the letter. Niagara Catholic staff advised that they will be holding public consultation meetings with the St. Elizabeth Catholic Elementary School community and offer an opportunity for public feedback on their website. NCDSB will receive a report at their meeting on February 27, 2018 in order to make a decision. If the NCDSB Trustees support the joint use, then DSNB staff will begin preparation of the Initial Staff Report which will be presented to the Program and Planning Committee at a future meeting date.

**4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

- a) Trustee Keddy Scott reported attending a ceremony at Beamsville District Secondary School in December, where a heritage designation plaque was unveiled.
- b) Trustee Keddy Scott reported that Central French Immersion Public School recently won a Microsoft prize pack worth \$24,000.
- c) Trustee Keddy Scott reported that 80% of Nelles Public School students recently participated in a Walk to School Day.
- d) Trustee Keddy Keddy Scott reported that Twenty Valley Public School sponsored 24 families through Village of Hope.
- e) Trustee Barnett reported that Oakwood Public School student Danielle Adam was chosen by the City of Port Colborne to have her artwork included on the city mail out.
- f) Trustee Barnett provided a reminder of the Denim, Diamonds, and Diplomas event on February 3, 2018, which is being hosted by the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society. Money raised at the event will support first generation post-secondary students.
- g) Trustee Barnett reported that IBM will be donating prizes for the Student Trustee/Make Change for Children school challenge.
- h) Trustee Lora Campbell reported attending the DSBN Adventure Campus in December.
- i) Trustee Lora Campbell reported attending a Whoville Holiday Dinner at Harriet Tubman Public School. St. Catharines Collegiate students prepared lunch for the event.
- j) Trustee Helga Campbell reported attending a Christmas assembly at Cherrywood Public School where the entire school was involved.

Information on events and news happening within the Board can be found at [www.dsbn.org](http://www.dsbn.org) and/or on the schools' websites.

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

There was no Ontario Public School Board's Association Report.

Information published by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association is available at [www.opsba.org](http://www.opsba.org).

**6. Future Meetings**

The calendar of February 2018 meetings was provided.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Superintendent Courtois clarified that the OPSBA Labour Relations Symposium will be held on April 26-27, 2018.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:08 p.m.

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**DALE ROBINSON**, Chair

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**WARREN HOSHIZAKI**, Director of Education  
and Secretary