

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

BOARD ROOM - EDUCATION CENTRE

February 28, 2017

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, Diane Chase,

Linda Crouch, Jonathan Fast, Cheryl Keddy Scott, Kevin Maves (Vice Chair),

Dale Robinson (Chair), Dave Schaubel

Student

Trustees: 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, Brenda Stokes

Verworn, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Bujacz

Regrets: Student Trustee Alazzam

Recording

Secretary: Christina Dero

Technical

Support: Linda Gonschior

Wendy Coit

A. <u>COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD</u>

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 welcomed guests who were in the gallery.

Chair Robinson noted the absence of Student Trustee Alazzam.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

Chair Robinson noted that she, Trustee Barnett, and Trustee Helga Campbell declared a conflict of interest during the Committee of the Whole Session with respect to Negotiations.

B. <u>COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)</u>

Moved by Jennifer Ajandi Seconded by Sue Barnett

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

CARRIED

Moved by Linda Crouch Seconded by Dave Schaubel

"That the Board do now return to open meeting."

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:51 p.m.

C. SINGING OF "O CANADA"

The Board stood as "O Canada" was performed live by Connaught Public School students.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Fast opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Sue Barnett Seconded by Lora Campbell

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued

Adoption of the Agenda

"That the Agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Diane Chase Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated January 24, 2017 be confirmed as submitted;" and

"That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 14, 2017 be confirmed as submitted."

CARRIED

3. <u>Business Arising from the Minutes</u>

In response to a question from Trustee Chase during the February 14, 2017 Special Meeting of the Board, Superintendent Pisek explained that Appendix A in the West Niagara Secondary Accommodation Review Final Staff Report shows projected enrolment at South Lincoln High School over the next three years assuming a 100% retention rate of the graduates from Caistor Central, Gainsborough, and College Street Public Schools.

In response to a request from Trustee Chase for more information about extending the shared boundary to students in Zone C who currently attend South Lincoln High School, Superintendent Pisek explained that NSTS has run a preliminary scenario for current South Lincoln High School students to choose between E.L. Crossley and Grimsby Secondary Schools. This becomes a three-year plan and would cost approximately \$158,000 to implement for the potential 38 students who are included in this request. It would also impact travel times of the current grade 1-12 French immersion students in Zone C by increasing their ride by 12-30 minutes depending on where they live.

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

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – continued

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

Chair Robinson reported that as part of the business conducted in the Committee of the Whole, Glen Ridge Public School was declared surplus to the Board's needs effective March 1, 2017, and Fort Erie Elementary School, conditional upon a severance being granted, will be declared surplus to the Board's needs.

F. <u>EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS</u>

1. Director's Report and Recognition

<u>Update from Provincial, Regional and Local Perspective:</u>

a) Recognition of Judy Dunn, Caretaker at Oakridge Public School

Director Hoshizaki recognized Judy Dunn for her outstanding contributions to staff and students at Oakridge Public School.

Judy Dunn is a dedicated employee who works hard every day to ensure that Oakridge Public School is clean, safe, and ready for students to attend. Mrs. Dunn often goes above and beyond the call of duty and is always willing to lend a hand whenever it is needed.

Mrs. Dunn takes the time to get to know student names and develops relationships with them. Her sense of humour and ability to get both staff and students laughing is remarkable. She also holds children responsible for their actions and motivates them to keep the hallways and classrooms clean.

This year, Oakridge Public School has been undergoing an addition and renovations. Mrs. Dunn spent her whole summer at the school, supporting and encouraging the construction staff. Her flexibility in this situation was commendable. When Mrs. Dunn retires at the end of this year, Oakridge Public School won't be the same without her.

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

b) Recognition of Lynda Frazer, Volunteer at River View Public School

Director Hoshizaki recognized Lynda Frazer for her dedication and the support she has given to the students at River View Public School.

Lynda Frazer, also known as Baba Lynda, has been a volunteer at River View Public School for seven years, where both of her grandsons, Niko and Lucas, attend.

Here is just a short list of what Lynda Frazer has done for the students: made

Director's Report and Recognition

Recognition of Lynda Frazer, Volunteer at River View Public School

playdough, read with them, donated toys and craft supplies, made scarves for Christmas for every child in the class, taught little ones how to use a computer to print a picture from the internet, painted every student in the class their very own picture on canvas that was an expression of them and their individual interests, led craft activities for classes, and the list goes on.

What stands out the most about Lynda Frazer is her compassion for kids. When she sees students learning she is so happy, and when she sees them struggling she cries and wants to be at the school more often so she can sit and help in whatever capacity she can. She is always determined to help children be successful. If it was time for the students to leave, she would say, "We WILL finish tomorrow!" and she would be back the very next day to continue her work. Lynda Frazer always knows when students can do more, and she pushes them to reach for higher goals. She just never gives up! She told the grade three teacher this year that "there is no place she would rather be."

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

c) Recognition of Spencer MacKenzie, Student at Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School

Director Hoshizaki recognized Spencer MacKenzie for his exceptional talents and for being an inspiration to his peers as well as those within his home town.

Spencer MacKenzie is a Grade 11 honour student at Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School (RCBHS). One of Spencer's main passions is music, and in particular the Blues. This past January, he won New Artist/Group of the Year at the 20th Annual Maple Blues Awards in Toronto. Prior to that, in 2013, he received the Rising Star Award at the Niagara Music Awards, and in 2016 won the Toronto Blues Society Talent Search.

Spencer MacKenzie has performed in various venues such as the Kitchener Blues Festival, West Coast Blues Festival, and Canal Bank Shuffle. He has graciously shared his talents at local events such as the Greater Fort Erie Chamber of Commerce Black Cat Gala, where proceeds went toward the Town's new Centre for the Arts fundraising efforts, along with funds going toward student bursaries. In addition, at the recent RCBHS Christmas assembly, Spencer wowed his peers, parents, teachers, and support staff with his belting out of the Blues.

Director's Report and Recognition

Recognition of Spencer MacKenzie, Student at Ridgeway Crystal Beach High School

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

Spencer MacKenzie performed an original Blues song for those in attendance.

Chair Robinson thanked Spencer MacKenzie for his performance and wished him best of luck in his career.

Trustee Barnett thanked Lynda Frazer and Judy Dunn for making a difference in the lives of children.

d) <u>Director's Update to Trustees</u>

i. Westlane's DECA Team Dominates

Perseverance, hard work, teamwork, communication, dedication, and a desire to be the best have paid off for Westlane Secondary School students who competed at the recent Provincial DECA competition and won.

7,500 students from across Ontario were vying for a chance to represent DECA CANADA at the DECA International Career Development Conference and Competition.

The Westlane team of Azaan Adnan and Matt Rogers, and the team of Jasim Khan, Kunj Patel, and Harroop Ahuja finished within the top 6 out of 25 teams each and will be making the trip of a lifetime as they travel to Anaheim California at the end of April for 9 days. Over 19,000 students will be competing from around the world.

ii. EQAO Recognizes Nelles Public School

EQAO has recently drawn attention to eight Ontario elementary schools that have effectively used multiple sources of data, including EQAO data, to design math programs that have helped more students meet the provincial standard. Nelles Public School is one of them.

Each year, EQAO identifies and celebrates schools that have been using data to improve student achievement. Congratulations to Nelles Public School staff for this well-deserved recognition and for implementing school improvement initiatives that have helped students achieve in Math.

Director's Report and Recognition

iii. DSBN Special Education Semi-Formal

More than 200 special education students from across the DSBN dressed in formal attire and gathered inside the gym of Thorold Secondary School recently to take part in a semi-formal dance.

Thank you to educational assistant Lindsay Dezeeuw, along with Lorraine Schoonings, coordinator of Thorold Secondary School's special education program, for spearheading this event in an effort to give the students this high school experience.

iv. DSBN Lego Robotics Challenge

Director Hoshizaki attended the DSBN 19th Annual Technology Skills Challenges which kicked off last week with nearly 400 DSBN elementary students from across the District competing in the DSBN Lego Robotics Challenge which was hosted at Brock University.

The event was attended by over 500 people including elementary administrators, teachers, students and parents. SHSM students from Westlane Secondary School and Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School were also in attendance to act as scoring judges.

v. Sisters in Spirit

Sisters in Spirit is an original production, created by the drama students of Welland Centennial Secondary School.

Director Hoshizaki attended the production and was amazed by the talent of DSBN students and staff, as well as their hard work and determination in delivering such an important, relevant, and emotionally charged production.

Students have spent the better part of their school year learning about Indigenous culture and many of the historical injustices that have been placed upon that community. Over the course of writing and rehearsing the students undertook special research with the help of the DSBN's Indigenous Education Team.

This outstanding play aids in building awareness for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls (MMIWG) by sharing their stories and struggles. It also highlights Indigenous traditions and teachings.

Many DSBN students and teachers attended the performances which made for a powerful experience, rich in teachable moments. Teachers received a pre-show study guide developed by the DSBN's Indigenous

Director's Report and Recognition

Sisters in Spirit

Education Team and were also provided with post-show activities to help them facilitate discussions once back in their classroom.

Sisters in Spirit has been entered into the Niagara District Sears Drama Festival, and although the entry is more about awareness than winning, students are hoping to win so they can share this production with a wider audience.

Congratulations to the Welland Centennial Secondary School drama students and director/drama teacher Max Ingrao for a job well done.

Trustee Barnett noted that the final performance of Sisters in Sprit will be held on the evening of March 1, 2017 at the Sears Drama Festival.

2. Educational Showcases

a) Kindness Month at Connaught Public School

Superintendent Reimer Friesen welcomed staff and students from Connaught Public School and explained that Connaught Public School declared February to be Kindness Month. The entire staff and student population made it their goal to go out of their way to be extra kind throughout the month. Superintendent Reimer Friesen introduced Principal Kelly Diiorio, and teacher Marie Atack.

Kelly Diiorio shared some of the work that students and staff have done over the past month to celebrate the trait of kindness and added that their hope is to spread the message far and wide. Connaught Public School was also the recipient of kindness when the owner of the Conservatory of Music kindly donated many of the instruments being used by students during the showcase.

Grade 8 students Alexis Gresser and Beige Sabate described some of the initiatives that they have been involved in throughout February. Students learned about how to be kind to students, teachers, and classmates. They also learned the importance of being safe and friendly online. Discussions have taken place about thoughts, feelings, and experiences with kindness and students have taken part in lessons that promote discussions and follow-up activities. To share kindness with others, students were invited to participate in a number of events that also helped to raise money for Education Foundation of Niagara and Kids Help Phone.

Connaught Public School students performed their rendition of John Lennon's "Let it be" for the Board.

Educational Showcases

Kindness Month at Connaught Public School

Trustees thanked the students for their performance.

The Board book a brief break to allow students time to remove their instruments.

G. <u>STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS</u>

There was no student achievement report.

H. DELEGATIONS

Chair Robinson explained that Mayor Sandra Easton was originally not expecting to be available to attend the Board meeting, however she became available at the last minute. Chair Robinson asked if Trustees were open to allowing Mayor Easton to present and Trustees indicated that they were.

1. Mayor Bob Bentley

Mayor Bob Bentley summarized concerns that have been received from some Town of Grimsby residents and outlined developments that are in the planning stage or under construction in Grimsby's west end. Mayor Bentley spoke to the historical significance of Grimsby Secondary School and the surrounding area.

Mayor Bentley indicated a willingness to work with DSBN on partnerships and community use and requested that the decision on Grimsby Secondary School be delayed or taken off the table until the data is further reviewed.

In response to concerns about transportation times for Grimsby students, Superintendent Pisek directed Trustees to page 21 of the Final Staff Report where it states that 90% of current Grimbsy Secondary School students would have a bus ride of less than 30 minutes. Superintendent Pisek added that only 27% of students at Grimsby Secondary School walk to school.

In response to a question from a Trustee regarding portables at elementary schools in Grimsby, Superintendent Pisek explained that 2 portables are currently being used for homeroom classes and others are being used for storage or part time programs.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Superintendent Pisek clarified that the census data that was released on February 8, 2017 was included in the data that was presented in the Final Staff Report. Superintendent Pisek added that the DSBN acknowledges the historical growth but student enrollment is declining.

DELEGATIONS – continued

Mayor Bob Bentley

Mayor Bentley expressed concerns over the number of students choosing to attend the coterminous board.

Former DSBN Superintendent Cam Hathaway explained that discussions took place with municipality staff and the region to seek input as to why DSBN is losing students. They indicated that the reason for the loss of students was because of the number of programs that are offered, the sports that are being offered, and because free transportation is offered to the entire catchment area.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Mayor Bentley indicated that he did not attend the consultation with the DSBN when the ARC process started, but did attend the public meeting.

In response to a question from a Trustee about what he considers the size of a super school to be, Mayor Bentley acknowledged that Blessed Trinity is a large school of 1,200-1,300 students, but did not answer as to whether it is would be considered a "super school."

2. Nicole Scime

Nicole Scime summarized the purpose of the *Places to Grow Act, 2005*, and outlined details of the *Growth Plan for the Greater Golden Horseshoe, 2006*. Nicole Scime spoke to concerns with transportation times, renewal needs, enrollment, and retention rates.

Nicole Scime stated her opposition to the West Niagara Secondary Accommodation Review and added that West Niagara is not a community. West Lincoln, the Town of Grimsby, and the Town of Lincoln area are each a separate community.

There were no questions or comments from Trustees.

3. Melissa LeBlanc

Melissa LeBlanc spoke to the benefits of operating a non-denominational education system and suggested surveying families to find out why they are not choosing a public education. Melissa LeBlanc questioned why the data for students lost to other DSBN secondary schools was not included in the calculations. Melissa LeBlanc expressed concern over transportation times.

In response to Melissa LeBlanc's comments regarding non-denomination education system, Trustee Helga Campbell explained that Trustees wrote a letter to the Ministry of Education because they realize the divisions that are formed by having two systems. Trustee Fast added that there is not support for this type of system at the provincial or federal level but other provinces have had success.

DELEGATIONS – continued

4. Mayor Sandra Easton

Mayor Sandra Easton spoke to her experience in attending Beamsville District Secondary School when it had a student population of 1,200 students. Now that the school has 500 students, the curriculum and variety of programming has diminished. Mayor Easton spoke to the closure of schools and to building Twenty Valley Public School. She explained how positive the experience has been for the community and the students.

Mayor Easton requested that should the school be relocated; the unique curriculum needs of the communities be maintained, the heritage of Beamsville District Secondary School be preserved, and appropriate transportation plans be implemented by the DSBN.

In response to a question from a Trustee, Superintendent Pisek explained that with the proposed recommendation, Beamsville District Secondary School students would have a decreased bus time and 80% would see a bus time of less than 30 minutes. Superintendent Pisek added that as of February 6, 2017, 42% of Beamsville District Secondary School students are bussed.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. ACCOUNTS

Moved by Jennifer Ajandi Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1859 to 1869, for the month of January 2017 totalling \$14,899,854.83 be received."

CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Moved by Jennifer Ajandi Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated January 19, 2017 be received."

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – continued

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Trustee Ajandi reported that the committee heard a Student Voice presentation from a Port Colborne High School student who suffers from hearing loss. The student spoke to the supports that she has received at the DSBN which have helped her engage in all aspects of school life.

Trustee Ajandi added that Bob Dunn, Manager of Projects and Maintenance, and Tracey Krysa, Special Education Coordinator, discussed student specific renovations that are taking place.

3. REPORT OF THE PARENT INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

Moved by Helga Campbell Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated February 1, 2017 be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Lora Campbell reported that the Parent Involvement Committee began planning for their second annual School Council Chair Network Session. This year's event is being held at Orchard Park Public School on March 22, 2017. The committee finalized feedback for the Policy Committee with regards to the group of policies open for consideration until February 24, 2017.

4. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Moved by Dave Schaubel Seconded by Diane Chase

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated February 7, 2017 be received:" and

"That the report of the Educational Research Committee of November 17, 2016 be received;" and

"That the Secondary School Program Review for the Current School Year report be received;" and

"That the Secondary School Program Review for the Subsequent School Year 2017- 2018 report be received;" and

"That the Online OSSLT Pilot update be received"; and

OLD BUSINESS – continued

REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

"That the report of the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars 2017- 2018 be received and approved for submission to the Ministry of Education by March 1, 2017."

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel provided a summary of the information that was presented by the Educational Research Committee. Trustee Schaubel shared information from the Secondary School Program Review and explained that students that still need to complete the OSSLT assessment will complete a paper test.

5. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTE

Moved by Lora Campbell Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated February 8, 2017 be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Lora Campbell reported that 13 cases were heard by the committee, and of the 13 cases reviewed, all were approved.

6. REPORT OF THE STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE

Moved by Karling Luciani Seconded by Dave Schaubel

"That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated February 22, 2017 be received."

CARRIED

Student Trustee Luciani reported that Student Trustee Senate recently held their retreat at DSBN Academy. The Student Trustee Senate attended an assembly with DSBN Academy students where guest speaker Chris D'souza spoke about inclusivity.

Student Trustee Luciani added that she will be sharing information about registration for the *Show Your Colours* event that will be held on May 6, 2017 very soon.

OLD BUSINESS – continued

7. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTE

Moved by Kevin Maves Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated February 22, 2017 be received:" and

"That the low bids received from 39 Seven Inc. in the amount of \$1,344,854 (plus HST) and \$1,308,625 (plus HST) be accepted and a contract awarded for the synthetic turf field and running track projects at A.N. Myer and Centennial Secondary Schools respectively:" and

"That the low bids received from World Wide Turf Inc. in the amount of \$1,222,575 (plus HST) and \$1,212,345 (plus HST) be accepted and a contract awarded for the synthetic turf field and running track projects at Governor Simcoe and Sir Winston Churchill Secondary Schools respectively;" and

"That the option prices received from 39 Seven Inc. in the amount of \$449,062 (plus HST) and \$420,550 (plus HST) be accepted and a contract awarded for the bleachers and field lighting at A.N. Myer and Centennial Secondary Schools respectively;" and

"That the option prices received from World Wide Turf Inc. in the amount of \$371,500 (plus HST) and \$359,500 (plus HST) be accepted and a contract awarded for the bleachers and field lighting at Governor Simcoe and Sir Winston Churchill Secondary Schools respectively."

CARRIED

Vice Chair Maves reported that Superintendent Veld led the committee through discussions around awarding the contracts for the synthetic turf and running tracks which includes site preparation, turf, track surface, bleachers, goal posts, and nets. In addition, the committee discussed awarding contracts for bleachers and field lighting.

Trustees commented that these are visible improvements that will prepare for the future health of students and commended Bob Dunn for the work that he continues to do to ensure projects are completed.

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

Trustees had the opportunity to attended a Question and Answer session with Director Hoshizaki prior to the start of the Board Meeting.

3. Correspondence and Communication

- a) Correspondence regarding Ontario Regulation 444/98 and Community Hubs can be found in the Board package.
- b) Correspondence regarding the Ministry of Education's Funding Allocation Model for Special Education Needs Amount can be found in the Board Package.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- Trustee Keddy Scott reported that she recently had the opportunity to read to students at Park Public School, and to help judge speeches at Nelles Public School.
- b) Trustee Barnett reported that the Centennial Cougars recently placed 1st in a province wide cheerleading competition. The team will be holding a fundraiser on March 7, 2017 at 5:30 p.m.
- c) Trustee Barnett reported attending the Grand Opening of the Off the Wall Art Show at the Education Centre.
- d) Trustee Barnett thanked those who attended the EFN Diamonds, Denim, and Diplomas fundraiser in support DSBN Academy students.
- e) Trustee Barnett provided a reminder that EFN's Prom Project will be held on April 8, 2017 at Fort Erie Secondary School, St. Catharines Collegiate, and Beamsville District Secondary School.
- f) Trustee Barnett provided a reminder that EFN's Annual Golf Tournament will be held on May 26, 2017.
- g) Trustee Barnett provided a reminder that the Heritage Fair will be held at Fort George with judging taking place on April 5, 2017.

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

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

Trustee Chase will report on the Board of Director's meeting that takes place on March 3 - 4, 2017 at the next Board meeting.

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

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of March 2017 meetings was provided.

Remove - Finance Committee meeting. This meeting will be rescheduled if there are any agenda items.

N. <u>ADJOURNMENT</u>

Moved by Cheryl Keddy Scott Seconded by Jennifer Ajandi

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:02 p.m.

DALE ROBINSON, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education and Secretary