

## ***Regular Board Meeting***

Monday, June 26, 2017

Education Centre

St. Catharines

6:15 - 7:00 p.m. [Private Session]

7:00 - 10:00 p.m. [Public Session]

## **A G E N D A**

### **A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD**

1. Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory
2. Call to Order and Noting of Members Absent
3. Declaration of Conflict of Interest

### **B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE**

1. Motion to Move to Committee of the Whole (Private Session)
2. Motion to Return to Open Board (Public Meeting)

### **C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'**

Twenty Valley Public School will perform 'O Canada' via video

### **D. REFLECTIVE READING**

By Trustee Jennifer Ajandi

**E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD**

**1. Adoption of the Agenda**

**Recommended Motion:**

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

**2. Approval of Board Minutes**

Pages 7-23

**Recommended Motion:**

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated May 23, 2017 be confirmed as submitted.”

**3. Business Arising from the Minutes**

**4. Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole**

**Recommended Motion:**

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

**F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS**

**1. Director’s Report and Recognition**

W Hoshizaki  
Pages 24-29

Update from Provincial, Regional and Local Perspective

- a) Director’s Recognition – DSBN Student Athletes
- b) Director’s Update to Trustees

**2. Educational Showcases**

- a) Show your Colours

K Luciani

**G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT**

**H. DELEGATIONS**

- 1. Sharon Abbey

Pages 30-32

**I. BOARD RECESS (Optional)**

**J. OLD BUSINESS**

**1. ACCOUNTS**

S Veld  
Page 33

**Recommended Motion:**

“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1924 to 1938, for the month of May 2017 totalling \$19,288,244.38 be received.”

**2. REPORT OF THE PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE**

D Schaubel  
Pages 34-48

**Recommended Motion:**

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated June 6, 2017 be received; and

That the DSBN Chair and the Director of Education write a letter to OFSAA requesting an exception eligibility to allow a particular DSBN student, impacted by school closure, to attend an alternate school and play athletics; and

That the Transition updates for Greater Fort Erie Secondary School and the West Niagara Secondary Schools be received; and

That the Mental Health and Well Being update be received; and

That the report of ‘Big Sister, Kate!’ be received and approved and that the launch of the book and supporting lessons will be distributed to all schools in the Fall of 2017; and

That the reports of the Educational Research Committee of April 20, 2017 and May 25, 2017 be received; and

That the Board direct Senior Administration to begin to prepare an Initial Staff Report and School Information Profile Reports for the group of schools that includes John Marshall PS, Martha Cullimore PS, Prince Philip PS, and Victoria PS, for presentation at a future Program and Planning Committee meeting.”

### **3. REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE**

K Maves  
Pages 49-84

#### **Recommended Motion:**

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated June 14, 2017 be received; and

That authority be delegated to the Director of Education and the Superintendent of Business Services jointly to approve the award of contracts and property matters in July and August that would otherwise require Finance Committee, Ad Hoc Properties Disposal Committee and Board approval, and report such approvals at the September 2017 Finance Committee and/or Ad Hoc Properties Disposal Committee meetings; and

That the revised Policy B-04 *Investment of Board Funds* be approved and adopted, as presented; and

That the Interim Financial Report for the period ending April 30, 2017, be received; and

That the 2017-18 Budget include

\$ 20,000 to support Reading Part 1 (Adolescent Focus) AQ  
\$ 30,000 to support Math Homework Help  
\$100,000 for 1.0 FTE Social Worker for R.I.S.E. & Addictions  
\$ 40,000 to support the Work Life Services  
\$100,000 to support DreamBox Interactive Math Computer Program  
\$100,000 to support Earn-A-Device program  
\$163,000 to support Safe Arrival Software  
\$100,000 for 1.0 FTE Applied Behavioural Analysis Facilitator; and

That the 2017-18 Revenue and Expenditure Budget in the amount of \$461,476,620 be approved and the estimate forms be submitted to the Ministry of Education.”

### **4. REPORT OF THE SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING COMMITTEE (Verbal)**

L Campbell

#### **Recommended Motion:**

“That the verbal report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated June 15, 2017 be received.”

**5. REPORT OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE**

J Fast  
Pages 85-93

**Recommended Motion:**

“That the report of the Audit Committee dated June 19, 2017 be received as information; and

That the 2017-18 Internal Audit Plan for the audit of *Repairs and Maintenance* be approved; and

That KPMG be appointed external auditors for the District School Board of Niagara for a one year team commencing September 1, 2017.”

**6. REPORT OF THE POLICY COMMITTEE**

C Keddy Scott  
Pages 94-97

**Recommended Motion:**

“That the report of the Policy Committee dated June 20, 2017 be received; and

That Policy G-35: Copyright Provisions be approved as received and adopted; and

That Policy G-31: Aboriginal-Voluntary, Confidential Aboriginal Student Self-Identification be approved as amended and adopted; and

That Policy E-11: Equity and Inclusive Education be approved as amended and adopted; and

That Policy I-01: Guidelines for Retirement/Resignation Dates for Teachers be approved as received and adopted; and

That I-03: Interprovincial/International Teacher Exchange be approved as received and adopted; and

That Policy A-02: Attendance at Board and Committee Meetings be approved as amended and adopted; and

That Policy G-05: Weapons be approved as amended and adopted.”

That Policy G-08: Code of Student Behaviour be approved as amended and adopted.”

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

**L. NEW BUSINESS**

**M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS**

**1. Staff Reports**

- a) Request to Begin School Naming/Renaming Process

K Pisek  
Page 98

**2. Trustee Information Session**

There was no trustee information session scheduled.

**3. Correspondence and Communications**

- a) Correspondence from Waterloo Region DSB
- b) Correspondence from Waterloo Region DSB
- c) Correspondence from City of Thorold
- d) Correspondence from Thames Valley DSB
- e) Correspondence from Thames Valley DSB
- f) Correspondence from Thames Valley DSB
- g) Correspondence from Rainy River DSB
- h) Correspondence from Peel DSB

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Pages 100-101  
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Pages 104-105  
Page 106  
Page 107  
Pages 108-109  
Pages 110-111

**4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison**

**5. Ontario Public School Boards' Association Report**

D Chase

**6. Future Meetings**

Page 112

The September 2017 calendar is attached.

**N. ADJOURNMENT**

**Recommended Motion:**

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

**June 26, 2017 Board Meeting  
Director's Update to Trustees**

**Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – DSBN Student Athlete Recognition**

This has been an outstanding season for track and field athletes from many DSBN schools including A.N. Myer Secondary School, Beamsville District Secondary School and Eden High School.

**A.N. Myer SS:**

The A.N. Myer team consisting of **Owen Protulipac, Joel Ingram, Tyrell Ford** and **Tre Ford**, have all had an important role on the team.

Owen has a very important and difficult job as the starter. He is the new-comer to the team and has had to train extra hard to position his team to win and ensure that they reach the next level.

Joel runs the longest leg of the relay in the second position. This is a great place for Joel as he is a very strong 200 metre runner and never gives up ground to his opponents.

Tyrell runs the third leg of the relay, taking on a tough curve and almost always provides a perfect hand-off to his twin brother Tre.

Tre is the relay team's anchor and has won a number of races at the finish line with his outstanding speed.

Tyrell, Tre and Joel have competed together on the relay team for the past three years. In each of those years, they have broken the existing A.N. Myer school record. These students were also part of the relay team that broke the Zone 3 record at the junior level in 2015. They are hard workers, loyal teammates and tremendous competitors. This was their third consecutive trip to OFSAA.

Owen ran with the relay team for the first time this year and stepped into a very difficult position, taking over the start of the race. He is the only returning runner next year and we are anticipating great achievements.

**Beamsville Districts SS:**

**Owen Konkle** is a student in the Specialized School to Community Program at Beamsville District Secondary School (BDSS) and an accomplished athlete at the local and provincial levels. At the 2017 OFSAA track and field championships, he was the OFSAA Champion in the 800 metre intermediate division for the second consecutive year, setting a new OFSAA record in the process. Also impressively, Owen won the silver medal in the 100 metre intermediate division. In his athletic career at BDSS, Owen's accomplishments read like a catalogue of championships with a silver medal in Cross Country in 2017, as well as several Zone and SOSSA Championships. BDSS looks forward to Owen's continued domination in provincial athletics!

**Autumn Bigger** is also a student at BDSS and a gifted and dedicated athlete. In her grade nine year, Autumn accomplished more than many athletes are able to over their whole career. In her first year of high school, she was the OFSAA silver medalist in the junior girls high jump, as well as the SOSSA champion and ZONE champion in that event. In club competition, Autumn was the National Champion in junior girls high jump in 2016, and won the midget jumps award from Athletics Ontario. 2017 has been even more successful for Autumn. She is the 2017 OFSAA champion in junior girls high jump and set a new OFSAA record in the process. She also won and set new records at both the Zone and SOSSA meets. Autumn will be attending the National Championships for under 18 athletes in Manitoba this August. She is a great all around student as well, seeing great success in the classroom, in the band, as well as in athletics.

#### **Eden Hs:**

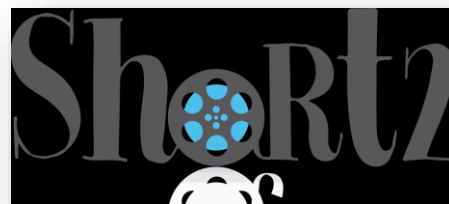
**Richard Sloper** was a member of Eden's Special Olympics team this year. His all around athletic ability made him the perfect track and field star. Richard took home a gold medal in shot put and a silver medal in running long jump. Richard was also chosen as the flag bearer by Special Olympics to represent the Niagara region at the opening ceremonies. At Eden High School's athletic banquet, Richard was awarded the track and field MVP award not only because of his athleticism but for his dedication to the sport and his overall sportsmanship. Eden could not have been more proud to have Richard represent their school.

Congratulations to all of the students, Richard, Autumn, Owen, Tyrell, Tre, Owen and Joel, on receiving the Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions!

#### **Local**

##### **Short2 – DSBN's Fourth Annual Two-Minute Video Competition**

On Wednesday, May 31, the DSBN ran its fourth annual *Two Minute Video Competition* for secondary English and/or Media students. Teams of up to five students from Eden HS, Welland Centennial SS, Port Colborne HS, Laura Secord SS, Governor Simcoe SS and Eastdale SS spent a day at Club Roma with nothing but a box of props, their media equipment and a prompt. They were given until 2:00 pm to storyboard, shoot, edit, and publish a video on this year's prompt – creating Equity and Inclusion – which they were introduced to on the morning of the competition.



Congratulations to Eden HS for creating the winning video and to Laura Secord SS for receiving an honourable mention for their video. The links for the winning video from Eden HS and the honourable mention video from Laura Secord SS are listed below and will be posted on the DSBN Youtube channel. Each member of the winning teams will receive a Best Buy gift card.

Thank you to all the teams for coming out to partake in this wonderful day! Looking forward to next year!

Winning Team - from Eden:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0BxdRvwMiQgKlc2sxVmVqbU82aDA>

Honourable Mention - from Laura Secord:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B8JHuG5Sw4ozVW9fUGdsc1BNOWs>



### **E.I. McCulley PS Loves Reading!**

On Tuesday, July 13, Indigo Love of Reading Foundation and First Book Canada visited E.I. McCulley PS with a good news announcement. Thanks to the tireless advocacy of teacher librarian Sonja Upton, the school was selected to be the recipient of a summer reading gift – 2000 books! Having applied for a grant and coming in as runner up, the foundation wanted to do something special for the students. Some books will remain in the school library, but each student took home five books to start or add to their personal library. The students were overjoyed with the gift and started reading, trading and treasuring their new books right away.

### **Routes Program Update**

The DSBN Secondary Routes Program students enjoyed a year end celebration on June 19th at their program location, Crossroads PS. This year there were 14 students who participated in this program which is designed to re-engage the Low German Community. Eight students earned a total of 23 credits in semester one and approximately 20 credits total in semester two. In addition, five of the students were successful on the Ontario Secondary School Literacy Test. Aggie, one of the amazing students, earned all eight credits this year while working full time! She enthusiastically invited everyone in attendance to come back next year to celebrate her high school graduation.



### **Interpretive Panel Unveiling in Niagara Falls**

On June 2nd, students and staff from Lockview and Harriet Tubman Public Schools had the opportunity to be part of a historic event. After months of letter writing and petitioning, the two schools were able to convince the Niagara Parks Commission to place an Interpretive Panel at the only confirmed crossing that Harriet Tubman used to enter Canada with freedom seekers – the old railway international suspension bridge in Niagara Falls. Teacher Linda Chown's passion and determination inspired students to advocate for this tribute to Tubman, and the students were honoured to sing at the event and officially unveil the panel. Grade five student Alexa had this to say about the experience, "It's amazing to know that we have made a difference in our world."



### **Moccasin Project at Thorold SS**

Students at Thorold SS received funding from a Ministry Speak-Up grant to have Nancy Rowe from the Moccasin Project visit their school. Da-giiwewaah (so they can go home) Moccasin Project is a national campaign to raise awareness about child apprehension impacting Indigenous children in Canada. Participants in the project make baby moccasins that are given to Indigenous babies that are apprehended by Children's Services so that they can have a connection to their Indigenous family and be returned to their family one day. The students and staff of Thorold Secondary SS learned about this issue while they collaborated together to make 25 beautiful pairs of baby moccasins which were presented to the Niagara Chapter of Native Women's child advocate. Love and care were lavished on the moccasins with the hope they will help a young person get home to their family. It was an emotional and fun learning experience for all.



## NTIP

Congratulations to DSBN's newest teachers who participated in the New Teacher Induction Program (NTIP) this year!

**Celebrating a Successful Year:** On May 3rd, DSBN NTIP teachers, mentors and principals capped a wonderful year of New Teacher Induction with a celebration. The evening's highlight was a presentation from Len Dykstra, entitled, "Thrive, Grow, and Flourish. Building Resiliency." Thank you to the mentors and the NTIP Steering Committee for their hard work, which led to another very successful year.

**NTIP Program 2016-17:** During this school year, NTIP teachers had two full days of professional learning sessions. In addition they each had the opportunity to engage in two to three job embedded learning opportunities (focused classroom observations, co-plan/co-teach) as well as time to work with an NTIP mentor. These three facets of the program ensure support for our newest teachers and provide each of them with increased confidence, efficacy and a commitment to continuous learning as well as improved teacher practice, ultimately leading to student growth.

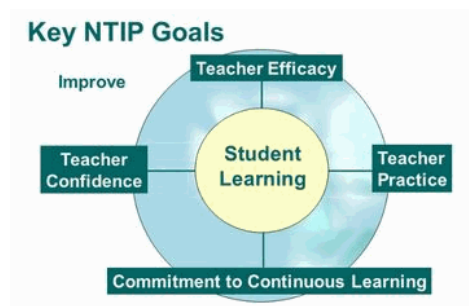
A large number of educators participated in NTIP this year:

### Elementary

58 beginning teachers (LTO and contract)  
19 mentors

### NTIP Secondary

14 beginning teachers (LTO and contract)  
5 Mentors



## **Ontario Provincial Heritage Fair**

In April of this year, the DSBN Regional Heritage Fair was held at the Fort George Historical Site. The top seven students from the Fair represented DSBN at the Ontario Provincial Heritage Fair at York University, June 9-11. The DSBN delegates included:

Turner Clarke – Oakwood PS (Vimy Ridge)  
Sophie Della Manna – Central French Immersion PS (Laura Secord)  
Sofia Diaz – Crossroads PS (Frederick Banting)  
Charlotte Fritz – Woodland PS (Battle at Vimy Ridge)  
Janvi Ganatra – St. Davids PS (Canadian Pacific Railway)  
Owen Kudreikis – Carleton PS (Samuel de Champlain)  
Maeve Nullmeyer – Harriet Tubman PS (Battle of Beaverdams)

The students were wonderful ambassadors for DSBN and their projects were recognized at the highest level.

In addition to showcasing their projects at the Provincial Fair, students enjoyed a busy weekend full of great activities. They spent an afternoon at the Ontario Archives, enjoyed theatre performances by a diverse group of Indigenous musical performers from York University, toured Black Creek Pioneer Village and the McMichael Gallery where they saw numerous art exhibits by First Nations, Inuit and the Group of Seven. It was a great weekend to celebrate Canadian culture and heritage!

## **Canada's History Young Citizens National Video Contest**

In addition to attending the Provincial Heritage Fair, four DSBN students were selected as Young Citizens. They have each created a video on their project topic and will compete against students from across Canada. A public vote opened on June 12 and families, teachers, schools and communities are encouraged to view the submissions, comment and submit their vote. Online voting will close on July 7 at midnight. The result of the popular vote will determine 50% (13) of the finalists. A panel of judges will review the videos and select the remaining 50% (13 finalists). These 26 students will win a trip to Ottawa in the fall to attend the Canada's History Youth Forum.

## **DSBN's Award Winning Communications and Public Relations Department**

Congratulations to our Communications and Public Relations department staff for being recognized again this year with several awards from the National School Public Relations Association.

### ***Golden Achievement Award:***

- *I Matter Campaign*

### ***Award of Excellence for Branding Image/Packaging***

- *I Matter*

### ***Award of Excellence for Writing***

- *Brett Sweeney*

### ***Award of Merit for Internet Site***

- *I Matter Website*

***Award of Merit for Special Purpose Publication***

- *Strategic Plan - I Matter*

***Award of Merit for Video (produced in-house)***

- *DSBN Carpool Karaoke*

***Award of Merit for Writing***

- *Brett Sweeney*

**Judges' Comments:**

- Well done! WOW! Amazing work!
- The I Matter concept is brilliant.
- The way in which information was gathered and distilled into two words was magnificent.
- The submission was well written and the information well presented.
- Love the layout. It was such a pleasure to read through this submission. So comprehensive.
- Very thorough analysis and thoughtful planning. Great alignment with the strategic planning.
- Nice application of "I Matter" across all internal audiences.

## **Presentation to DSBN Board of Trustees – June 26/17**

### **Re: Artificial Turf and Commercial Repurposing of School Fields**

*“I go to nature to be soothed and healed, and to have my senses put in tune once more.”* – John Burroughs (in Richard Louv, p. 54)

Madam Chair, Director and members of the board. I represent the homeowners who live in close proximity to the sports fields at Sir Winston Churchill and Governor Simcoe Schools. We wish to voice our concerns regarding the installation of artificial turf and field lights at these schools. Residents were shocked to learn of this decision and the commercial partnership with Club Roma via the media. Unfortunately, by this time permits had already been approved and shovels were digging up the fields.

With respect to environmental impact, there is no question that replacing green space with plastic, rubber, gravel and cement destroys natural biodegradable properties, disrupts biodiversity, and releases toxic chemical compounds into the air and water. A study undertaken by Toronto Public Health in 2015 to assess the toxicological risks of artificial turf concludes that this material disproportionately absorbs more heat thus increasing the field surface and air temperature by as much as 40 degrees. As well, the underground drainage system it requires and the potential leaching of crumb rubber and latex material can increase storm water run-off, contributing to flooding and aquatic ecosystem contamination (p.3).

In contrast, while natural grass fields release oxygen, absorb carbon dioxide, support natural organisms and filter rain water, synthetic fields contribute to a growing carbon footprint and require costly repair and replacement. According to a study done at Upper Canada College in 2007, an artificial turf field emits 55.6 tons of carbon dioxide over a ten-year period and would require more than 1800 trees to neutralize this effect (p. 34). Moreover, once plastic replaces natural grass, it kills any living organism in the subsoil and would take years of soil remediation before anything would grow there again.

On a more personal level, the Toronto study also emphasizes “the negative impact on quality of community life, as the installation of artificial turf is often accompanied by change in use patterns” (p.4). Since synthetic grass is prone to damage or theft, we have learned that DSBN intends to install surveillance cameras and fence off these fields, thus preventing access to dog-walkers, joggers or family members, sadly terminating a long-standing sense of community in school neighbourhoods. We believe it is important to maintain access to informal outdoor gathering spaces, especially in populated urban areas subjected to aggressive infilling.

Natural green spaces are also known to absorb ambient noise while artificial turf reflects and amplifies sound. This will undoubtedly impact residents with backyards and decks within 20 or 30 feet of these fields. With seasonal rentals to local athletic clubs, and seating planned for 500 spectators, traffic as well as noise

will likely increase. We worry that the peace and privacy we have enjoyed in our homes and backyards will certainly be in jeopardy. This will also impact the character of our neighbourhoods not to speak of property values.

Of *most* concern however is the installation of costly LED lights that will be used to illuminate the fields. Although light spillage has promised to be minimal, artificial turf reflects more light than grass and a significant increase in brightness of the fields at night will disturb neighbours who wish to retire before 11:00 p.m. In addition, the AMA has warned that blue/white LED lighting suppresses melatonin that disrupts sleep patterns and is devoid of infrared rays needed by cells in the retina. Based on these risk factors, cities such as Montreal and Halifax are rethinking the use of these lights and a school in Oakville has actually taken them down.

All this information begs the question of whether a feasibility study was ever undertaken with respect to the potential health hazards and cost effectiveness of installing synthetic material. Were the long-term effects of toxins such as lead, zinc, arsenic, or chromium ever investigated? Were thermal plastic pellets ever considered as a safer alternative to recycled crumb rubber in reducing the emission of various carcinogens and the absorption of heat? How well informed were school trustees or city counselors and what kind of debate was invited before the bulldozers were set in motion? And were taxpayers ever made aware of the costs involved in the conversion and maintenance of these fields considering the life-span of artificial turf to be only 8 – 10 years?

For the short-term gain of fewer interruptions to outdoor activities due to rain, a longer playing season and new-found leasing revenue, can anyone really justify the tradeoffs of artificial turf? Why was this not a community decision that was open and transparent? Yes, the school board has an obligation to provide accessible physical activity for the students but does it not also have an obligation to model environmental stewardship and responsible ecology practices in an era of looming global warming and climate change? How many acres of viable organic land can we afford to replace with plastic before we reach the tipping point in our city?

At this point, if plans for these fields will not be reconsidered, the only compensation left for us to request of DSBN would be landscaping in the way of mature trees or shrubs along our property lines to act as sound and visual barriers. We hope that DSBN will decide to act as “good neighbours” and respect area residents by consulting with us about how landscaping could best be expedited. I wish to thank you for your time and consideration of our concerns.

Presented by Dr. Sharon Abbey  
17-121 Glen Morris Drive  
St. Catharines ON L2C 4T5  
905-9845162  
[sabbey@brocku.ca](mailto:sabbey@brocku.ca)

## References

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- Wusch, A. (2016). *How LED lighting may compromise your health*.  
<http://articles.mercola.com/sites/articles/archive/2016/10/23/near-infrared-led-lighting.aspx>

# SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

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## **Background and Rationale:**

The Summary of Accounts is regularly presented to the Trustees in order to disclose the Board expenditures paid during the previous month. The Summary highlights the costs associated with employee benefits, transportation, utilities, and the total of all other non-salary expenditures.

## **Summary of Accounts:**

A summary of accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1924 to 1938, for the month of May 2017, is as follows.

Employee Benefits	\$ 10,419,890.41
Transportation	1,962,097.60
Utilities	696,842.86
Other	<u>6,209,413.51</u>
Total	<b><u>\$ 19,288,244.38</u></b>

## **Recommended Motion:**

**“That the Summary of Accounts paid in Batch Numbers 1924 to 1938, for the month of May 2017, totaling \$19,288,244.38 be received.”**

Respectfully submitted,

Stacy Veld  
Superintendent of Business Services

Board Meeting of June 26, 2017

***For further information, please contact Stacy Veld or the Director of Education.***





## DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

191 CARLTON ST. • ST. CATHARINES, ON • L2R 7P4 • 905-641-1550 • DSBN.ORG

June 7, 2017

Dale Robinson, Chair of the Board  
District School Board of Niagara  
191 Carlton Street  
St. Catharines, ON L2R 7P4

**Re: Request to Begin School Naming Process as per Policy A-09**

Dear Chair Robinson:

On behalf of our College Street Public School, I would like to request that the school begin the process of naming as referenced in the Policy A-09 Naming/Renaming of Schools.

This is an opportunity for students, staff and families and the community members of College Street Public School to join together in preparation for January 2018 when students move to their newly renovated school, formerly South Lincoln High School.

Requesting permission to begin the naming process as per Policy A-09 is the beginning of the exciting journey that is ahead for our students.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'K Pisek', is located below the 'Sincerely,' text.

Kelly Pisek  
Superintendent of Schools, Area 3



**Waterloo Region  
District School Board**

51 Ardelt Avenue Kitchener ON N2C 2R5  
(o) 519 570 0003 (f) 519 742 1364 [www.wrdsb.ca](http://www.wrdsb.ca)

May 31, 2017

Honourable Mitzie Hunter  
Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
900 Bay Street, 22<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Hunter:

**Re: Request for Reduction of Class Size Requirements for Native Language Courses**

I am writing on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Waterloo Region District School Board to lend our support to the recent request by the Thames Valley District School Board requesting that class sizes for Native Language Courses be reduced from 12 to 5 students.

The Board of Trustees urges you to ensure that both current and future First Nation students are provided with the opportunity to learn their native languages and culture. It is our understanding that the current class size of 12 students is creating an issue for some urban schools who are unable to meet this requirement and are therefore unable to offer Native Language Courses. We feel that by reducing the class size requirement to 5 students, you would be providing more access for students.

We look forward to your response and attention to this request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Scott McMillan', is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Scott McMillan  
Chairperson,  
Waterloo Region District School Board

cc: Laurie French, President, Ontario School Boards' Association  
Ontario School Board Chairs



**Waterloo Region  
District School Board**

**Education Centre**

51 Ardelt Avenue, Kitchener ON N2C 2R5  
Phone: 519 570 0003 Ext. 4111 fax: 519 570 1618  
[www.wrdsb.ca](http://www.wrdsb.ca)

May 16, 2017

Honourable Mitzie Hunter  
Ministry of Education  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Hunter:

On April 24, 2017, the Waterloo Region District School Board passed a motion to write a letter to the Minister of Education in response to a recent correspondence from the Bluewater District School Board. This correspondence requested a comprehensive review of the Ontario Special Education Model that included both the delivery of special education programming and funding.

The Waterloo Region District School Board supports the request that the scope for the Special Education Funding Working Group be expanded to include a more robust and comprehensive review. We also support the recommendation that further consultation should include the following groups:

- Minister's Advisory Council on Special Education
- Provincial Parent Advisory Association Committee on Special Education Advisory Committees
- Special Education Advisory Committees
- Provincial organizations that represent each exceptionality area
- Ontario Teacher Federations
- School Boards
- Trustees
- Parents of students with special education exceptionalities
- Students with special education exceptionalities

The Waterloo Region District School Board also supports the recommendation that a comprehensive review include:

- A gap analysis of our current provincial model for special education delivery and any research on current and future models for special education around the world
- A financial analysis for each area of exceptionality to determine what portion of each special education dollar reaches students and what portion of each dollar goes to administration, communication, the IPRC process and other paperwork

- A narrative that links the "special education model" to the *Learning For All* ministry document
- An analysis of the data that has been collected by the ministry since the inception of Bill 82 to discover patterns and insights that would be applicable to the development of a new or modified model for special education and appropriate funding for that model
- Current directions in neuroscience in the review of the current special education model and development of any future special education model

Sincerely,



Scott McMillan  
Chairperson of the Board

Cc: OPSBA  
Ontario School Board Chairs



May 18, 2017

Ministry of Education  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

[mhunter.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org](mailto:mhunter.mpp.co@liberal.ola.org)

Attention: Hon. Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education

Dear Minister Hunter:

**Re: Accommodation Review Committee Process**

Please be advised Thorold City Council, at its May 16, 2017 meeting, adopted the following resolution:

That the resolution passed by the Council of the Town of Grimsby at its meeting of April 17, 2017 requesting the Province of Ontario implement a retroactive "smart moratorium" on disputed school closings to provide the opportunity for the Ministry of Education, school boards and municipalities to work together to develop policies addressing the issues of planning for declining enrolments, a mutually agreed upon Accommodation Review Committee process, a review of funding to rural and small community schools and transparency and accountability between municipalities and school boards, be received and supported.

**CARRIED**

...2

**City of Thorold**

P.O. Box 1044, 3540 Schmon Parkway, Thorold, Ontario L2V 4A7

[www.thorold.com](http://www.thorold.com)

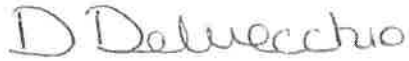
Tel: 905-227-6613

Page 2

Accommodation Review Committee Process

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Yours truly,



Donna Delvecchio  
City Clerk

DD:cd

cc: M. Dilwaria, Director of Development and Engineering Services/Acting Chief Administrative Officer,

Hon. K. Wynne, Premier of Ontario

Hon. R. Chiarelli, Minister of Infrastructure

Hon. W. Mauro, Minister of Municipal Affairs and Housing

✓ W. Hoshizaki, Director of Education, District School Board of Niagara

P. Vanini, Executive Director, Association of Municipalities of Ontario (AMO)

R. Holman, Chair, Rural Ontario Municipal Association (ROMA)

S. Oosterhoff, M.P.P., Niagara West-Glanbrook

N. Devos, Acting Clerk, Regional Municipality of Niagara

Niagara Region Municipalities



Laura Elliott, Director of Education and Secretary

May 30, 2017

Ministry of Education  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

**Attention: The Honourable Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education**

Dear Minister Hunter:

**Re: TVDSB First Nations Student Trustee**

It is with great excitement that I write you today to inform you that earlier this month our school board approved policy changes that allow for the election of a self-identifying First Nations Student Trustee in the fall of 2017.

I believe this Indigenous Student Trustee position is the first in Canada for a school board. I hope you will encourage other school boards to take similar steps to help articulate their important student voice.

It is also important to note that this policy change came from our current Student Trustee, Stefan Suvajac. This is just one example of the significant work that Student Trustees accomplish in our school boards and province. While Student Trustee Suvajac's term is ending, the positive changes he has made will continue to benefit our students for many years to come.

2

Ministry of Education  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

- 2 -

May 30, 2017

Thank you for your time. I hope you will join me in congratulating our newest board member in the fall when we complete this important and historic election.

Sincerely Yours,



Matthew Reid  
Chair of the Board

c.c.: Laura Elliott, Director of Education, Thames Valley District School Board  
Hon. Carolyn Bennett, Minister of Indigenous and Northern Affairs  
Chief Leslee White-Eye, Chippewas of the Thames First Nations  
Chief Roger Thomas, Munsee-Delaware Nation  
Chief Randall Phillips, Oneida Nation of the Thames  
Laurie French, President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association  
**Ontario School Board Chairs**  
Stefan Suvajac, Student Trustee, Thames Valley District School Board





Laura Elliott, Director of Education and Secretary

May 30, 2017

Ministry of Education  
22nd Floor Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

**Attention: Honourable Mitzie Hunter, Minister of Education**

Dear Minister Hunter:

I am writing to share with you the complex concerns identified by Thames Valley District School Board Trustees over the capital and ongoing funding for schools in our communities, particularly in rural areas. Let me begin by acknowledging our sincere appreciation for the generous financial support Thames Valley has received from the Ontario government. This has allowed us to build many new schools and additions that are the source of great pride among our students, parents, staff members and community.

We are also keenly aware of the problem of declining enrolment and share your concerns over the subsequent inefficiencies created by thousands of empty pupil places – particularly while facilities age and become costly to maintain. Through careful planning and an extraordinary amount of public consultation, Thames Valley has closed 41 schools since 2006. During that time, 67 new schools have been built or significantly renovated.

After having conducted a large number of pupil accommodation reviews, Trustees have reached the conclusion that, while communities deeply value their schools, the current funding formula puts small schools at a disadvantage. This is particularly true in rural areas where consolidations may result in longer travel times for students.

In some cases, the funding formula requires boards to consider closing smaller schools that are operating at or over capacity and in reasonably good repair – leading the public to ponder whether we are “fixing a problem that does not exist.” As elected Trustees, we find ourselves unable to fulfill the wishes of our constituents under the current capital funding process.

We respectfully request that you realign the funding process and policies for school consolidation. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Matt Reid".

Matt Reid  
Chair of the Board

c.c.: Laura Elliott, Director of Education, Thames Valley District School Board  
**Ontario School Board Chairs**



Laura Elliott, Director of Education and Secretary

May 30, 2017

Hon. Mitzie Hunter  
Minister of Education  
Ministry of Education  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Hon. Michael Coteau  
Minister of Children and Youth Services  
Ministry of Children and Youth Services/Anti-Racism Directorate  
14<sup>th</sup> Floor  
56 Wellesley Street West  
Toronto ON M7S 2S3

Dear Ministers Hunter and Coteau:

I am writing to you today on behalf of Trustees of the Thames Valley District School Board to express our profound concerns about funding for children with special education needs.

Specifically, Trustees believe more supports are urgently needed for students with significant behavioural and mental health concerns, including dedicated Care and/or Treatment, Custody and Correctional (CTCC) programs in all communities and more long-term residential programs focusing on early intervention, as well as transitional classrooms for students.

The Province of Ontario has already demonstrated its commitment to Ministries working together in order to address complex needs. This is an example where your two ministries could work together in order to address an urgent and increasing need in Ontario communities.

As elected public school Trustees, we acknowledge the generous commitment this government has made to fund public education in Ontario. However, it is our responsibility to identify what we feel is a serious gap in support for these particularly vulnerable students.

We would be happy to provide you with further details of our concerns at your convenience.

Sincerely,

Matt Reid  
Chair of the Board

c.c.: Laura Elliott, Director of Education, Thames Valley District School Board  
Laurie French, President, Ontario Public School Boards' Association  
Ontario School Board Chairs



# *Rainy River*

## DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD

June 1, 2017

### EDUCATION CENTRE

522 Second St. E.  
Fort Frances, ON  
P9A 1N4  
Phone: 807 274 9855  
Fax: 807 274 5078  
Toll Free: 1 800 214 1753

The Honorable, Mitzie Hunter  
Minister of Education,  
22<sup>nd</sup> Floor, Mowat Block  
900 Bay Street  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Hunter,

RE: Request for Reduction of Class Size Requirements for Native Language Courses

At the May 2, 2017 Board meeting of the Rainy River District School Board, Trustees passed the following motion:

**That the Rainy River District School Board write a letter to the Honourable Mitzie Hunter in support of the Thames Valley District School Board letter to lower the minimum number of resident pupils for Indigenous Language classes funding.**

### WEB SITE:

[www.rrdsb.com](http://www.rrdsb.com)

### DIRECTOR

Heather Campbell

Language is central not only to First Nation culture, but also to identity, territory, and governance. Ojibwe language instruction is very important to the Rainy River District School Board, its students, parents/guardians, and First Nation communities. Studies have shown that the learning of a second language strengthens students' English language skills while also building their mental flexibility and creative thinking. In addition, students benefit from increased communication and cultural and economic opportunities.

The Board's efforts to support Ojibwe language instruction are seen in the provision of Ojibwe Language instruction at the same time as French as Second Language is scheduled. This means that students do not have to choose between learning Ojibwe language over participating in math, language arts, health and physical education, art, or any other subject instruction. In order to do this, schools have small classes for Ojibwe language instruction.

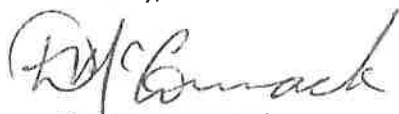
The enhancement to the Native Language funding is presently triggered by having 12 or more resident pupils enrolled in Ojibwe instruction. This is particularly challenging for schools and for school boards with significant student populations that reside on First Nation communities, as students living on reserve do not attract this funding in the Grants for Student Need.

The Rainy River District School Board urges the Provincial Government to work with the Federal Government to properly fund First Nations Language classes and reduce the class size to a minimum of five (5) students to ensure more students will have access to learn and celebrate their language and culture.

*TOGETHER, WE EMPOWER ALL STUDENTS TO BELIEVE IN THEMSELVES, TO ACHIEVE, AND TO DREAM.*

I thank you in advance for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'D. McCormack', with a large, stylized initial 'D'.

Dianne McCormack,  
Chair, Rainy River District School Board

- c. Heather Campbell, Director of Education, Rainy River District School Board  
OPSBA  
Ontario School Boards

June 20, 2017

The Honourable Mitzie Hunter  
Minister of Education  
Mowat Block, Queen's Park  
Toronto, ON M7A 1L2

Dear Minister Hunter:

On behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Peel District School Board, I am writing in regards to hiring practices at the Peel Alternative School – Central (PAS-Central), a secondary Section 23 program administered by the Peel District School Board and located in the Roy McMurtry Youth Detention Centre in Brampton.

PAS-Central is a school that serves some of the highest needs students in the Province of Ontario. On any given day, the school serves approximately 100 male youth who have been incarcerated for the most serious of youth and adult crimes. School for these youth is a sanctuary where they can continue the educational programs that they have left behind in their home communities. Each of the 100 students studies on an individual program and the teachers and teaching assistants at the school are highly trained and highly specialized in curriculum delivery, differentiated instruction, classroom management, restorative practices, non-violent crisis intervention and individual assessment. Teaching at PAS-Central is not for everyone, and it is only those teachers who have a strong desire to work with youth at this risk level who can be successful in the setting and provide the kinds of specialty programming that is required to assist these students.

As you are aware, Regulation 274 requires district school boards to hire Long-Term Occasional teachers into vacant contract positions based on their seniority on the LTO list. Because teachers working at PAS-Central cannot be successful without the kind of specialized training mentioned above, it is the belief of the Board of Trustees of the Peel District School Board that a setting such as this one, and others like it across the province, should be exempted from the hiring practices outlined in Regulation 274. I think we can all agree that youth attending this school deserve the very best that the board has to offer in terms of staff, resources and facilities. We believe that the Regulation 274 restrictions placed upon the Principal when hiring her staff severely limit her ability to always place the right staff in PAS-Central classrooms.

.../2

**Trustees**

Janet McDougald, Chair  
Suzanne Nurse, Vice-Chair  
Carrie Andrews  
Stan Cameron  
Robert Crocker  
Nokha Dakroub

David Green  
Sue Lawton  
Brad MacDonald  
Kathy McDonald  
Harkirat Singh  
Rick Williams

Director of Education and Secretary  
Tony Pontes

Associate Director,  
Instructional Support Services  
Scott Moreash

Associate Director,  
Operational Support Services  
Jaspal Gill

I respectfully request, on behalf of the Board of Trustees of the Peel District School Board, that the Ministry of Education consider an exemption from Regulation 274 for PAS-Central and that the Principal be permitted to hire staff who are best suited for work in this setting. This will assist her to best meet the needs of students in the setting and to provide the differentiated resourcing for these students that they deserve.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Janet McDougald', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Janet McDougald  
Chair

c. OPSBA  
Ontario School Board Chairs  
Peel MPPs

# September 2017

## Trustee Calendar

Aug 2017							Oct 2017						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
6	7	8	9	10	11	12	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
13	14	15	16	17	18	19	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
20	21	22	23	24	25	26	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
27	28	29	30	31			29	30	31				

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Aug 27	28	29	30	31	Sep 1	2
3	4 9:00 AM Labour Day	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13 5:30 PM PIC Meeting	14 6:00 PM SEAC	15	16
17	18	19 9:30 AM Trustee Student Senate	20 6:00 PM Finance Committee Meeting	21	22	23
24	25	26 6:15 PM Board Meeting	27	28	29	30