



**Special Meeting of the Board
Wednesday, August 25, 2010 10:00 a.m.
Boardroom**

Members: June Szeman (Chair), Joe McPherson (Vice-Chair), Dennis Blake, Cliff Casey, Dan Dignard, Bonnie McKinnon

1. Call to Order

- 1.1 Opening Prayer - June Szeman, Chair of the Board
- 1.2 Attendance

2. Routine Matters

- 2.1 Approval of the Agenda
- 2.2 Declaration of Interest

3. Committee and Staff Reports

- 3.1 Student Transportation Pages 3-4
Presenter: Wally Easton, Associate Director
- 3.2 Construction Contract Report – St. John's College (REPORT TO BE EMAILED ON AUGUST 24, 2010)
Presenter: Wally Easton, Associate Director

4. Information and Correspondence

- 4.1 Hiring Process for Assistant Superintendent of Business
- 4.2 Letter to Premier of Ontario from the District School Board of Niagara regarding ELP underfunding Pages 5-6
- 4.3 Letter from Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration re: 2010/11 Adult Non-Credit Language Training Program Funding Page 7

5. Business In-camera

207. (2) Closing of certain committee meetings. A meeting of a committee of a board, including a committee of the whole board, may be closed to the public when the subject-matter under consideration involves,
- a. The security of the property of the board;
 - b. The disclosure of intimate, personal or financial information in respect of a member of the board or committee, an employee or prospective employee of the board or a pupil or his or her parent or guardian;
 - c. The acquisition or disposal of a school site;
 - d. Decisions in respect of negotiations with employees of the board; or
 - e. Litigation affecting the board.



**Brant Haldimand Norfolk
Catholic District School Board**

Agenda

Catholic Education Centre
322 Fairview Drive
Brantford, ON N3T 5M8

6. Report on the In-Camera Session

7. Moment of Silent Reflection

8. Adjournment

Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 28, 2010 - Boardroom

REPORT TO THE BRANT HALDIMAND NORFOLK CATHOLIC DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

Prepared by: G. Wallace Easton, Associate Director, Corporate Services and Treasurer
Presented to: Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees
Submitted on: August 25, 2010
Submitted by: Cathy Horgan, Director of Education & Secretary

STUDENT TRANSPORTATION Public Session

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Since the formation of the Student Transportation Services Brant Haldimand Norfolk (STSBHN) consortia (with the Grand Erie District School Board and the Conseil du district catholique Centre-Sud), and as a result of the Efficiency and Effectiveness Review conducted by the Ministry of Education in September 2009, many new initiatives have been implemented. Some of the changes started in the 2009-10 school year and further changes, as noted below, will be implemented beginning September 2010.

DEVELOPMENTS:

Harmonization of Walking Distances: For the first time in the consortium's history, all four functional areas (City of Brantford as well as Brant, Haldimand, and Norfolk Counties) will be operating under a harmonized walking distances policy. All students attending an elementary school will be deemed eligible for a seat on a bus if their primary residence is greater than 1.6 km, via the road network, to the school that they are registered and their primary residence is within the catchment of the school that they attend. All students attending a secondary school will be deemed eligible for a seat on a bus if their primary residence is greater than 3.2 km, via the road network, to the school that they are registered at and their primary residence is within the catchment of the school that they attend. Individuals identified by their respective Special Education Departments will continue to be transported to the specialized classrooms around the jurisdiction as the need arises. The only exception to the harmonized walking distances policy would be if a safety hazard exists between an address and the school. In this situation, a student will be assigned a seat on a bus even though the distance from their primary residence is less than the walking distance, either 1.6 km or 3.2 km, depending on the grade of the student.

Access to Online Portal: STSBHN now has the ability to allow access to both internal and external parties to certain pieces of information contained in the consortium's database. Parents and students, upon providing four key pieces of identification information (OEN, DOB, address, and school), will now have the ability to remotely access transportation information. The system is updated daily and allows parents and students to have access to the most up-to-date transportation information, which includes pickup times and locations, transfer information, as well as route numbers. Custom letters are in the process of being mailed out to all students who are eligible for transportation. In future, only students attending JK, SK or Grade 1 will receive letters as parents are not provided with their child's OEN on report cards until Grade 2, which is a required piece of identification for logging into the portal. All others will be expected to log in to the portal and view their transportation details for the coming school year. In addition to obtaining student specific information, the online portal also allows for individuals to view information relating to transportation eligibility, as well as determining

which school a student is eligible to attend based on their address. These tools will allow the public and internal staff (school and transportation department) to pass on timely and accurate information to current residents of the community, as well as those looking to move into the area.

Route Efficiencies and Courtesy Ridership: STSBHN has worked diligently over the summer to increase utilization of the routes providing services to our region, in keeping with the policies and procedures of our Member Boards. The increased utilization and strict application of policies and procedures has meant that fewer numbers of courtesy students are going to have the ability to have access to transportation that may have been available in previous years. Areas that will have fewer numbers of courtesy seats available are the outskirts of Waterford, Port Dover, Port Rowan, Houghton, Langton, Simcoe, Walsh, Jarvis, Caledonia, Dunnville and St. George, as well as many special education routes across the region. The routing reforms and utilization review have been across the entire system. The number of courtesy riders has been reduced from 656 in the 2009-2010 school year to 219 for Brant Haldimand Norfolk CDSB and the total courtesy riders for all three boards has been reduced from 2754 to 893 as of the date of this report. Routes and destination schools may have been significantly altered from previous years. It is also worth noting that a change to the naming convention for all routes within the region has also been put in place, as recommended by the Ministry's Effectiveness and Efficiency Review.

The changes that have been implemented by the Member Boards will be reviewed again next year by the Ministry of Education. That review will be a significant factor in the determination of future transportation grants. The STSBHN will continue to provide safe student transportation to our three Member Boards, servicing the students and families of the City of Brantford, as well as Brant, Haldimand and Norfolk Counties, but in a more cost effective manner.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT the Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board receives the report on Student Transportation.



District School Board of Niagara

Achieving Success Together

191 Carlton Street, St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 7P4 (905) 641-1550 Fax: (905) 685-8511

Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education

June 28, 2010

The Honourable Dalton McGuinty
Premier of the Province of Ontario
Legislative Building, Room 281, Queen's Park
Toronto, ON M7A 1A1

Dear Premier McGuinty

On behalf of the trustees of the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN), I am writing to add our voices to the letter from the Ottawa Carleton District School Boards in expressing concerns about the underfunding of the Early Learning Program (ELP).

As a Board, we are in full support of the ELP program, believing that it is in the best educational interests of young children and it also serves as an excellent strategy to help close the gap and ultimately increase student achievement.

However, the lack of adequate funding to implement this program is of considerable concern to the DSBN. At our June 22, 2010 Board meeting, trustees approved the 2010-11 budget which included the following motions:

"That for 2010-11, the Early Learning Program be implemented based on total provincial funding for both operating and capital purchases"; and


"That, for the school years 2011-12 and beyond, the District School Board of Niagara will determine the number of full-day kindergarten classes that can be offered each year based on the total provincial funding provided for the Early Learning Program for each phase. This includes total funding for operating and capital purposes."

The DSBN has been dealing with ongoing underfunding to our special education services. This year we were forced to make significant cuts to our special education budget, while at the same time had to take \$1.4 million from the general operating reserves to balance the special education budget. We are currently the second lowest funded Board in the province for special education and have been unsuccessful in our many attempts to receive fair allocation of special education funds from the Ministry. We are, therefore, reluctant to implement the Early Learning Program without full funding. To do so would only make balancing our budget increasingly more difficult and have a negative impact on learning for all students at the District School Board of Niagara.

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We would respectfully ask you to acknowledge the concerns of school districts by providing full funding for the Early Learning Program by September 2010.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Liz Fulford".

Liz Fulford
Chair of the Board

cc: Leona Dombrowsky
DSBN Trustees
Chairs, All Public School Boards
Catherine Fife, President, OPSBA
Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education
Senior Staff, District School Board of Niagara

Ministry of Citizenship
and Immigration

Minister

6th Floor
400 University Avenue
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
Tel.: (416) 325-6200
Fax: (416) 325-6195

Ministère des Affaires civiques
et de l'Immigration

Ministre

6^e étage
400, avenue University
Toronto ON M7A 2R9
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Télec. : (416) 325-6195



JUL 16 2010

Ms. June Szeman
Chair of the Board
Brant Haldimand Norfolk Catholic District School Board
322 Fairview Drive, Box 217
Brantford, Ontario N3T 5M8

Dear Ms. Szeman:

Re: 2010/11 Adult Non-Credit Language Training Program Funding

I am pleased to announce that the Ontario government is continuing to make investments in language training. To better support the Adult Non-Credit Language Training Program and help address any associated financial pressures, we are increasing funding in 2010/11 by 2.9%. This increase in funding translates into a new Average Daily Enrolment (ADE) funding level of \$3,243 per ADE for the 2010/11 school year representing an increase to the current 2009/10 funding level of \$3,153 per ADE.

Last year, my Ministry announced that over the next three years we will be enhancing and strengthening the Adult Non-Credit Language Training Program to ensure it meets the language needs of immigrants. Further details on the enhancements planned for the 2010/11 school year and the funding increase will be communicated in a memo to your Director of Education shortly.

If you have questions regarding the information provided, please feel free to contact Mourad Mardikian, Manager, Language Training Unit, Immigration Programs Branch, at (416) 327-4331, or via email at Mourad.Mardikian@ontario.ca.

We look forward to working with you to carry out this government's immigration and education objectives. We know that when newcomers succeed, Ontario succeeds.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Eric Hoskins".

Dr. Eric Hoskins
Minister

cc. Catherine Horgan, Director of Education
cc. Wally Easton, Associate Director, Corporate Services & Treasurer