



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

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**BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE**

**October 24, 2017**

5:30 – 6:00 p.m. (Information Session)

6:19 – 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, Linda Crouch, Jonathan Fast, Cheryl Keddy Scott, Kevin Maves (Vice Chair), Dale Robinson (Chair), Dave Schaubel

**Absent:** Jennifer Ajandi and Lora Campbell

**Student**

**Trustees:** Emily Hilborn and 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, Cheryl Morgan

**Recording**

**Secretary:** Christina Dero

**Technical**

**Support:** Wendy Coit

**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.

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

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

Chair Robinson noted the absence of Trustee Lora Campbell and Trustee Jennifer Ajandi.

**3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

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

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott  
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

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

**CARRIED**

Moved by Sue Barnett  
Seconded by Linda Crouch

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

**CARRIED**

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:24 p.m.

**C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”**

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

**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 Cheryl Keddy Scott  
Seconded by Diane Chase

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

**CARRIED**

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

Moved by Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated September 26, 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 Linda Crouch

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

**CARRIED**

**F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**1. a) **Director's Report and Recognition**i) **Recognition of Larisa Plakhuta and Anna Plakhuta, Students, E.L. Crossley Secondary School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Larisa Plakhuta and Anna Plakhuta for their outstanding accomplishments in Chess during the last school year.

Larisa and Anna have dedicated their extra-curricular activity towards the sport of chess, as well as Computer Science. They are the first female students in DSBN history to win their grade at the DSBN Championships, and to represent the DSBN at the Provincial Chess Finals. Anna and Larisa finished the season with a combined record of 34 wins, 1 loss, and 3 draws, all in the boys division.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued****Recognition of Larisa Plakhuta and Anna Plakhuta, Students, E.L. Crossley Secondary School**

The pair anchored the top DSBN team, winning the DSBN Title, finishing 3rd in the Ontario Provincial Finals, and second in what is known as the National Team Championships (officially called the Ontario/Quebec matches).

Anna and Larisa also saw an opportunity to help the young children in the community improve at chess. They helped start a weekly program at A.K. Wigg Public School and taught the younger children chess for 8 weeks. This contributed to A.K. Wigg winning the DSBN elementary chess title last year!

Anna and Larisa also represented the DSBN in the Team Computer Programming ECOO competition, winning zones, and making it to Regionals at the University of Western Ontario. The fact that these young women have succeeded at the highest competitive levels against senior players is quite an accomplishment.

Director Hoshizaki presented Larisa Plakhuta and Anna Plakhuta with a token of the Board's appreciation for their extraordinary contributions.

**ii) Recognition of Deanna Ward, Secondary Program Leader, Greater Fort Erie Secondary School**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Deanna Ward for being a leader in the DSBN mathematics community and for taking her leadership to the next level through the Teacher Learning and Leadership Program (TLLP).

Deanna, along with her colleagues Bill Aida and Angelo Lillo, chose to apply for funding to lead a project-based professional learning opportunity for experienced classroom teachers. As a group, Deanna, Bill and Angelo have successfully secured close to \$200,000 in funding to support teacher learning, resources and student learning in DSBN's secondary schools.

In addition to sharing their learning with colleagues within the board, each team has represented DSBN at the provincial level sharing their learning at conferences.

This year Deanna is leading a team with a focus on finding a balance point for assessment in secondary math. Deanna's leadership in the system has made a difference for our students and our teachers.

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

**iii) Recognition of Payroll Services Staff, Education Centre**

Director Hoshizaki recognized Payroll Service staff for striving to provide DSBN employees with the highest level of customer service possible. Every

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued****Recognition of Payroll Services Staff, Education Centre**

member of the payroll services team strives to ensure that each pay is calculated accurately and on time, and that inquiries are handled in a timely and professional manner.

One of the tasks required by the payroll services team is to deduct, remit and report teachers' pensionable earnings, deductions and service credits. The staff must also provide detailed up-to-date information on all teacher changes, absences, leaves etc. By providing Teachers' Pension Plan (TPP) with up-to-date accurate information, our teachers can contact TPP and get almost instant 'quotes' for buy-backs or their pensions. The complexity of the pension calculations and reporting have increased significantly in the past five years and the payroll services team have had to ensure they keep abreast of the changes and implement many new procedures to ensure accurate data is provided to the pension plans.

TPP has awarded the DSBN's Payroll Services Department with the highest 'Overall Data Quality' in all three categories:

1. 1st among 72 school boards
2. 1st among 25 IPPS boards (boards using the same HR/Payroll system)
3. 1st among the 14 medium-large sized boards (for comparative purposes)

This is the first time TPP have ever recorded that a board has received '1st' in all three of these categories.

Director Hoshizaki presented Michael Scott, Sonja Phillips, Melanie Chandler, Angie Di Biasi, Laurie Briggs and Patti Nickel with a token of the Board's appreciation for their extraordinary contributions. Christian Smith and Debbie Rush were not present.

**b) Director's Update to Trustees****i. A Picture Is Worth A Thousand Words**

At a senior girls' 6k cross country race last week, a St. Catharines Collegiate runner was struggling midway through the race. A Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School volunteer coach who was on the sideline and marshalling the race noticed and tried to encourage her to keep going. Nothing he said could convince her to keep moving, even walking, to finish the race. The athlete was ready to give up. Moments later, a runner from Governor Simcoe Secondary School rounded the corner and saw what was going on. Rather than continuing past her opponent, the Governor Simcoe athlete stopped and put out her hand. She said "Come on. I'll run with you." That gesture was enough for the struggling runner to change her mind. The pair ran holding hands for the rest of the race and crossed the finish line together. What an impressive and outstanding show of sportsmanship from both girls!

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – continued**2. **Educational Showcases**a) **St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School / Harriet Tubman Public School Connection**

Superintendent Reimer Friesen introduced Ronna Lockyer, Harriet Tubman Public School Principal, Tammy Zonneveld, St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School Principal, Sawyer, a Harriet Tubman student, and teachers Jaclyn Robinson and Allyson Slee.

Ronna Lockyer and Tammy Zonneveld explained that through the Kindergarten Inquiry Partnership between the two schools, Kindergarten classes spend 45 minutes exploring some of the programs available to students at St. Catharines Collegiate. They spoke to the positive impact that the partnership has had on students at each of their schools.

Allyson Slee explained that because of Sawyer's experience in the St. Catharine's Collegiate Auto Shop his curiosity soared, and added that the experience allowed for an authentic learning opportunity.

Jaclyn Robinson added that because of the partnership, she has seen kindness and empathy in the St. Catharines Collegiate students as well as an increase in leadership and patience skills.

A short video was shown that highlighted the programs that the kindergarten students participated in at St. Catharines Collegiate, some of which include auto shop, horticulture, art, drama, media arts, music, culinary, and cosmetology.

**G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS**a) **2017-2018 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) Report**

**Moved by Helga Campbell  
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

**“That the 2017-2018 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Director Hoshizaki introduced the Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) report, and explained that the document assists the Board in following, and focusing on, the strategic plan.

Superintendent Roberto explained that the BIPSA identifies DSBN goals and strategies for student achievement. Superintendent Roberto shared elementary outcomes that were achieved in the 2016/17 school year, as well as goals that have been set for the 2017/18 year.

**STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS****2017-2018 Board Improvement Plan for Student Achievement (BIPSA) Report**

Superintendent McGregor summarized the secondary outcomes and added that the focus on achievement has led to improvements and higher credit accumulation.

The senior team highlighted some of the strategies that have been implemented and are making a positive effect on student achievement and well-being.

Trustees commended senior staff for their emphasis on research-based instruction and for their focus on improvement.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Director Hoshizaki indicated that general information about the 2016/17 School Climate Surveys can be shared with Trustees.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Superintendent Courtois explained the term “racialized”.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Superintendent Courtois explained what is involved in a school mental health scan.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Superintendent Courtois explained that support staff in schools receive a variety of mental health training opportunities.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Superintendent Courtois explained how progress is assessed with regard to mental and physical health.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Director Hoshizaki advised that while there is talk of a provincial review of EQAO testing, the testing is expected to continue this year.

Superintendent Roberto commended Brett Sweeney, Acting Chief Communications Officer, and his team for their hard work and preparation of the BIPSA document.

**H. DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations.

**I. BOARD RECESS**

There was no board recess.

**J. OLD BUSINESS****1. ACCOUNTS**

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott  
Seconded by Helga Campbell**

**“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1978 to 1991, for the month of August 2017 totalling \$19,379,112.08 be received.”**

**CARRIED**

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

**Moved by Linda Crouch  
Seconded by Helga Campbell**

**“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated October 4, 2017 be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Helga Campbell provided a summary of the Parent Involvement Committee meeting, which included the selection of a committee co-chair, a review of the DSBN policies that that will be under review this year, and finalizing plans for the Parent Involvement Committee Conference that will take place on November 1, 2017.

In response to a request from a Trustee, Superintendent Reimer Friesen explained that a list of Parent Involvement Committee members and the jurisdictions they represent can be found under the contact section at [www.dsbm.org/pic](http://www.dsbm.org/pic).

**3. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott  
Seconded by Diane Chase**

**“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated October 11, 2017 be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee Keddy Scott reported that the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee reviewed and approved 11 cases. The committee also welcomed Ann Harrison.



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

Moved by Dale Robinson  
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated October 12, 2017 be received.”

**CARRIED**

Chair Robinson provided a summary of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, which included a student voice presentation and a review of EQAO results.

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

Moved by Emily Hilborn  
Seconded by Amal Qayum

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated October 17, 2017 be received.”

**CARRIED**

Student Trustee Hilborn reported that during the Student Trustee Senate meeting, Susie Palumbo and Isaac Virag spoke to various supports that are available at the DSBN. Discussions took place around mental health initiatives that Senators planned in September and others that will take place in the upcoming months.

Student Trustee Qayum added that she, and Student Trustee Hilborn, spoke to Senators about the role of Student Trustees and how the Board operates.

**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****a) College Street Public School Naming Committee Report**

**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued****College Street Public School Naming Committee Report**

Superintendent St. John provided information regarding the process and composition of the College Street Public School Naming Committee.

Trustee Chase presented the three top choices that were determined by the College Street Public School Naming Committee, in accordance with DSBN Policy A-09.

1. Smithville Public School
2. Terry Fox Public School
3. Station Meadows Public School

Karen Bellamy and Cheryl Morgan distributed the ballots, and appointed scrutineers Stacy Veld and Jennifer Feren collected and counted the ballots.

Chair Robinson announced that Trustee vote resulted in the name Smithville Public School.

**Moved by Diane Chase**  
**Seconded by Sue Barnett**

**“That College Street Public School be renamed Smithville Public School effectively immediately.”**

**CARRIED**

**Moved by Jonathan Fast**  
**Seconded by Helga Campbell**

**“That the ballots be destroyed.”**

**CARRIED**

2. **Trustee Information Session**

Prior to the Board meeting, Trustees attended an information session about Alternative Education.

3. **Correspondence and Communication**

There was no correspondence or communication.

4. **Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

- a) Trustee Keddy Scott reported that an estimated 10,000 people attended the Twenty Valley Public School annual Arts and Craft Show over the Thanksgiving weekend.

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

- b) Trustee Helga Campbell reported that she was invited to teach a grade 10 Civics class at Stamford Collegiate Secondary School.
- c) Trustee Helga Campbell reported that she was happy to attend the Stamford Collegiate Secondary School Honour Roll Banquet.
- d) Trustee Helga Campbell reported that plans are underway to work with the City of Niagara Falls try to obtain bus passes for co-op students.
- e) Trustee Helga Campbell thanked those who registered for the A.N. Myer 60<sup>th</sup> Reunion through the Education Foundation of Niagara website, and added that because of these online registrations, \$375 will be donated to EFN.
- f) Trustee Barnett reported attending the Elementary Cross Country Finals and shared an inspiring story about peers helping each other.
- g) Chair Robinson reported attending E.L. Crossley Secondary School Honour Roll Banquet.

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 ( OPSB A ) Report**

Trustee Chase reported that the Central West Region meeting will be held on November 4, 2017, at Upper Grand District School Board. This joint meeting with the Western Region be a professional development session on mental health.

Trustee Chase provided a reminder of upcoming dates:

- Public Education Symposium - January 25-27, 2018
- Summit on Children and Youth Mental Health - April 12-13, 2018
- Education Labour Relations and Human Resources Symposium - April 26-27, 2018

In response to a question from a Trustee, Trustee Chase indicated that she would send the upcoming OPSBA meeting dates to Trustees.

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 November 2017 meetings was provided.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Linda Crouch  
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 8:39 p.m.

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**DALE ROBINSON, Chair**

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