



# DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

Achieving Success Together

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## THE MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

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BOARD ROOM - EDUCATION CENTRE

NOVEMBER 28, 2006

7:00 - 7:30 p.m (Private Session)

7:30 - 10:00 p.m. (Regular Public Session)

### ATTENDANCE:

Board: Kevin Maves (Chair), Gary Atamanyk, Lora Campbell, Dalt Clark, Liz Fulford (Vice-Chair), Helen Hall, Marcy Heit, Robert Lewis, Don Love, Barb Ness

Regrets: Corey Fitzgerald

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Paul Collins, Sue Greer, Marilyn Hyatt, Linda Kartasinski, John Lawrence, Barb McArthur, John Stainsby, Ardeth Staz, George Thomas, Peter Doan, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Karen Bellamy, Tara Hall, Marian Lamb

Student

Trustees: Brock Ceci, Lisa Parker

Recording

Secretary: Irene Foster

Technical

Support: Linda Gonschior

### A. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Maves, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:40 p.m..

Chair Maves welcomed everyone to the final meeting of the current Board and extended a special welcome to Arlie Brown, Vice-President, ETFO Occasional (Niagara), who was seated in the gallery.

### B. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

**C. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Moved by Don Love  
Seconded by Barb Ness

“That the Board do now enter Committee of the Whole.”

**CARRIED**

Moved by Robert Lewis

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

**CARRIED**

**D. SINGING OF "O CANADA"**

The Board stood and joined in the singing of "O Canada" accompanied on tape by the choir from Alexandra Public School.

**E. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING**

Trustee, Helen Hall, opened the meeting with a prayer.

**F. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Helen Hall  
Seconded by Robert Lewis

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

**CARRIED**

**G. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**

Moved by Dalt Clark  
Seconded by Gary Atamanyk

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated November 14, 2006, be confirmed as submitted.”

**CARRIED**

**H. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

Kevin Maves, Chair, clarified that quorum for SALEP meetings requires that a *community representative* must be present for the approval of decisions.

**I. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

Moved by Liz Fulford  
Seconded by Lora Campbell

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

Staff Matters - Elementary  
Staff Matters - Secondary  
Staff Matters - Support Staff  
Human Resources  
Negotiations  
Legal/Property Update

**CARRIED**

Trustee, Dalt Clark, reported that the 2005-2006 Year End Financial Statements and Auditor's Report were approved in Committee of the Whole. Trustee Clark added that following the review of the Financial Statements and Auditor's Report, the Auditor verbally commended this Board for its excellent internal controls and programs, and its excellent staff. Trustee Clark indicated that it is not common for an Auditor to make those remarks. Trustee Clark thanked John Lawrence, Superintendent of Business, and his staff for doing such an excellent job.

Kevin Maves, Chair, commended Superintendent Lawrence and his staff on behalf of the Board.

**J. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**

**Written Word Festival**

Superintendent, Ardeth Staz, reported that the newly emerging Written Word Festival was held on November 16, 2006, at Governor Simcoe Secondary School where more than one hundred aspiring writers from across the District School Board of Niagara participated in workshops with notable writers and artists from across Canada.

Ann Gilmore, Curriculum Consultant, addressed the Board noting the Festival, which is a companion to the Spoken Word Festival, celebrates the written word in all of its forms and provides students with the opportunity to dialogue and share their work with professionals in small group sessions.

**EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS - continued:**

Jane Garrett, Festival Coordinator, South Lincoln High School, addressed the Board and reported that students participated in small group workshops with notable artists and writers across Canada, namely, Editor/Publisher Mike Leslie, Journalists Grant LaFleche and Don Fraser, Poet Catherine Owen, Lyricist Rob Lamothe, Author Kerry Schooley, Mystery Novelist Barbara Kyle, Playwright Catherine Hernandez, and Screenwriter Daniel Cockburn. Several students also volunteered to share their own written pieces from poems, to short stories, novels, and songs.

The Board viewed a slide show of students working with the writers and artists.

Karen Vallier, Festival Coordinator, Governor Simcoe Secondary School, addressed the Board and reported that feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive. Students enjoyed taking ownership for their learning that day by choosing the workshops they attended, and learning from people in the real world who are making a living in the arts.

Ernie Gleason, Governor Simcoe Secondary School student, spoke about his experiences of the day and commended the presenters and Coordinators for their energy and passion.

Trustees Marcy Heit and Kevin Maves thanked the Coordinators for organizing the event.

Student Trustee, Lisa Parker, asked if the students' attitudes had changed as a result of participating in the Festival. Jane Garrett replied that a number of students indicated their perception of being an author/writer had changed and some were inspired to pursue a career in writing.

**K. DELEGATIONS**

None requested

**L. BOARD RECESS**

No Board recess was called.

**M. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. ACCOUNTS**

**Moved by Dalt Clark  
Seconded by Liz Fulford**

**"That the summary of accounts paid in batch numbers 0432 to 0435 for October 2006 totalling \$15,752,857.49 be ratified."**

**CARRIED**

**M. OLD BUSINESS - continued:**

Chair Maves proceeded to read the Motion for Agenda item M-3 (Finance Committee). Trustee, Lora Campbell, called a point of order noting that the item was raised out of sequence as recorded on the Agenda. The meeting proceeded with Chair Maves returning to item M-2 on the Agenda.

**2. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Don Love**

**Seconded by Liz Fulford**

**“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated November 9, 2006, be received.”**

**CARRIED**

Trustee, Don Love, provided a brief verbal summary of the report as follows:

- the representative from Niagara Support Services has retired from SEAC; the Committee will send a letter of appreciation for her service; a recommendation will come forward for a replacement at the next meeting
- Superintendent, Marilyn Hyatt, provided a handout dealing with this year's DSNB percentage of students with exceptionalities; Trustees were asked to review the handout
- Dr. Sheila Bennett, Brock University, presented an overview and summary of the content and focus of the Special Education Transformation document and recommendations to the Ministry of Education; Dr. Bennett stressed the crucial need for more ongoing professional development
- Steve Novosedlik, Executive Director - Contact Niagara, gave a presentation on the Passport Initiative and provided an excellent background document which merits reading; the initiative targets individuals with a developmental disability who have left the school system by providing access to funding that facilitates community participation; the maximum available funding is a three year commitment of \$25,000 per person per year
- Community Living Port Colborne-Wainfleet informed SEAC that Lucille Terreberry-Stephanchuk is resigning her position on the Committee and a replacement is pending
- the Niagara Deaf and Hard of Hearing Association is now known as VOICE for Hearing Impaired Children

**M. OLD BUSINESS - continued:****3. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Dalt Clark  
Seconded by Robert Lewis**

**"That the report of the Finance Committee dated November 16, 2006, be received and the recommendation adopted."**

Process for Disposition - Lakebreeze Public School

**"That staff be asked to obtain the additional information on the property requested by the Committee and report back in closed session at the January 2007 Finance Committee meeting."**

**CARRIED**

Trustee, Dalt Clark, reported that discussion took place on the disposition of Lakebreeze Public School as directed by the Board in Committee of the Whole on October 24, 2006. The Committee reviewed the process for the disposal of school property and recommended that staff obtain additional information on the property for further discussion at the January 2007 Finance Committee meeting. Trustee Clark reported that a letter dated November 16, 2006, was received from the City of St. Catharines requesting an opportunity for the new City Council to consider the acquisition of Lakebreeze School. Members of the Lakebreeze School neighbourhood were present at the meeting and were pleased that the City of St. Catharines will have an opportunity to reconsider the acquisition of the property before the Finance Committee takes a recommendation for disposal to the Board.

Trustee Clark added that the Committee received an update on the 2005-2006 Financial Statements.

Trustee, Helen Hall, asked how the City of St. Catharines' request impacts on the process for disposing of Lakebreeze Public School. Trustee Clark replied that the process as defined by Ontario Regulation 444/98 will continue. The City now has an opportunity to reconsider the acquisition of the Lakebreeze property but no longer has preferred agency status under the Regulation. In the event the City has an interest in purchasing the property an offer can be submitted by the City and other interested parties through a realtor once the property is listed for sale.

**4. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

**Moved by Dalt Clark  
Seconded by Gary Atamanyk**

**"That the report of the Finance Committee dated November 28, 2006, be received and the recommendations adopted."**

**M. OLD BUSINESS - continued:****4. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**Renovations to St. Catharines Collegiate

**"That the additional renovation costs to the St. Catharines Collegiate project, as a result of the St. Catharines Fire Department review, totalling approximately \$260,000, be approved."**

Schedule of Deferred Revenues and Reserves, Statement of Continuity

**"That the Schedule of Deferred Revenues and Reserves, Statement of Continuity, for the year ended August 31, 2006, be approved."**

**CARRIED**

Trustee, Dalt Clark, reported that the Committee reviewed the Schedule of Deferred Revenues and Reserves, Statement of Continuity.

Trustee Clark reported that following an inspection of the St. Catharines Collegiate project by the St. Catharines Fire Department a number of fire safety concerns were identified. The Fire Chief requires that changes be made in the auditorium to allow for egress from the balcony to the main floor. In addition, the Fire Chief requires that stairwells in the school be closed off with a fire break to ensure safety in the event of fire. These concerns were unforeseen and additional costs will be approximately \$260,000 and will result in the project being approximately \$150,000 - \$200,000 over budget.

Trustee, Helen Hall, asked what the affect would be if the additional costs are not approved by the Board. Trustee Clark replied that the seating capacity in the balcony would be reduced from 170-180 to 60 seats and a stop work order would be issued by the Fire Department with respect to the stairwells.

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

Trustee, Don Love, asked for clarification and direction on the process for Trustees who are requesting information from staff.

Following a brief discussion Director, Warren Hoshizaki, clarified that, to assist Trustees in their role of representing the public, Trustees ***should*** make requests for information through his office. Responses and information will readily be provided to requests and questions where possible. If the request is substantial in nature and represents a matter important to all Trustees, then direction will be requested from the full Board before staff proceed with preparing a response.

**O. NEW BUSINESS****1. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)**

Trustee, Robert Lewis, reported that he attended the Directors' meeting in Toronto on November 24/25, 2006, and provided a verbal report highlighting the following issues discussed at the meeting:

- primary class size
- directions in Special Education
- OPSBA is preparing a submission in response to the Ministry of Education's invitation to make recommendations on funding issues; recommendations will focus on funding for student success, and the release date for 2007-2008 grants for student needs
- framework agreements for future bargaining
- benchmarks for sustainability to address funding shortfalls that exist in identified areas
- restoration of a per pupil local priorities grant
- student transportation funding
- Aboriginal student needs
- community use of schools
- amendments to the Ontario Human Rights Code
- Bill 52 (Learning to 18)
- offer of free Medic-Alert bracelets to schools

Trustee, Don Love, suggested the Board use caution with respect to getting involved with the Medic-Alert bracelet program. Director, Warren Hoshizaki, noted that staff are reviewing the information prior to making a decision to participate.

**P. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS****1. Staff Reports**

No reports

**2. Director's Update**

Director, Warren Hoshizaki, provided a verbal report as follows:

- the Board will receive \$427,000 to help organizations defray the cost for community use of schools
- Elementary schools have issued first term reports on student progress and staff are preparing for parent/teacher interviews; Director Hoshizaki thanked staff for their efforts
- Supervisory Officers from the Southwest Ontario Region recently met and shared ideas on supporting student achievement initiatives
- 110 schools within the Board have applied for the Parents Reaching Out grant; grants of up to \$5,000 are available which will provide a substantial increase in resources to connect schools and parents; Director Hoshizaki commended the work of parents, Supervisory Officers, and staff for their work in preparing submissions

**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS - continued:****3. Correspondence and Communications****(a) Trustee Communication**

1. Kevin Maves, Chair, called for Trustee volunteers to sit on the Negotiations Committee for upcoming bargaining with the Association of Professional Student Services Personnel (APSSP). Trustees, Lora Campbell and Liz Fulford, volunteered to sit on the Committee.
2. Tonight's meeting marks Trustee Hall's last meeting following 35 years of dedicated service to the Board. Trustee Hall delivered a heartfelt address to the Board chronicling her years of service for the benefit of students. Trustee Hall highlighted numerous accomplishments and initiatives of the Board that she was most proud of. Trustee Hall remarked that balancing family life, a full time job, and serving as School Board Trustee was both challenging and rewarding and she is thankful to have had the opportunity to advocate for children as a Trustee. Trustee Hall's advice to new Trustees - ask questions of Supervisory Officers responsible for preparing reports; attend as many Committee Meetings as possible, and visit schools to see first hand what great educational methods are being used to inspire students.

Trustee, Dalt Clark, thanked Trustee Hall for her friendship, the memories, and her contributions and determination in advocating for the rights and needs of students for the past 35 years.

Chair, Kevin Maves, thanked Trustee Hall for her remarks and, on behalf of the Board, thanked her for her contribution to public education.

Director, Warren Hoshizaki, thanked Trustee Hall on behalf of students, parents, and all the staff of the Board, especially senior staff, for her service to students. Director Hoshizaki expressed the profound respect staff have for her and he wished Trustee Hall all the best in her retirement.

3. Chair, Kevin Maves, noted this was the last meeting for Trustee, Robert Lewis. Chair Maves remarked that Trustee Lewis is well respected and will be missed. On behalf of the Board, Chair Maves wished Trustee Lewis all the best in the future and thanked him for his contribution to the Board.

Trustee, Robert Lewis, expressed his appreciation to the Trustees for their support and guidance as he made the transition from teacher, to administrator, to Trustee. Trustee Lewis expressed his respect for the staff of this Board and commended them for doing a great job for students.

**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS - continued:**

**3. Correspondence and Communications**

**(a) Trustee Communication**

4. Student Trustee, Lisa Parker, thanked the Trustees for their dedication and for showing that they sincerely care about students.
5. Trustee, Gary Atamanyk, commended Director, Warren Hoshizaki, on his recent "Principal for a Day" initiative at Cherrywood Acres Public School. The many positive comments by students and staff attest to the value of this kind of experience which provides an excellent example of our Director's leadership by example. Trustee Atamanyk remarked that this Board is fortunate to have Warren Hoshizaki as its Director of Education.
6. Trustee, Gary Atamanyk, informed the Board that he will be absent from the Organizational Meeting on December 5, 2006, due to a long term previous commitment.
7. Trustee, Marcy Heit, asked if cards from the holiday card contest are available for sale or internal use. Tara Hall, Communications Officer, indicated that this year the cards were intended for use by the Director's Office but they will be available for purchase through the Education Foundation of Niagara next year. Director Hoshizaki added that he will make some available to interested Trustees.
8. Trustee, Marcy Heit, indicated she enjoyed the comments in the "Core" about the Principal for a Day program.

**Q. FUTURE MEETINGS**

**1. December Schedule of Meetings**

December 21 - 7:00 p.m. Finance Committee cancelled

A Finance Committee meeting may be required prior to the Board Meeting of December 12.

December 13 - 4:00 p.m. Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP)

R. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Helen Hall  
Seconded by Robert Lewis

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

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KEVIN MAVES  
Chair

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WARREN HOSHIZAKI  
Director of Education and Secretary