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 Meeting.

B. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.
C. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by Marcy Heit
Seconded by Gregg Dame

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

CARRIED

Moved by Marcy Heit

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

CARRIED

D. SINGING OF "O CANADA"

The Board stood and sang "O Canada" accompanied on tape by the choir from Power Glen Elementary School, St. Catharines, en français.

E. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee, Larry Lemelin, opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

F. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Gary Atamanyk
Seconded by Don Love

“That the Agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

G. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Barb Ness
Seconded by Gregg Dame

“That the Minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 27, 2007, be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED
H. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

None

I. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by Liz Fulford
Seconded by Marcy Heit

“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

Education Month Preview

Marian Lamb, Communications Department, introduced the showcase and noted Trustees were provided with a schedule of Education Month activities which will culminate with the DSBN Road Race on Sunday, April 29, 2007. Marian Lamb introduced Susan Jackson and Paul O'Melia (Education Month Committee Co-Chairs), and Central Public School students Spencer and Katie.

Susan Jackson, Vice-Principal - Niagara District Secondary School, and Co-Chair of the Education Month Committee, addressed the Board stating the theme for Education Month is "Learning in Action." Ms. Jackson provided an overview of the events scheduled for Education Month.

Central Public School student, Katie Mueller, addressed the Board and outlined the activities planned for the Education Month Kick-Off breakfast on March 28, 2007, which will include student performances by the Niagara District Secondary School choir and a dance performance by students from Central Public School. Director, Warren Hoshizaki, will deliver the welcome address at the Kick-Off breakfast and Jenna Warriner, a Grade 12 student at Niagara District Secondary School, and Spencer Dunn, a Grade 8 student at Central Public School, will speak.
EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS - continued:

Education Month Preview

Paul O'Melia, Vice-Principal - Central Public School and Committee Co-Chair, addressed the Board stating that Education Month is a wonderful opportunity to showcase why our Board is such a successful organization. Mr. O'Melia introduced student Spencer Dunn, who will be one of the speakers at the Education Month Kick-Off breakfast as well as participate in Central Public School's dance performance.

Central Public School student, Spencer Dunn, highlighted the Education Month activities that will be taking place at Central Public School.

Chair, Kevin Maves, thanked the Co-Chairs and the students for their presentation.

K. DELEGATIONS

Concerned Parents of DSBN Students on Issue of Accountability

Lianne Wyatt, spokesperson of Concerned Parents of DSBN Students, addressed the Board with concerns that serious accountability issues within our Board need to be addressed with respect to the balanced school day. Ms. Wyatt stated the initiative has been adopted by the Halton District School Board, the Hamilton-Wentworth District School Board, the Waterloo Region District School Board, and now the District School Board of Niagara. She said that limited research on the balanced school day indicates that the response to the schedule change has been mixed and that firm conclusions about the advantages and disadvantages of the initiative cannot be made. Ms. Wyatt cited research that does not support claims that the balanced school day would improve student focus at the end of the day, result in increased participation in extra curricular activities, and reduce the incidence of aggressive behaviour. Ms. Wyatt raised concerns that School Boards are adopting a program that has not been conclusively demonstrated to be of any benefit to our students, and that parents have not been informed of the research findings or provided with information sessions. Ms. Wyatt asked for information on steps taken by the Board to validate the findings of the early research before adopting the balanced school day within our Board, what studies are being conducted to determine that this change is in the best interest of students, and what other options for improving student achievement were considered by the Board before deciding that the balanced school day is the most sound and positive choice.

Chair, Kevin Maves, asked Trustees if there were any questions of clarification and no questions were raised. Chair Maves thanked Ms. Wyatt for her comments and indicated that a response to her questions will be prepared.

L. BOARD RECESS

No Board recess was called.
M. OLD BUSINESS

1. ACCOUNTS
   Moved by Dalt Clark
   Seconded by Larry Lemelin

   "That the summary of accounts paid in Batch Numbers 0449 to 0452 for February 2007 totalling $15,091,649.26 be received."

   CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE TRUSTEE / STUDENT COUNCIL
   Moved by Lora Campbell
   Seconded by Marcy Heit

   "That the report of the Trustee / Student Council dated February 28, 2007, be received."

   CARRIED

   Student Trustee, Brock Ceci, reported that he and Student Trustee, Lisa Parker, attended the recent Ontario Student Trustees' Association's conference in Ottawa from February 15-18, 2007. The conference provided a great opportunity to exchange information with other English Public Student Trustees. Student Trustee Parker added it was also an opportunity to network with other Boards in the Golden Horseshoe. Discussion took place on a variety of issues including how other Boards are implementing Bill 52 and information was shared on running a student senate. Author, Robert Munsch, presented an exciting session at the leadership symposium and an engaging and effective session was presented on sexism, agism, and racism issues and how to keep them out of the decision making process.

   Student Trustee Parker reported that a cheque was presented to Tracy Geoffroy, United Way representative. Students have raised over $5,000 and fundraising events are continuing.

3. REPORT OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
   Moved by Marcy Heit
   Seconded by Gregg Dame

   “That the report of the Education Program and Planning Committee dated March 6, 2007, be received and the recommendations adopted.”
OLD BUSINESS - continued:

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Research Committee Report

"That the Education Program and Planning Committee approve the research proposal recommendations outlined in the report of the Educational Research Committee Report of February 26, 2007."

Special Education Review

"That the Education Program and Planning Committee approve the recommendations outlined in the Special Education Review 2006-2007."

CARRIED

Trustee, Marcy Heit, provided a verbal summary of the report as follows:

- The five research proposals listed in the Educational Research Committee report were approved as recommended; two were approved with conditions. Trustee Heit noted the research proposal descriptions have been broadened to provide more information on the projects.
- Superintendent, Marilyn Hyatt, presented the Special Education Review 2006-2007. The Special Education Review was a lengthy process and it reflects the fundamental changes in the direction of Special Education. Special Education remains in the forefront with funding inequities requiring the Board to allocate an additional $7 million to meet the needs of these students. Trustee Heit highlighted a number of recommendations made in the Special Education Review.
  - Trustee Heit noted the gifted criteria will change from the current 96% to 98% in 2007-2008 and this will have implications for students and their parents. Staff believe school based integration can happen with enriched opportunities.
  - The Learning Resource Teacher position will see changes over the next 3 years. It is anticipated there will be a reduction in Learning Resource Teacher positions and focus on literacy coaches will increase.
  - Changes will be made to the IPRC process as mandated by the Ministry of Education so that when the school and parents are in agreement, a formal IPRC is not necessary in order to provide more flexibility in planning and delivering complex programs.
- Trustee Heit indicated that the Committee reviewed the 2007-2008 proposed school year calendars and further discussion will take place at a future meeting.
- A review of the Accommodation Review Guidelines was deferred to the next meeting.

Trustee, Gary Atamanyk, noted the statistics in the Special Education Review with respect to students with mental health issues and indicated he was pleased to read the recommendation that WrapAround teams of professionals will become part of our education team to develop strategies that will provide ongoing support to the students.
Superintendent, Marilyn Hyatt, added that the WrapAround teams will help the Board to be more proactive in its approach to providing services.

OLD BUSINESS - continued:

4. REPORT OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

   Moved by Marcy Heit
   Seconded by Barb Ness

   “That the report of the Education Program and Planning Committee dated March 20, 2007, be received and the recommendations adopted.”

   Revised Policy: Accommodation Review Guidelines

   "That the Education Program and Planning Committee recommend that the Board approve Accommodation Review Guidelines for the Planning of School Program and Facility Needs as amended."

   CARRIED

Kindergarten Program Delivery Report

   Moved by Liz Fulford
   Seconded by Dalt Clark

   1. "That the report, Kindergarten Program Delivery, be received and the twelve schools listed in the report that had more than 75% support be allowed to proceed with the expansion of the Full Day/Alternate Day Kindergarten pilot for September 2007."

   2. "That the District School Board of Niagara approve a Full Day/Every Day Senior Kindergarten pilot project in six to eight school sites for the 2007-2008 school year."

   MOTION 2 CARRIED

   Motion to Amend Moved by Dalt Clark
   Seconded by Larry Lemelin

   "That Motion 1 be amended to read, That the report, Kindergarten Program Delivery, be received and the twelve schools listed in the report that had more than 75% support be allowed to proceed toward the expansion of the Full Day/Alternate Day Kindergarten pilot for September 2007."

   Chair Maves asked the question, all in favour of adopting the amended Motion, and the Motion carried.
OLD BUSINESS - continued:

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

Amended Motion Moved by Larry Lemelin
Seconded by Don Love

"That the report, Kindergarten Program Delivery, be received and the twelve schools listed in the report that had more than 75% support be allowed to proceed toward the expansion of the Full Day/Alternate Day Kindergarten pilot for September 2007."

CARRIED

Trustee Heit highlighted the following items reviewed by the Committee.

- Superintendent, Barb McArthur, presented a comprehensive report on the results of the survey with respect to Full Day/Alternate Day Kindergarten. Detailed reports revealed that twelve schools met the 75% threshold to move forward to the next step. The Committee discussed a recommendation to consider Full Day/Every Day Senior Kindergarten. It was agreed that although Full Day/Every Day Senior Kindergarten is not funded the program enhances the opportunity to increase academic achievement in the early years. Trustee Heit said that more information will be gathered and further discussion will take place on the impact of implementing the programs.

Trustee, Dalt Clark, clarified that it was the intent of the Committee's recommendation that the twelve schools be allowed to move toward the expansion of Full Day/Alternate Day Kindergarten and that further communication should take place with School Councils, parents, and daycare providers before a decision was made to expand.

Superintendent McArthur indicated that the report outlines the next steps schools are expected to take in the implementation process.

Trustees agreed that the two Motions recommended in the Kindergarten Program Delivery Report will be split. Trustee, Lora Campbell, called a point of order and asked for a count on the first Motion. Trustee Love reported that the Committee voted 7-2, in favour of the first Motion.

- Trustee Heit reported on the review of the Accommodation Review Guidelines and highlighted key issues in the lengthy report.
  - The revised policy incorporates guidelines and processes as set out in the Ministry of Education's Pupil Accommodation Review Guidelines.
  - The Accommodation Review Committee (ARC) will include broad representation from the community at large and from the school community. There was discussion about the number of members on the Committee as well as the role of the Trustees in the accommodation review process. Trustee Heit noted that although the recommendation carried, there was some disagreement about Trustee representation.
• Accommodation Review meetings will be open and Trustees are encouraged to attend as many meetings as possible.
• Meetings will be Chaired by the appropriate Regional Supervisory Officer.

OLD BUSINESS - continued:

REPORT OF THE EDUCATION PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

• School Valuation Reports will be prepared for schools in the review area as required by the Ministry of Education.
• Ministry prescribed guidelines will be implemented for communications and a public consultation process to ensure a wide range of input and ongoing information sharing.
• As required by the Ministry of Education, the final report of the Accommodation Review Committee will go directly to the Board and confirmation that a resolution was passed must be submitted to the Ministry.
• The process to implement recommendations to close a school was not amended.
• An update was provided on the Transportation Consortium and implementation is moving along well. Office space has been acquired and it is anticipated that savings will be realized and student transportation will be streamlined and equitable. Trustee Heit thanked Bob Crawford, Manager of Planning and Transportation, and Rob Berketo, Assistant Manager of Planning and Transportation for their work in moving the initiative forward.

Trustee, Lora Campbell, noted that the Minutes of the Education Program and Planning Committee state that, “after more discussion, the Committee members suggested several amendments to the document.” Trustee Campbell asked for detailed clarification of what the amendments are.

Trustee Heit indicated that the amendments were revisions to the first draft proposed by staff. During discussion, a number of changes were suggested to the draft document to ensure it reflected Ministry of Education expectations. Trustee Heit noted the former policy was amended to reflect guidelines and expectations set out by the Ministry of Education.

Trustee Fulford clarified that the amendments refer to changes made to the first draft which was deferred for further discussion by the Education Program and Planning Committee at its meeting of March 6, 2007, and are not a reference to amendments being made to an existing document. The final draft being recommended by the Committee reflects amendments suggested by the Committee to the first working draft.

Trustee Heit acknowledged Bob Crawford, Manager of Planning and Transportation, for being an excellent resource. Chair Maves added there was a great deal of dialogue and discussion at both meetings of the Education Program and Planning Committee and he thanked all the staff involved for their work.

5. REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

Moved by Barb Ness
Seconded by Lynn Campbell

"That the report of the School Council Liaison Committee dated March 7, 2007, be received."

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS - continued:

REPORT OF THE SCHOOL COUNCIL LIAISON COMMITTEE

Trustee, Lynn Campbell, provided a verbal summary of the report as follows:

- The meeting was held at Parnall Public School and the Committee enjoyed a tour of the school.
- A report of the February 21, 2007, School Council Symposium was presented. Sixteen representatives from our Board attended the highly successful symposium. Some of the items discussed were six steps to increasing parental involvement.
- The Conference Planning Subcommittee provided an update on the October 20th, 2007, conference and discussion took place on expanding the conference to 2:00 or 2:30 p.m. and include a lunch. Discussion also took place on having a special speaker and suggestions were made to invite an author to speak and do a book signing.
- Committee members had an opportunity to highlight upcoming events and interesting input was provided.

N. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

1. Trustee, Don Love, asked for an update on renovations at the St. Catharines Collegiate. Director Hoshizaki indicated that renovations are on schedule and a report will be provided. A visit to the school can be arranged through the Principal or the appropriate Superintendent.

O. NEW BUSINESS

1. **Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA)**

Trustee, Don Love, reported that Trustee, Larry Lemelin, will attend the next meeting in Toronto on April 28, 2007. OSPBA's Annual General Meeting will be held at Deerhurst in Huntsville and registration forms will be available in April. Reservations are being accepted now for accommodations and Trustees were encouraged to book early.

P. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. **Staff Reports**

None.

2. **Correspondence and Communications**
(a) **Trustee Communication**

1. Student Trustee, Lisa Parker, reported that she and Student Trustee Ceci attended an open Parliament session in Ottawa and they found it to be a very exciting experience.

**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS - continued:**

(C) **Correspondence and Communications**

**Trustee Communication**

2. Trustee, Liz Fulford, reminded the Board that at the January 23, 2007, Board Meeting, students from Caistor Central Public School made a presentation on their involvement in the “One World Youth” Project and said they were working on a button campaign to raise awareness and funds to improve maternal health in Canada and Africa. Trustee Fulford reported that the students have raised over $2,000 and the buttons can be purchased for $2 each. Trustee Fulford added that the students will be travelling to Washington, D.C. to take part in the 3rd Annual One World Youth Project North American Summit.

Trustee Heit suggested that the students take DSBN logo items to share at the conference and Chair Maves directed the request to Marian Lamb, Communications Department.

3. Trustee, Don Love, reported that an Ad Hoc Committee meeting for Supervisory Officer selection will take place on Monday, April 2nd, 2007, at 4:30 p.m. for Trustees Dalt Clark, Gregg Dame, Marcy Heit, Larry Lemelin, and Don Love.

(b) **Report of the Trustee Ad Hoc Committee: Governance and By-Laws**

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Barb Ness

“That the report of the Trustee Ad Hoc Committee: Governance and By-Laws dated March 19, 2007, be received and the recommendation adopted.”

Policy A-1: Student Representation on Boards

"That Policy A-1: Student Representation on Boards be approved, as amended, and adopted by the District School Board of Niagara."

CARRIED

Trustee, Barb Ness, reported that the Ad Hoc Committee met to discuss the Student Trustee legislation, monthly meetings, governance and By-Laws. Policy A-1 was reviewed and the title was amended to read
"Student Trustees on Boards" to be consistent with the new legislation. The Policy maintains two Student Trustees; establishes the term of office from August 1 to July 31, however, a Student Trustee may apply to be a candidate for a second term; permits Student Trustees to attend all meetings except those noted in the legislation; amends election provisions in accordance with the Ministry's requirement that the process

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS - continued:

Correspondence and Communications

Report of the Trustee Ad Hoc Committee: Governance and By-Laws

be student based; and confirms that Student Trustees receiving an honorarium will no longer be able to earn a Coop credit or community service hours.

The Ad Hoc Committee discussed Minutes of meetings. It was suggested that the Trustee Information Sessions be included in the Board Meeting Minutes under Section P - Information and Proposals. Trustees were agreeable to this suggestion. A request was also made that Committee Minutes be more detailed and it was suggested that Trustees speak directly to the Superintendent involved in the Committee meeting if the Minutes are too vague.

Draft policies on the use of corporate credit cards; travel, meals, and hospitality; advertising; and advocacy were reviewed and referred to the Finance Committee for discussion and approval on March 29, 2007.

There was discussion about the new governance model and Trustees indicated they were comfortable with the new model. Further discussion on governance and amending the By-Laws was deferred to the next meeting on April 2nd, 2007.

Following Trustee Ness' verbal report, Trustee, Marcy Heit, clarified that the request for detail in the Committee Meeting Minutes is to ensure they give some flavour of the discussions that take place. Trustee Heit raised the point that speaking to the Superintendent was not the solution and said it may be that the person taking the Minutes may not have the necessary skills. Trustee Fulford suggested that Minutes capture the topics discussed and give some flavour of the discussion that took place rather than say, following discussion. Further clarification could be obtained from the Superintendent as an enhancement to the Minutes. Director Hoshizaki suggested that Trustees give further direction and identify the strengths in the Minutes. He indicated that some professional development could be offered in taking Minutes to address the concerns.
Q. FUTURE MEETINGS

1. Schedule of Meetings for April 2007

   Thursday, March 29    Special Education Advisory Committee

   Thursday, March 29    Finance Committee. Trustee Clark asked that Trustees who may be absent delegate an alternate to ensure a quorum is present.

   Thursday, April 12    Staff Awards (previously April 19th), creates a conflict with the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting on April 12th. Superintendent Hyatt will address this at the March 29th SEAC meeting.

   Trustee, Gary Atamanyk, reported that he will be absent for the meeting on April 17th, and asked for a volunteer to attend in his place.

   Student Trustee, Brock Ceci, reported that Student Trustee elections will take place on April 25th.

R. ADJOURNMENT

   Moved by Barb Ness
   Seconded by Lora Campbell

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

   CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES          WARREN HOSHIZAKI
Chair                Director of Education and Secretary