



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

Achieving Success Together

THE MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

BOARD ROOM - EDUCATION CENTRE

SEPTEMBER 26, 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 (absent), 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, Jim Marleau

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. and welcomed visitors to the meeting particularly students from Brock University.

B. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

Trustee, Liz Fulford, declared a conflict of interest with respect to Staff Matters - Elementary Teachers.

C. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by Robert Lewis
Seconded by Don Love

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

CARRIED

Moved by Helen Hall

“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 Power Glen Public School.

E. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee, Gary Atamanyk, opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

F. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Helen Hall
Seconded by Dalt Clark

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

G. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Barb Ness
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated September 12, 2006, be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

H. **BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

No report

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

Moved by Liz Fulford

Seconded by Gary Atamanyk

“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

J. **EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**

Lighthouse Program - Rural Secondary Schools

Specialized Agricultural Education Program

Ruth Hernder, Principal - Lakeport Secondary School, and teacher, Laura Kozloski, addressed the Board providing an overview of the Specialized Agricultural Education Program, a program which focuses on supporting student success in rural secondary schools through Co-operative Education and eLearning opportunities in the local wine and agricultural industry. Students from Beamsville District Secondary School, E.L. Crossley Secondary School, Niagara District Secondary School, Ridgeway-Crystal Beach High School, and South Lincoln High School will participate in this new program. Ruth Hernder and Laura Kozloski described initiatives taken to develop the program with community partners. A slide presentation provided information and results on the summer 2006 pilot program and provided information on the 2006-2007 program. The fifteen week 2006-2007 program is being offered in semester one and semester two and students have shown considerable interest in participating. Laura Kozloski indicated that an economic impact study shows there is a need in the community to introduce students to career opportunities in the agricultural industry.

Students Sarah Mewhinney and Jennifer Connors addressed the Board and described their positive summer experience in the program.

J. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS - continued**Building Construction Projects in Rural Areas**

Teacher, Ken Willms, addressed the Board and provided an update on the project developed between the Board and partner Phelps Homes Ltd. The program provides students from Beamsville District Secondary School and South Lincoln High School with the experience of working with skilled trades workers in the construction industry through Co-operative Education and eLearning opportunities. Students will earn 4 credits upon successful completion of the program. The Board viewed a slide presentation of the students working at the site.

Students, Jon Vellekoop and Maxime Daigneault, addressed the Board and shared their experiences in the program. The students were enthusiastic about the opportunity to participate and gain experience in a variety of skilled trades which will assist them in setting future goals.

Trustee, Dalt Clark, praised the programs and asked how requests to participate from students at other School Boards are handled. Ms. Kozloski indicated there is an interest from students at other Boards but presently students enrolled in the program are from the District School Board of Niagara. Laura Kozloski confirmed for Trustee, Helen Hall, that there are currently 30 students enrolled in the program and 5 applicants on a waiting list.

On behalf of the Board, Chair, Kevin Maves, thanked Principal Ruth Hernder and teachers Laura Kozloski and Ken Willms for developing such an interesting program that will benefit students and the community, and thanked the students for sharing their experiences and perspective.

K. DELEGATIONS

None requested

L. BOARD RECESS

No Board recess was called.

M. OLD BUSINESS**1. ACCOUNTS**

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

“That the summary of accounts paid in batch numbers 0409 to 0420 for June, July, and August 2006 totalling \$37,565,348.82 be received.”

CARRIED

M. OLD BUSINESS - continued**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 September 14, 2006, be received.”

CARRIED

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

- the next meeting will be on October 19th, at 7:30 p.m. in the St. Catharines Room, Education Centre; John Lawrence, Superintendent of Business, will be a guest speaker
- Section 20 schools will now be referred to as Section 23 schools
- Superintendent, Linda Kartasinski, gave a presentation to the Committee on suspensions/expulsions of students with disabilities and outlined mitigating factors to be considered; Superintendent Kartasinski reported that six students were expelled in 2005-2006, none of whom were students on an Individual Education Plan
- elections took place for the positions of Chair and Vice-Chair for the 2006-2007 year
- the Intensive Support Program is operational in 12 schools; the ISP began in three Region 3 schools in 2005-2006 and has now expanded to Regions 4 and 5
- the Committee was informed that an extensive Special Education Review must be completed by December 2006; the review will be conducted within the context of declining enrolment; Committee members were given an opportunity to provide input as to what a review might look like
- reports were presented by representatives of the member associations

Trustee, Liz Fulford, added that the exercise on the Special Education Review was very well received and there was good participation. The review material will be sent to stakeholders for input. Trustee Fulford indicated that Superintendent Kartasinski reviewed Board Policies G-3 (Suspensions) and G-9 (Expulsions) so that the members would understand that Principals review mitigating circumstances when considering a suspension/expulsion of a student with disabilities.

Trustee, Don Love, reported that the Special Education Review will be included in the Budget process and added that the Board's allocation of funds for special education has increased from \$35 million last year to \$41 million.

Trustee, Marcy Heit, asked when the last full review was conducted. Director, Warren Hoshizaki, replied that the Ministry of Education requires Boards to prepare an annual Special Education Plan, however, the last extensive review was conducted in 1998.

3. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

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

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated September 26, 2006, be received and the recommendation adopted.”

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE - continued**Tender Results - Renovations to Grand Avenue Public School**

"That the low tender received from Brouwer Construction in the amount of \$4,449,000 (plus GST) be accepted and a contract awarded for the addition and alterations to Grand Avenue School."

CARRIED

Trustee, Dalt Clark, reported that the Committee met to consider the tenders submitted for renovations to Grand Avenue School. The Committee's recommendation is to accept the lowest tender from Brouwer Construction. Trustee Clark indicated that Brouwer Construction has done extensive work for this Board and is well regarded. The addition and alterations to Grand Avenue School are part of a three school project in Grimsby which includes Park School and Nelles School. It is anticipated that total expenditures for the three sites will be within budget.

N. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

Trustee, Liz Fulford, asked for clarification on religious readings in schools as part of opening or closing exercises. Director, Warren Hoshizaki, indicated that religious readings are permitted provided they are not intended to indoctrinate.

Trustee, Marcy Heit, asked if repairs to the Education Centre will include restoration and repairs to all damaged areas in the building. Superintendent, John Lawrence, replied that the building will be restored to a state of good repair.

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

Trustee, Robert Lewis, reported that he will be attending the Directors' meeting in Toronto this Friday, September 29th and Saturday, September 30th, and he will provide a report at the next Board meeting of October 10, 2006.

P. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**1. Staff Reports****(a) Student Trustee Retreat, October 4, 2006, Woodend**

Trustees were provided with an Agenda for the Student Trustee Retreat. Superintendent, Linda Kartasinski, invited Trustees to attend and join the students for lunch.

P. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS - continued**2. Correspondence and Communications****(a) Trustee Communication****i. Report of the Ad Hoc Committee****Establishment of Citizens Advisory Committee to review Trustee Honoraria**

Moved by Marcy Heit
Seconded by Barb Ness

"That the names listed below be approved as submitted to form the Citizens' Advisory Committee to review Trustee Honoraria."

Community Representatives

Frank Engelag	Region 3
Constable Wayne Orcutt	Region 1
Nancy Rodgers	Region 2

Parent Representatives

Julie Bellows	Region 4/5 - St. Catharines
Diane Chase	Region 1
Chrisia Brownlea	Region 6

CARRIED

Trustee, Barb Ness, thanked the members of the Ad Hoc Committee for attending the meeting to review the list of candidates for the Citizens' Advisory Committee (CAC) and thanked the community and parent representatives for agreeing to participate. A report of the Citizens' Advisory Committee will be brought to the next Board meeting of October 10th, 2006.

Trustee, Marcy Heit, reported that there was discussion on the mandate of the CAC. Director, Warren Hoshizaki, indicated that the responsibilities outlined in the report of the Ad Hoc Committee are the expressed expectations of the Ministry of Education and if he finds there are any amendments to that, he will report them to the Committee.

Trustee, Gary Atamanyk, added that, once approved, the recommended honoraria can not be increased until the next election in 2010.

- ii. Trustee, Helen Hall, provided information on the St. Catharines Collegiate's Fall mum plant sale.

P. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS - continued

- iii. Trustee, Don Love, reported that on Saturday, September 30th, Central Public School will celebrate it's 100 year anniversary from 1:00 - 4:00 p.m.
- iv. Trustee, Don Love, reported that on October 3rd, Park Public School will celebrate it's grand re-opening from 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. The official ribbon cutting will take place at 6:15 p.m.
- v. Trustee, Marcy Heit, thanked the Director and his office, and Mick Leane, for welcoming the Katimavik group during their recent visit to the Education Centre. Trustee Heit also acknowledged Lincoln Centennial School for hosting a luncheon, and thanked Adolescent and Family Support Services of Niagara for their support. Numerous agencies benefit from the group's volunteer projects in the community .
- vi. Trustee, Kevin Maves, noted that October 5th is World Teachers Day and it is an opportunity to reflect on contributions made by teachers around the world.

Q. FUTURE MEETINGS

1. October Schedule of Meetings

Monday, October 2, 4:00 p.m. - SALEP is cancelled

Thursday, October 19 - Special Education Advisory Committee is scheduled for 7:30 p.m., not 7:00 p.m.

Trustee, Barb Ness, reminded Board members of the School Council Parent Conference on Saturday, October 21st from 8:30 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Trustees were invited to attend and participate in workshops that will showcase what is happening in our schools.

Trustee, Marcy Heit, asked that the Supervisory Officers provide reminders to Trustees of upcoming Committee meetings.

2. Dates to Note - October 2006

Chair, Kevin Maves, asked the Trustees to note the dates and information on the list provided.

R. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Robert Lewis
Seconded by Dalt Clark

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES
Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI
Director of Education and Secretary