



THE MINUTES OF THE DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

BOARD ROOM - EDUCATION CENTRE

JUNE 24, 2008

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

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

ATTENDANCE:

Board: Kevin Maves (Chair), Gary Atamanyk, Lora Campbell, Lynn Campbell, Dalton Clark, Gregg Dame, Liz Fulford, Marcy Heit, Larry Lemelin, Don Love, Barbara Ness

Student
Trustees: Josh Dayboll, Emilia Ling

Newly elected Student Trustee Alex Ceci attended as an observer (not present for Committee of the Whole)

Regrets:

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Carol Gernyn, Sue Greer, Cam Hathaway, Marilyn Hyatt, Linda Kartasinski, Jim Morgan, Jane Roth, John Stainsby, Ardeth Staz, Bob Crawford, Peter Doan, Doug Durant, Brenda Stokes Verworn, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy, Marian Lamb

Recording
Secretary: Irene Foster

Technical
Support: Jacques Yves-Dubois

A. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Kevin Maves, Chair, called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:45 p.m.

B. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

No conflicts of interest were declared.

C. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by Don Love
Seconded by Larry Lemelin

"That the Board do now enter Committee of the Whole."

CARRIED

Moved by Lynn Campbell

"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 students from Westdale Public School, St. Catharines.

E. OPENING PRAYER OR REFLECTIVE READING

Student Trustee Josh Dayboll opened the meeting with a reflective reading.

F. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Barb Ness
Seconded by Dalton Clark

"That the Agenda be adopted."

CARRIED

G. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES

Moved by Liz Fulford
Seconded by Don Love

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated June 10, 2008, be confirmed as submitted."

"That the Minutes of the Special Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated June 17, 2008, be confirmed as submitted."

CARRIED

H. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. **Summary of Policies and Administrative Procedures related to Niagara Student Transportation Services be provided to Trustees by the end of June 2008**

As requested by Trustee Don Love at a previous Board meeting, Superintendent Cam Hathaway provided Trustees with a reference guide to assist them with addressing transportation issues and questions.

2. Director Warren Hoshizaki reported that he and Superintendent Linda Kartasinski met with the Principals of the Niagara-on-the-Lake schools to discuss the implications of the motions carried at the Board meeting of June 17th, 2008. Director Hoshizaki reported there was good discussion with many good ideas and suggestions being put forward. Director Hoshizaki added that Superintendent John Stainsby, whose portfolio will be Superintendent of Secondary Schools in the 2008-2009 school year, will form a liaison committee in the fall to include staff, students, and the community as a forum to bring ideas forward on the future and direction of Niagara District Secondary School. Superintendent Stainsby will provide the Board with updates on the work of the committee.

Trustee Lynn Campbell expressed her gratitude for providing this forum where the community and Board can work together.

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

Moved by Marcy Heit
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**

1. **Joan Crowe Award For Outstanding Educational Assistant or Child Care**

Worker

Rosemary O'Grady, a Child Care Worker at Mathews Public School in Welland, is the recipient of this year's Joan Crowe Award for outstanding Child Care Worker.

Sue Greer, Superintendent of Schools, introduced Jacklyn Rocco, Vice-President of CUPE Local 4156.

Ms. Rocco explained that the Joan Crowe Award is presented annually by CUPE Local 4156 to an Educational Assistant or Child Care Worker whose work with students in the District School Board of Niagara most closely matches the level of excellence set by Joan Crowe in her many years of service supporting students with special needs. Criteria for nominations include students always coming first, being a team player, always accepting new challenges, exhibiting a high degree of professionalism, and adding the personal touch by doing little extras for students.

Debbie Dennis, Educational Assistant and Joan Crowe's daughter, addressed the Board saying that all the winners have exceeded the criteria for nomination, and display a love of their job. Ms. Dennis thanked Wendy Faragalli for her work as Chair of the Joan Crowe Award Committee, the Board for their support, CUPE Local 4156 for their continued support and for providing a bursary to the recipients, and the work of the committee and everyone involved for continuing to make the award a reality.

Michael Burns, teacher at Mathews Public School, addressed the Board and commended this year's recipient, Rosemary O'Grady, for her professionalism, and for applying her caring and positive philosophy throughout the school.

Rosemary O'Grady addressed the Board and expressed her appreciation and thanks for the honour and recognition. Ms. O'Grady commended teacher, Michael Burns, for his work and dedication to students.

Debbie Dennis, Wendy Faragalli, and Jacklyn Rocco presented Ms. O'Grady with the Joan Crowe Award and bursary.

Chair Kevin Maves congratulated Rosemary O'Grady on behalf of the Board.

2. **Recognition of Trustee Dalton Clark on receiving the Dr. Harry Paikin Award of Merit for Outstanding Service as a Public School Board Trustee**

Each year, the Ontario Public School Boards' Association honours one Trustee with this award for outstanding service as a Public School Trustee. The provincial award is named for Dr. Harry Paikin, who served as a Trustee for the Board of Education for the City of Hamilton until his passing in 1985. The award, initiated in Dr. Paikin's memory, commemorates his dedication and support to life-long learning.

Chair Maves acknowledged Trustee Dalton Clark as this year's recipient of the prestigious award.

K. **DELEGATIONS**

There were no delegations requested.

L. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

M. OLD BUSINESS

1. ACCOUNTS

Moved by Dalton Clark

Seconded by Barb Ness

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in batch numbers 0542 to 0546 for the month of May 2008, totalling \$16,218,346.47, be received.”

CARRIED

2. REPORT OF THE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC)

Moved by Don Love

Seconded by Liz Fulford

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) dated June 12, 2008, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Liz Fulford provided verbal highlights of the report. Maggie Denison, Special Education Resource Teacher, gave a presentation on resources available to support students with Autism Spectrum Disorder. André Ceci, System Administrator, provided a report on the Student Support Leadership Planning Team, a team of community agencies and School Board staff that will assess how School Boards and community agencies work together. Carol Purcer, Special Education Administrator, provided a year end update which included information on the WRAP Around Team, Educational Assistants' allocation for 2008-2009, the Early Development Instrument, the Intensive Support Program, and the Special Education Automation Software. Superintendent Marilyn Hyatt reported on the Special Education Review and EQAO results.

M. OLD BUSINESS - continued:

3. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING FOR EXCUSED PUPILS (SALEP) COMMITTEE

Moved by Larry Lemelin
Seconded by Lynn Campbell

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning for Excused Pupils (SALEP) Committee dated June 9, 2008, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Larry Lemelin reported that the committee reviewed three cases and developed positive opportunities for the students to support their future success. Trustee Lemelin thanked the members of the committee for their work this school year for the benefit of students.

4. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Moved by Dalton Clark
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated June 9, 2008, be received and the recommendation adopted.”

and

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated June 18, 2008, be received and the recommendations adopted.”

2008-2009 Preliminary Budget Update (June 9, 2008)

“That staff be directed to proceed to develop a draft 2008-2009 budget, as presented at this meeting, to include a \$1,281,272 transfer from the General Operating Reserves.”

Voice Over IP Telecommunications System (June 18, 2008)

“That the telephone equipment replacement reserve be used to purchase a Board-wide VoIP telephone system to replace existing DSBN systems.”

M. OLD BUSINESS - continued:

3. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Architect Appointments - Various Projects (June 18, 2008)

“That Chapman Murray Associates Architects Inc. be appointed Architects for the addition and renovations project at Orchard Park School.”

“That Raimondo & Assocites Inc. be appointed Architects for the accessibility improvement project at West Park Secondary School.”

“That Venerino VP Panici Architect Inc. be appointed Architects for the open concept renovations project at Sheridan Park School.”

“That Venerino VP Panici Architect Inc. be appointed Architects for the open concept renovations project at Applewood School.”

2008-2009 Budget (June 18, 2008)

“That the 2008-2009 Budget Revenue and Expenditures, in the amount of \$356,270,872, be approved and the estimate forms be submitted to the Ministry of Education.”

CARRIED

Trustee Dalton Clark reported that the committee reviewed information on the proposed replacement of the Board’s aging telecommunications system. Monies to fund the replacement have been annually allocated to a reserve fund for this specific purpose over a ten year replacement schedule and sufficient monies are available for this project.

Architect appointments were reviewed for a variety of projects and all recommended firms have had positive experiences with this Board and are well suited to the types of projects being undertaken.

Trustee Dalton Clark reported that the Board has achieved a balanced budget of \$356,270,872 for the 2008-2009 year and that, due to the underfunding in Special Education, it was necessary to transfer \$3,252,272 from the Board’s reserve fund to achieve a balanced budget and maintain services to students. The budget complies with Ministry of Education regulations with respect to spending restrictions and ensures that existing programs and services are continued for the coming year. Trustee Clark indicated that the Board is the second lowest paid in the province for Special Education and he cautioned that continued underfunding in Special Education will have a serious impact on the future budgeting process and efficiencies will need to be found throughout the system. Trustee Clark explained that the budget outlines the implications to our Board in services and supports attributed to the underfunding of Special Education and he stressed the importance of continuing to lobby the province to bring fairness and equity to Special Education funding. Trustee Clark explained that the Board received an increase in per pupil funding and, although student enrolment continues to decline, operating costs have not declined. In addition, the Board must allocate funds for

M. OLD BUSINESS - continued:

3. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Ministry of Education new or enhanced initiatives such as the safe schools strategy, the new teacher induction program, the reporting entity project, and community use of schools. Board initiatives funded from general operating reserves include transportation policy revisions, release time to support literacy professional development, and

construction of the Education Centre Dunlop Drive entrance. Trustee Clark reminded the Board that all funding comes from the province and School Boards can not raise local funds to support new or enhanced programs and initiatives. Trustee Clark noted that the 2007-2008 budget is a restated budget to include enhanced funding received from the province for implementation of Ministry initiatives throughout the 2007-2008 year.

Trustee Gary Atamanyk pointed out that if the Board did not subsidize the Special Education budget, monies would be available to consider new and enhanced initiatives and, Special Education would be impacted by a reduction in services and supports. Trustee Atamanyk added that, although not clearly stated in the budget, funds are allocated from other schools to subsidize enrolment at Niagara District Secondary School. Trustee Atamanyk clarified that Boards can not raise local funds to support programs and initiatives through local residential and commercial taxation. Trustee Clark added that donations can be accepted for specific school programs, such as funds raised by the Education Foundation of Niagara, however, the Board can not request any tax money from individuals or other groups, such as the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake Council, to support education initiatives.

Trustee Clark clarified for Trustee Heit that \$3,252,272 was transferred from reserves to balance the budget due to provincial underfunding and that approximately \$1.9 in new or enhanced Board initiatives will be funded from General Operating Reserves. Trustee Clark also explained that the Board normally budgets approximately \$600,000 - \$700,000 into reserves to support programs or initiatives that are not specified in the budget. Superintendent Roth added that the \$1,281,272 as noted in the June 18th minutes is an additional transfer from the General Operating Reserve.

Trustee Heit asked for an update on the proposed Outreach Coordinator position as it appears the Toronto Board has implemented the initiative. Superintendent Roth explained that the Ministry of Education has not provided any direction to date and the position is in the budget as a placeholder. Superintendent Roth added that some School Boards have existing Coordinators and other Boards are moving forward out of necessity in the absence of direction from the Ministry. Superintendent Roth suggested that the Toronto Board may be considering hiring an individual but funds will not flow until the 2008-2009 budget. Director Hoshizaki added that the Toronto District School Board has been allocated specific funding for summer programs and that funding was extended to Hamilton and Toronto but not Niagara.

M. OLD BUSINESS - continued:

3. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE

Trustee Lynn Campbell asked what monies are available in the facilities renewal budget for Niagara-on-the-Lake schools. Trustee Clark replied that all schools are funded for student spaces through general operating grants. Trustee Clark added that additional funding has been allocated to Niagara District Secondary School to keep it operating by providing additional staff and supplies, however, monies have not been allocated for

capital projects next school year.

Trustee Lynn Campbell asked if any monies are available in the facilities renewal budget for Niagara-on-the-Lake elementary schools. Doug Durant, Plant Services Controller, replied that monies were not allocated in the facilities renewal capital plan for this coming year pending the outcome of the accommodation review. Trustee Clark added that monies will be allocated for renovations at St. Davids Public School and construction of a new elementary school in Virgil.

Trustee Lemelin asked if monies can now be allocated in the budget for facility renewal at Niagara District Secondary School as the accommodation review is complete. Trustee Clark replied that monies would have to be reallocated from other programs following discussion at the Program and Planning Committee. Trustee Heit suggested that, rather than reallocating monies from programming, there should be some accessible funding within the existing facilities renewal budget. Trustee Clark indicated that there is some flexibility within the facilities renewal budget and approximately \$600,000 could be available as a back up reserve, however, the appropriate forum for revising the facilities renewal budget is Program and Planning.

Trustee Lynn Campbell stated that the next Program and Planning Committee meeting is in October 2008 and, in order to address facility needs in Niagara-on-the-Lake, monies could be reallocated in the short term within the facilities renewal and capital budget and reserves.

Trustee Lemelin agreed that it is important for the Board to review the facilities renewal budget and begin to look at opportunities to make improvements at Niagara District Secondary School as a demonstration of the Board's commitment to the success of the school.

Trustee Love suggested that a meeting be scheduled with the Finance Committee and the Plant Department in early July to discuss immediate renovation needs at Niagara District Secondary School. Trustee Clark stated that Program and Planning would be the appropriate forum for discussion. Director Hoshizaki pointed out that some major projects would have to be approved by the Board and awarded through the tendering process. It was agreed that the Liaison Committee of staff, parents, and community members to be established under the leadership of Superintendent Stainsby will meet in the fall to identify and prioritize renovation and renewal projects at the school.

N. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

1. Trustee Lynn Campbell asked how long Niagara District Secondary School will remain open if the school's enrolment is 350 by October 2009. Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, replied that the Ministry of Education's Accommodation Review Guidelines indicate that a school can be the subject of an accommodation review once in every five year period, therefore, it can be interpreted that Niagara District Secondary School will not be subject to another review until 2014. Trustee Lynn Campbell stated that a student in Grade 9 in September 2008 could then complete secondary school at Niagara District Secondary School.

**Moved by Lynn Campbell
Seconded by Larry Lemelin**

“That staff be directed to investigate the feasibility of establishing bus transportation from the urban area of Niagara Falls directly to Niagara District Secondary School for students attending the Performing Arts Program.”

CARRIED

Trustee Atamanyk suggested a friendly amendment that staff be asked to look into the possibility of transportation being provided from Niagara Falls. Trustee Atamanyk expressed his understanding that transportation is currently available for students residing in Niagara Falls. Trustee Fulford suggested that Trustee Atamanyk's amendment should come as a separate motion and she added that these types of requests would go to committee first and reviewed by Niagara Student Transportation Services. Director Hoshizaki clarified that the motion will initiate a report back to a committee of the Board for a review of the implications of providing transportation from Niagara Falls to Niagara District Secondary School.

Trustee Lynn Campbell stated that the request is to address inequities in transportation such as free transportation for students attending the Extended French Program at Sir Winston Churchill Secondary School or special programs at other schools but not directly to the Performing Arts Program at Niagara District Secondary School. Trustee Lynn Campbell added that direct transportation from Niagara Falls would be more convenient for students and optimize enrolment in the program. Director Hoshizaki clarified that prior to 1999 the former Niagara South Board of Education offered a Performing Arts Program at A.N. Myer Secondary School and the former Lincoln County Board of Education offered a Performing Arts Program at Niagara District Secondary School. Following amalgamation, the program was offered at Niagara District Secondary School and students from Niagara Falls were given the opportunity to access transportation to St. Davids then into Niagara District Secondary School. Trustee Lemelin suggested that consideration be given to a central location in Niagara Falls accessible by public transportation from where students could be bused directly to Niagara District Secondary School.

The motion having carried, Chair Maves indicated that a report will come to the Board for review through a committee.

N. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS- continued:

- Trustee Gary Atamanyk requested that an Ad Hoc Committee be formed to conduct the annual evaluation of the Director. Chair Maves noted that the Chair, Vice-Chair, and Past Chair sit on the committee and by show of hands Trustees Atamanyk, Fulford, and Lemelin volunteered to participate on the Ad Hoc Evaluation Committee.

O. NEW BUSINESS

1. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA)

Trustee Don Love provided a list of upcoming 2008-2009 events. Trustee Love thanked all Trustees who attended the recent Annual General meeting and thanked Marian Lamb and Karen Bellamy of the Director's Office for all their work. Trustees provided highlights of the conference as follows:

- Trustee Fulford reported that the workshops were excellent and that she was intrigued by a suicide intervention program presented by students of Dunnville Secondary School and staff from our Board.
- Trustee Heit commended Board staff, Sherry Bell, for a great job on presenting information on safe schools, and she commended Kara Baranowski and Hillary Abbey from Smith Public School for an outstanding job of presenting strategies on successful schools.
- Trustee Dame reported that the conference was well attended. A workshop on Aboriginal Education shows that provincial and federal objectives are in alignment and both levels of government are working together.
- Trustee Ness enjoyed the joint demonstrations between secondary schools and Niagara College which affirms the value of our community partnerships.
- Trustee Lora Campbell reported that two students won \$500 scholarships each.
- Trustee Lemelin thanked the Board for the opportunity to act as the Board's OPSBA delegate this past year and to speak on behalf of student needs. Trustee Lemelin indicated that Colleen Schenk, OPSBA President, commended the Board for an excellent job of hosting the conference.
- Trustee Love commended the Laura Secord Secondary School jazz ensemble for a wonderful performance.
- Trustee Atamanyk indicated that he enjoyed the technology in education presentation which highlighted the increased use of various technologies by post secondary students. Trustee Atamanyk suggested that secondary schools offer more courses to prepare students to use the wide variety of technologies being developed.
- Trustee Lynn Campbell congratulated Chair Maves on being an excellent host. Chair Maves replied that the success of the conference is a testament to our Board and the team effort put forward.
- Chair Maves stated that our Board has much to be proud of and that the conference provided a forum for highlighting our programs, partnerships, and successes. Chair Maves thanked and congratulated everyone who contributed to its success.

P. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**1. Trustee Information Sessions**

There was no Trustee Information Session.

2. Staff Reports

No report.

3. Correspondence and Communications

- (a) Trustee Barb Ness reported that she attended graduation ceremonies at Westlane and A.N. Myer Secondary Schools this evening.
- (b) Trustee Barb Ness reported that a newspaper article was recently published which highlighted Heximer Avenue Public School, Niagara Falls, including the school's excitement to close the open concept.
- (c) Chair Maves reported that a newspaper article was recently published on the new Forestview Public School in Niagara Falls.
- (d) Trustee Lynn Campbell reported that Niagara District Secondary School student, Alyssa Bator, won the Volunteer of the Year Award from the Town of Niagara-on-the-Lake. Trustee Lynn Campbell also recognized ARC members Joanne Hicks and Bill Morrison for their volunteerism. Trustee Lynn Campbell noted that all Trustees were provided with a copy of an email from Bill Morrison Jr., Chair of the NDSS Student Council.

4. Trustee Communications

(a) **Trustee Committee Assignments September 2008-November 2010**

Trustee Committee Assignments for the period September 2008-November 2010 were distributed which reflects the choices made by Trustees. Chair Maves asked the committees to meet following the Board meeting to select a Chair. Trustee Lemelin commended Chair Maves and the Director's Office on the process for making committee selections.

- (b) Trustee Gary Atamanyk reminded the Board that at a meeting on June 12, 2007, the Board passed a motion with respect to Board governance that included reference to the membership of an Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee. Trustee Atamanyk suggested that the committee membership should be reviewed at this time.

P. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS - continued:

4. Trustee Communications

- (b) Brenda Stokes Verworn, Board Lawyer, replied that Board By-Law L-6 speaks to the number of committee members and makes reference to an Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee as having two Trustees for each contract. Brenda Stokes Verworn stated that collective bargaining preparations are underway and there are currently no contract negotiations being conducted, therefore, the Trustees sitting on the Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee would continue. Director Hoshizaki added that the Board is not currently in negotiations with any employee group

and preparations are continuing at the provincial discussion table. Director Hoshizaki indicated that Trustees Lora Campbell and Liz Fulford are participating in the preparation process and if it is the wish of the Board Trustees Lora Campbell and Liz Fulford will continue for consistency across bargaining groups since they are knowledgeable about the issues and background. Trustee Atamanyk suggested that other Trustees be given an opportunity to participate in training for succession purposes, however, an extra allowance to attend collective bargaining conferences is only available to Trustees participating in negotiations. Director Hoshizaki expressed the importance of retaining the two current Trustees to assist with negotiations for consistency, however, if it is the wish of the Board two Trustees can be appointed to learn and act as alternates. Trustee Ness expressed her confidence in the excellent job performed by the current negotiations team and offered to sit on any committee necessary that would allow the current Trustees to sit on the Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee. Chair Maves confirmed that the issue of representation on the Ad Hoc Negotiations Committee will be discussed at the Trustees' retreat in August.

- (c) Chair Maves and Vice-Chair Heit made a presentation to Student Trustees Josh Dayboll and Emilia Ling in appreciation for their service to the Board this school year. Student Trustees Dayboll and Ling thanked the Board and staff for their support and advice to assist them in being effective Student Trustees.

Q. FUTURE MEETINGS

August Schedule of Meetings

R. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Marcy Heit
Seconded by Larry Lemelin**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 9:34 p.m.

KEVIN MAVES
Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI
Director of Education and Secretary