



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

October 27, 2015

6:15 – 7:00 p.m. (Private Session)

7:00 – 10:00 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

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

Student Trustees: Justin Dubé and Katelynn Hilborn

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, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Bujacz

Recording Secretary: Christina Dero

Technical Support: Linda Gonschior

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent

Chair Barnett called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:03 p.m.

Chair Barnett welcomed former Student Trustee Vinay Sharma, as well as staff, parents, and students from Gainsborough Public School, who were in the gallery.

2. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Chair Barnett reported that she, Vice-Chair Robinson and Trustee Helga Campbell declared a conflict of interest in Committee of the Whole (Private Session) with respect to an update on negotiations.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – continued:

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Diane Chase
Seconded by Lora Campbell

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

CARRIED

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Diane Chase

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

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:50 p.m.

C. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

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

The Board remained standing for a moment of silence in honour of Brenda Driedger, night caretaker at Crossroads Public School, who recently passed away.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Chase opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott
Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated October 13, 2015, 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 Dale Robinson
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“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 Evinn Smith, student at Gainsborough Public School

Director Hoshizaki recognized Evinn Smith, student at Gainsborough Public School, for his determination and perseverance. Despite physical limitations, Evinn has overcome many personal obstacles. Evinn has inspired many to be their best and he shows strength in his ability to try new things and overcome fears.

Director Hoshizaki presented Evinn Smith with a token of the Board’s appreciation for his extraordinary contributions.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS - continued**(b) Director's Update to Trustees presented by Associate Director Dickson****i. Jeanne Sauvé Student Meets Justin Trudeau**

Joshua Bezanson, grade 8 student at Jeanne Sauvé Public School, met Canada's new Prime Minister Justin Trudeau during his recent visit to Niagara. Joshua was the only one in the crowd that spoke to the then Prime Minister candidate and the 3 minute conversation included Joshua discussing various issues, including vote splitting.

ii. DSBN Academy and iHub Tour

The Education Foundation of Niagara (EFN), in partnership with the iHub Educational Research & Innovation Hub (iHub), and the Region's Economic Development Department, arranged a Niagara Region Leadership Tour of DSBN Academy and iHub which took place on October 20, 2015.

EFN's Executive Director, Cindy Paskey, highlighted the Foundation's work and Dino Miele, DSBN's Chief Information Officer, highlighted the iHub's leading edge programs that bring education research, technology, and innovation together for the benefit of the Niagara Region. Participants were given an overview of the DSBN Academy followed by a guided tour.

iii. DSBN Superintendents Presenting at International Conference

In January, superintendents Wes Hahn and John Dickson will be presenting at the *International Congress for School Effectiveness and Improvement* conference being held in Glasgow, Scotland. They will be presenting on a paper they recently wrote, "Transfer of Learning: Making an Impact from Formal Professional Learning to Everyday Classroom Practice."

iv. Sophisticated Reporting Structures

Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) has emerged as an early leader in the province in the area of Efficiency and Effectiveness (E & E).

NSTS is being recognized in the Ministry of Education's final summary report on E & E as having a best practice in data management and reporting. In their report, the Ministry notes "NSTS has one of the most robust and comprehensive reporting and data analysis programs observed throughout the E & E Reviews."

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS - continued**v. Sir Winston Churchill Bulldogs Win Provincial Pre-OFSAA Meet**

Cross Country teams from across Ontario assembled at the Sinclair Highlands Invitational Pre-OFSAA meet in the Collingwood area on October 16, 2015. Over 70 schools from across Ontario competed in three different age categories. Collectively, the boys captured the Top Overall Boys Team Championship and the Bulldog team earned enough points to claim the Overall Combined Team Championship banner. The Bulldogs are now preparing to qualify for the OFSAA meet in November.

vi. DSBN Cross Country Championship

The DSBN Cross Country Championship took place on Thursday, October 15, 2015. Thanks to DSBN Athletic Coordinator John Haeni and those involved in the planning of this event.

vii. DSBN Administrator Leadership Conference

The DSBN Administrator Leadership Conference 2015 “*Leading Into The 21st Century and Beyond!*” took place on October 21 and 22, 2015. The two day conference included inspirational keynote speakers, as well as breakout sessions with panelists who spoke on topics ranging from “*Creating Magic – Leadership Strategies*”, “*Constructive Approach to Mathematics*”, “*Mental Health and Moving Forward*”, and many more.

2. Educational Showcases

There were no educational showcases.

Chair Barnett noted that the Masterworks Show is currently being held at the Education Centre. All pieces being displayed have been created by DSBN staff members.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

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

“That the Board receive the 2014/15 BIPSA Summary Report.”

CARRIED

Superintendent McGregor provided a brief description of the report that identified the Board’s strategies and systematic approach to student achievement over the 2014/15 school year.

STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS – continued

Associate Director Dickson summarized the progress made by DSBN elementary students and explained that the strategies being used have made a positive impact on student achievement.

Superintendent McGregor highlighted the changes seen in student data for DSBN secondary students over the 2014/15 school year and noted substantial gains in some areas. Superintendent McGregor explained that we will continue to set success goals, identify where to focus attention, and then plan accordingly.

Superintendents shared examples of how each strategy has made a positive impact on student learning and how they have helped staff feel empowered to help students. These strategies have also helped to put specialized equipment that is geared to the needs of specific students into place.

Director Hoshizaki thanked trustees for supporting the changes that have allowed for these results.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

**Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Diane Chase**

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1625 to 1636, for the month of September 2015, totalling \$18,664,621.05 be received.”

CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Moved by Jennifer Ajandi
Seconded by Dale Robinson**

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee, dated October 8, 2015 be received.”

CARRIED

Vice-Chair Robinson provided a summary and highlights of the report.

3. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

**Moved by Justin Dubé
Seconded by Katelynn Hilborn**

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated October 20, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Hilborn provided a brief summary of the report and gave highlights of the Student Trustee Senate meeting held on October 20, 2015.

Student Trustee Dubé spoke to suggestions made by the Student Trustee Senate in support of mental health, which will continue to be the committee focus throughout the 2015/16 school year.

**Moved by Justin Dubé
Seconded by Katelynn Hilborn**

“That the District School Board of Niagara support a Board wide walk in support of mental health awareness as suggested by the Student Trustee Senate.”

CARRIED

4. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE

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

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated October 20, 2015, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Keddy Scott reported that 11 cases were reviewed by the committee on October 20, 2015 and strategies were developed for the students' success.

In response to a question from Trustee Helga Campbell, Superintendent McGregor clarified that while each circumstance is unique, the types and number of cases that are being looked at in the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee are similar to those seen in other Boards.

5. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

**Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

**“That the report of the Finance Committee dated October 20, 2015, be received’;
and**

**“That Policy J-01 *Transportation Eligibility and Service* be confirmed as
presented”;** and

**“That revised Policy C-04 *Community Planning and Partnerships* be approved
as presented”;** and

**“That staff be directed to enter into a three-year contract with Staples
Advantage, effective November 1, 2015 to September 9, 2018, for the provision
of toner cartridges, with the option to renew for an additional two-year period.”**

CARRIED

Trustee Maves provided a summary of the report and recommended motions.

Trustee Maves explained that Policy J-01 was reviewed in response to requests made during the October 13, 2015 Board meeting. The consensus was that the Policy is fair and equitable.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a planning question asked about Glen Ridge Public School, Superintendent Courtois clarified for trustees that as of September 1, 2015, there were eight students residing in the Glen Ridge Public School boundary who attended alternate schools.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**1. Staff Reports****a) West Fort Erie Public School Naming Committee**

Superintendent Roberto reported on the process to name the new elementary school in West Fort Erie which was conducted in accordance with Board Policy A-9: Naming/Renaming of Schools. Superintendent Roberto explained that following the consultation process the committee made the following recommendation:

That the three choices, in order of priority, as determined by the West Fort Erie School Naming Committee be received and that the trustees vote by ballot to choose the name for the new elementary public school in the Town of Fort Erie.

Crystal Ridge Public School
John Brant Public School
Terry Fox Public School

Trustee Schaubel spoke to the significance of the proposed names and requested that trustees vote by ballot to decide the name of the school.

Karen Bellamy, Executive Assistant to the Director, and Cheryl Bujacz, Administrative Assistant to the Director, distributed the ballots to the trustees and Chair Barnett appointed Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, and Stacy Veld, Superintendent of Business, as scrutineers.

Following a vote by ballot, which were collected and counted by the scrutineers, Chair Barnett reported that the trustees voted to adopt the name **John Brant Public School**.

Superintendent Roberto welcomed Bill Hadfield, Principal of John Brant Public School, and Laura Martin, parent of a John Brant Public School student, who were in the gallery.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued**West Fort Erie Public School Naming Committee**

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the new Elementary School in West Fort Erie be named John Brant Public School, effective immediately.”

CARRIED

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Helga Campbell

“That the ballots be destroyed.”

CARRIED

2. Trustee Information Session

Trustees attended an information session about DSBN Math prior to the Board meeting.

3. Correspondence and Communication

(a) Correspondence from Blue Water District School Board regarding the expansion of Ontario's Kindergarten to grade 12 curriculum on Aboriginal Education was included in the Board package.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

(a) Trustee Chase reported that Gainsborough Public School will celebrate its 50th anniversary on November 7, 2015 from 1:00 – 4:00 p.m.

(b) Vice-Chair Robinson reported that she attended a Canadian citizenship ceremony at Prince of Wales Public School in Thorold for 25 new Canadian citizens.

(c) Vice-Chair Robinson reported that she attended the Thorold Secondary School Honour Roll Celebration which took place at Club Carpi on October 26, 2015.

(d) Chair Barnett reported that during the Niagara Region Leadership tour, Olivia Hubert, Brock Leaders Citizenship Society featured a "Denim, Diamonds and Diplomas" fundraiser designed to establish bursaries for DSBN Academy students, to be held February 20, 2016 at Club Roma, on behalf of EFN.

Further information on events and news happening within the Board can be found at www.dsbni.org and/or on the schools' websites.

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

Trustee Ajandi reported that several trustees supported the Board by attending an OPSBA meeting last weekend. Trustees participated in professional development modules, took part in interactive sessions, and looked at trends and best practices in different Boards.

Trustee Ajandi reported that the *Public Education Symposium* will be held January 28-30, 2016 and that early registration is open for *the 2016 Summit on Children & Youth Mental Health* which will be held April 7 and 8, 2016 in Toronto.

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

6. Future Meetings

Calendar of November 2015 meetings:

November 3	Program and Planning Committee	Cancelled
November 26	Public Meeting for the West Pelham Modified Accommodation Review	6:00 p.m.

Calendar of December 2015 meetings:

December 2	Public Meeting for the South Central St. Catharines Modified Accommodation Review	6:00 p.m.
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N. ADJOURNMENT

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

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:19 p.m.

SUE BARNETT, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary/Treasurer