

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021

Public Session: 7:00 pm – Virtual Meeting

AGENDA

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

Motion to Move to Committee of the Whole (Private Session)

Motion to Return to Open Board (Public Session)

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

Stevensville Public School Choir will perform O'Canada via video

D. REFLECTIVE READING

By Trustee Kate Baggott

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Recommended Motion: "That the Agenda be adopted."

2. Approval of Board Minutes

[Pages 5-14](#)

Recommended Motion:

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated February 23, 2021 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 – Page 15

a) Director’s Recognition

- Austin Dill, Student, Stamford Collegiate Secondary School

2. Educational Showcase

W. Hoshizaki

a) DSBN Technological Skills Challenge – **L. Smith**

b) Parent Involvement Committee Virtual Speaker Series – **S. Hancox**

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

H. DELEGATIONS

I. BOARD RECESS (OPTIONAL)

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

L. Campbell – Page 16

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated February 24, 2021 be received.”

2. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

D. Schaubel – Pages 17-30

Recommended Motions:

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated March 9, 2021 be received.”

“That the West Niagara Secondary School (WNSS) Update be received.”

“That the New Elementary Math Curriculum Report be received.”

“That DSBN receive the De-streaming Grade 9 in DSBN Report and DSBN supports the implementation of de-streamed English curriculum in all secondary schools starting in September

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

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2021 and DSBN support the implementation of de-streamed Geography, French and Science curriculum in all secondary schools starting in September 2022.”

“That the Additional Qualification Report be received.”

“That the Educational Research Committee Report be received, and the research approved.”

3. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

[A. Bradnam/S. Mitchell – Pages 31-33](#)

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated March 11, 2021 be received.”

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

L. NEW BUSINESS

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports
2. Trustee Information Session
3. Correspondence and Communications
4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison
5. Ontario Public School Boards’ Association Report
6. Future Meetings

[Page 34](#)

The April 2021 calendar is attached.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Recommended Motions:

“That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on March 23, 2021 be now ratified by the Board.”

That the Chair and proper officials of the District School Board of Niagara are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the business as decided by the Board of Trustees this day.”

BOARD MEETING AGENDA

TUESDAY, MARCH 23, 2021



O. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion:

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

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00p.m. (Virtual Meetings)

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

Kate Baggott, Alex Bradnam (Vice Chair), Sue Barnett (Chair), Nancy Beamer, Lora Campbell, Jonathan Fast, Elizabeth Klassen, Kevin Maves, Shannon Mitchell, Doug Newton, Dave Schaubel

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Keelee Hollowell, Salony Sharma, Karina Tavernese

OFFICIALS

Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, John Dickson, Mary Anne Gage, Helen McGregor, Simon Hancox, Marian Reimer Friesen, Kelly Pisek, Leanne Smith, Michael St. John, Stacy Veld, Jennifer Feren, Kim Sweeney, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Morgan

RECORDING SECRETARY

Christina Dero

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Wendy Coit, Kara Hiott-Bowles, Sarah Skrydstrup

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Barnett opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Barnett called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 7:00 p.m. Chair Barnett noted that there were no members absent.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – CONTINUED

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

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

CARRIED

Moved by Dave Schaubel

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Board return to Open meeting.”

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:30 p.m.

C. SINGING OF ‘O CANADA’

“The Board stood as ‘*O Canada*’ was performed by the Wellington Heights Public School choir, via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Schaubel shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – CONTINUED

Adoption of the Agenda

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated January 26, 2021 be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

3. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

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

CARRIED

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director’s Report and Recognition

a) Way Down Hadestown, via video, by the musical theatre class at Laura Secord

Director Hoshizaki shared a video of the Laura Secord Secondary School musical theatre class showcasing how they perform virtually during the COVID pandemic.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – CONTINUED

Director's Report and Recognition

Director Hoshizaki announced the appointment of Maryam Safdar Ali as DSBN Human Rights Advisor. Director Hoshizaki shared a video of him speaking with Maryam about her background and experiences, as well as the importance of equity, inclusion, diversity and anti-racism.

2. Educational Showcases

a) Director's Artisan Card Contest

Chief Communications Officer, Kim Sweeney, thanked the winners of the Director's Artisan Card Contest, who did a wonderful job creating original art that represents their favorite time of year. The winners will receive a Recognition Certificate and a package of printed artisan cards. Tonight's video will also be sent to their schools so they can share it with their classmates.

Kim Sweeney shared a video of the Director's Artisan Card winners and their artwork.

b) Black History Activities for February and Beyond

Superintendent Pisek introduced the showcase, which was presented virtually by Pratima Burton, Zakia Hamdani, Christine Lafferty, and Lindsay Barrow. The showcase highlights how educators affirm and validate historical experience and the present relevance of Black History Month.

Pratima Burton explained that the narrative of the Black experience must be embedded into all curriculum all year long to ensure students see themselves reflected in the learning. Black History Month is an opportunity to center Black identities and celebrate Black Excellence which includes contributions of Black people throughout time and today.

Zakia Hamdani added that we are still evolving in our understanding of the Black community experience and its influence on all our lives. We will continue to learn about the experiences and achievements of Black communities and affirm and validate that Black history is Canadian history. We will also continue to equip educators with the tools to continue to lift our students' histories and lived experiences in authentic and productive ways. This way, we

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – CONTINUED

Black History Activities for February and Beyond

can truly honour the Black Canadians who have shaped our nation's history and build a school culture that strengthens our student's identities.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no student achievement reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Kevin Maves

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated February 2, 2021 be received."

"That the report of the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars 2021-2022 be received and approved for submission to the Ministry of Education be received."

"That the Forest of Reading Update be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel provided a summary of the Program and Planning Committee meeting, which included a presentation of DSBNs proposed 2021-2022 school calendars and an update on the Forest of Reading. This year all students will have a chance to participate virtually in the Forest of Reading event.

OLD BUSINESS – CONTINUED

2. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Doug Newton

Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated February 3, 2021 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Beamer reported that, as part of the PIC Speaker Series, Ann Douglas presented “Parenting in a Pandemic” to over 400 people on January 27, 2021. Three additional speakers have been added to the series:

- March 10, 2021 – Natasha Parent will present, “Should I be worried about screen time?”
- March 17, 2021 – Cassandra Muileboom will offer a story-based presentation to addresses the 5 A’s of anti-racism parenting.
- March 24, 2021 – Equity Connections will offer a panel presentation that will focus on a five-phase process to building effective allyship as a parent.

3. Report of the Policy Committee

Moved by Kate Baggett

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the report of the Policy Committee dated February 9, 2021 be received.”

“That the Policy Committee commence the process to review Policy A-09 Naming/Renaming of Schools forthwith so it may be considered at the May 11, 2021 Policy Committee meeting.”

“That Policy I-01: Policy – General be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy i-02: Policy Committee be approved as received and adopted.”

“That Policy A-12: School Councils be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy C-04: Community Planning and Partnerships be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy G-21: Advertising In Schools be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy D-11: Arts Program be approved as amended and adopted.”

OLD BUSINESS – CONTINUED

Report of the Policy Committee

“That Policy G-02: Safe Schools be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy G-38: Complaints Resolution Policy be approved as amended and adopted.”

CARRIED

Trustee Bradnam provided a summary of the eight policies that were reviewed and approved by the committee and noted some changes. Correspondence referred to the Policy Committee during the January Board Meeting generated discussion about Policy A-09 Naming/Renaming of Schools. The next round of policies up for vetting will be available on the DSBN website from February 16 – April 27, 2021.

4. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Lora Campbell

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated February 11, 2021 be received.”

CARRIED

Vice Chair Bradnam provided a summary of the February 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, which included a Student Voice presentation via video and a Presentation from Superintendent Dickson about the parameters for the upcoming student census survey.

Trustee Mitchell added that Superintendent St. John shared that the upcoming PD Day will provide staff with an opportunity to participate in a variety of learning opportunities and he also noted that there are now 150 students participating in the DSBN Preschool Transition program.

5. Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Moved by Salony Sharma

Seconded by Kellee Hollowell

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated February 17, 2021 be received.”

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – CONTINUED

Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Student Trustee Sharma provided an update on the EFN fundraiser that Senators are collaborating on with EFN. Student Trustee Sharma provided a summary of the Student Trustee Senate meeting which included discussions about graduation and revised MSIP scheduling.

Student Trustee Tavernese reported on the recent OSTA-AECO meeting which included round table discussions, information sessions, and keynote speakers.

Student Trustee Hollowell spoke to the newest OSTA-AECO advocacy project. This will be promoted on the Student Senate Instagram page and in schools.

6. Report of the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee

Moved by Kevin Maves

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the report of the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee dated February 17, 2021 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell provided a summary of the committee meeting, where Director Hoshizaki provided an update on system initiatives and shared that DSBN is hiring a Human Rights Advisor to support the work of equity, inclusion, and human rights. Superintendent Pisek shared that DSBN students, parents/guardians, and community representatives can apply to be on the DSBN Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Community Advisory Committee on the DSBN website.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of or by board members.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSION

There was no trustee information session.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

There were no correspondence or communication.

4. TRUSTEE COMMUNICATIONS AND SCHOOL LIAISON

There was no trustee communication or school liaison information shared.

5. Ontario Public School Boards' Association (OPSBA) Report

Trustee Baggott reported that the Central West Regional OPSBA meeting took place on February 20, 2021. Discussions took place on the Future of Education and what our bricks and mortar schools mean to us. Trustee Dr. David Green provided an update on what has been implemented at Peel District School Board as it prepares to come out from under provincial supervision. He urged everyone to look at the governance documents and structures published on their board's web site. Trustee Baggott added that Superintendent McGregor also attended the meeting.

Information published by the Ontario Public School Boards' Association is available at www.opsba.org.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of March 2021 meetings was provided.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING – CONTINUED

That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on February 23, 2021 be now ratified by the Board.”

“That the Chair and proper officials of the District School Board of Niagara are hereby authorized and directed to do all things necessary to give effect to the business as decided by the Board of Trustees this day.”

CARRIED

O. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Doug Newton

Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

SUE BARNETT
Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI
Director of Education and Secretary

**March 23, 2021 Board Meeting
Director's Update to Trustees**

Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Austin Dill, Student, Stamford Collegiate Secondary School

Austin Dill is a grade 11 student at Stamford Collegiate.

During the pandemic Austin has taken his musical interests to new levels by writing and recording some songs for worthy causes. In October 2020, Austin wrote his first song for the LGBTQ+ community called "Love is Love". Then, in December, Austin wanted to make a difference during a Christmas that he knew wasn't going to be typical – it was then that he wrote and recorded his second song, "Joy of Giving." From that song Austin wanted to raise some money for the Ronald McDonald House in Hamilton (a cause close to his heart as his family stayed there when Austin was born). Austin ended up raising over \$2500.00 for the cause and even received a \$250.00 donation from Canadian band 'The Arkells.'

Austin is now working on his third song – this one will recognize the hard work of teachers and Educational Assistants who work so hard to support students. Stamford Collegiate, and the DSBN, is incredibly proud of Austin's kind, generous nature and look forward to hearing more from this young artist. Congratulations Austin!

Love is Love: <https://open.spotify.com/track/19BIStACxmxCSX0JtPyde5?si=e62d962329ca4332>
Joy of Givign: <https://open.spotify.com/track/7BkE3ytifHZV4Bys0apZLx?si=dfb876435384472a>



SUPERVISED ALTERNATIVE LEARNING (S.A.L.) COMMITTEE

Wednesday, February 24, 2021
MS Teams

MINUTES

Members: Lora Campbell, Trustee
Caroline Graham, John Howard Society of Niagara
Andrea Jagoe-Lynett, Student Achievement Leader, Student Success
Tracy Sacco, Student Achievement Leader, Alternative Education
Leanne Smith, Superintendent of Education, Secondary

Resources: Melinda Dackiw, SAL Secretary
Nadia LaSelva, Attendance Counsellor
Barb Lane, Vice-Principal, Stamford Collegiate Secondary
Nichola Lee, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

Student Achievement Leader Andrea Jagoe-Lynett called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.

CASES:

202-008 AH D.OB. 22/10/2004 16 yrs. 4 mths.

The student will keep connected to school with the support of a DSBN social worker and will work on GLE3O. The Committee recommends the student attend summer school.

202-009 KM D.OB. 28/05/2004 16 yrs. 9 mths.

The Committee recommends that the student work on GLE3O with the support of the teacher to improve learning strategies. KM plans to work on Community Involvement hours and will seek support from the school social worker.

Following the case presentations, the Committee reviewed the progress of current students participating in the SAL program. There are twelve (12) students currently active and compliant with their SAL plans.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55pm

PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE



**Tuesday, March 9, 2021
Virtual - MS Teams**

MINUTES

Present:

Trustee Committee Members: Nancy Beamer, Kevin Maves, Doug Newton for Jonathan Fast, Kate Baggot for Shannon Mitchell and Dave Schaubel (Chair).

Trustee Guests: Sue Barnett, Alex Bradnam
Student Trustees: Salony Sharma and Karina Tavernese

Administration: Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education
Helen McGregor, Area 5 Supt. of Curriculum & Student Achievement (9-12)
Leanne Smith, Area 6 Supt. of Curriculum & Student Achievement (9-12)
Marian Reimer Friesen, Area 4 Supt. of Education, Curriculum & Student Achievement (K-8)
Mary Anne Gage, Area 4 Supt. of Education, Curriculum & Student Achievement (K-12)

Guests: Mat Miller, Principal Grimsby and New West Niagara Secondary Schools
Mary Zwolak – CSS Elementary Math Team
Erik Teather – CSS Elementary Math Team

Recording Secretary: Debra Dinga, Administrative Assistant

Regrets: Trustees, Jonathan Fast and Shannon Mitchell

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Dave Schaubel called the meeting of the Program and Planning Committee to order at 5:30 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Trustee Baggott, seconded by Trustee Newton:

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

There was no business arising from the minutes.

NEW BUSINESS**West Niagara Secondary School Update** – *Superintendent, Helen McGregor & Principal, Mat Miller*

Superintendent McGregor provided a brief update on the new elementary school in Wainfleet and introduced Principal Miller to provide the West Niagara Secondary School (WNSS) update.

Principal Miller shared the excitement that is happening as we move forward with the West Niagara Secondary School (WNSS) build. The branding has been set in place including the Wolf Pack mascots, and team uniforms which will be unveiled to students soon. A newsletter and website have been initiated to help “Track the Pack” with regular updates as we move toward the school’s opening in September 2022.

The features of the this modern “state of the art” school were shared which include bright, modern classrooms, a synthetic turf field and rubberized track, two double gyms and fitness center, greenhouse and specialized tech shops, all located on a 20 acre property. The range of programs were also shared and will include Specialized School to Community (SSTC), Specialized School to Work (SSTW), French Immersion and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Programs. Additionally, an extensive variety of sports and extracurriculars will be offered.

The next steps for WNSS include tendering and the start of construction in Spring 2021. DSBN will provide ongoing up-dates to the WNSS community, School Council presentations are being made and there will be opportunities for student voice to be heard from future WNSS students.

A large fundraising committee called “Friends of the Arts in West Niagara” has been established in support of raising funds for a 750-seat theatre at WNSS. Already, The Town of Lincoln has pledged to contribute \$200,000 and numerous letters of support have been received from community members, organizations, and businesses. A virtual fundraising event will take place on March 20th.

Moved by Trustee Maves, seconded by Trustee Beamer

“That the West Niagara Secondary School (WNSS) Update be received.”

CARRIED

New Elementary Math Curriculum Report – Superintendent, Marian Reimer Friesen and Elementary CSS Team Members – Mary Zwolak and Erik Teather

Superintendent Reimer Friesen shared that DSBN has been on a very successful math journey and was one of a few school boards consulted on the new elementary math curriculum. Math Consultant, Erik Teather was part of the research group to work with the Ministry of Education to build the report framework. Erik Teather shared the differences in the 2020 and 2005 curriculum and explained that the new curriculum is based on more current research and contains new strands on social-emotional learning skills in mathematics and financial literacy. There is also a new focus on Coding and Mathematical Modelling, as well as only one (1) report card mark for mathematics.

System Administrator, Mary Zwolak reviewed the underlying principles of the new math curriculum and explained how this framework helps ensure that students see themselves as capable math learners.

The DSBN Math “Scope and Sequence” outlines a year-long plan for teaching math which supports integrated learning. DSBN’s math goal is: “To nurture a love of mathematics, while developing thinking and reasoning skills, confidence and perseverance, and mathematical understanding that empowers students to solve problems in their current and future lives” which aligns with changes to the curriculum.

Math learning supports have been created for DSBN educators in each grade and parent supports are available on the Ministry website as well as through their child’s teacher. A positive attitude toward math is critical in children’s development and learning both at school and at home.

Moved by Trustee Baggott, seconded by Trustee Beamer

“That the New Elementary Math Curriculum Report be received.”

CARRIED

De-streaming Grade 9 in DSBN Report – Superintendents, Helen McGregor & Leanne Smith

Superintendent Smith explained that currently students entering Grade 9 must choose an academic, applied or locally developed streamed educational pathway for English, French, Math, Science and Geography. Beginning in September 2021, Gr. 9 Mathematics will be de-streamed when The Ministry of Education puts a new grade 9 math curriculum in place.

Ontario is the only province that streams students and research strongly indicates that streaming students before age 15 narrows future post-secondary opportunities whereas de-streaming supports marginalized students and provides more equitable outcomes for students.

DSBN already has experience in offering de-streamed courses and achieved positive outcomes at the

DSBN Academy. We believe it is important to move beyond just de-streaming math in Gr. 9 in all our secondary schools. With this in mind, DSBN will offer de-streamed Gr. 9 Math and English courses in all secondary school beginning in September 2021 so we don't limit future opportunities for our students. In addition, individual secondary schools will have the option to also offer de-streamed Gr. 9 Geography, Science and French in September 2021 and all DSBN secondary schools will offer de-streamed Geography, French and Science in September 2022.

Our plans will be communicated to all school staff, student and parents who will all be notified of the changes coming in the Fall. We expect the Ministry will be adding additional de-streamed courses by September 2022. As well, for the Summer 2021, writing teams will be initiated and professional development opportunities and summer institutes will be planned to prepare for de-streaming in September.

Moved by Trustee Maves, seconded by Trustee Baggott

“That DSBN receive the De-streaming Grade 9 in DSBN Report and DSBN supports the implementation of de-streamed English curriculum in all secondary schools starting in September 2021 and DSBN support the implementation of de-streamed Geography, French and Science curriculum in all secondary schools starting in September 2022.”

CARRIED

Additional Qualification Report – Superintendent, Mary Anne Gage

Superintendent Gage shared a new model for Additional Qualification (AQ) programs in DSBN. AQ courses support teachers to expand their knowledge and skills in many subject areas while gaining qualifications accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT). The DSBN has a strong commitment to staff growth and to the funding of AQ courses. Currently the DSBN partners with different universities.

The new model would allow DSBN to become our own AQ provider with the benefit of writing our own courses providing for more flexibility, autonomy, improved scheduling, and formatting of courses. Additionally, we could hire DSBN educators to write and teach AQ courses which would eliminate candidate fees thereby reducing course costs by 60%.

DSBN is currently in the process of working toward accreditation with the goal of being ready to offer DSBN AQ courses in Fall of 2021.

Moved by Trustee Baggott, seconded by Trustee Newton

“That the Additional Qualification Report be received.”

CARRIED

Educational Research Committee Report – *Superintendent, Mary Anne Gage*

Superintendent Gage brought forward the research proposal that was accepted at the February 22 Educational Research Committee Meeting entitled “The 2021 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey” (OSDUHS) from The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)). DSBN has participated in this biennial research since 2009 which anonymously surveys trends of substance use and mental health. The data gained supports and responds to youth issues including the creation of curriculum for students. This research will begin and conclude in DSBN prior to June 29, 2021.

Moved by Trustee Maves, seconded by Trustee Beamer

“That the Educational Research Committee Report be received, and the research approved.”

CARRIED

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

NEXT MEETING

The next Program and Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.**

ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Trustee Beamer, seconded by Trustee Baggott

“That the meeting of the Program and Planning Committee adjourn.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.



SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE (SEAC) MINUTES

Virtual Meeting
5:30 p.m.

Thursday, March 11, 2021

Committee Members Present:

Linda Morrice (Chair)	Pathstone Mental Health
Shannon MacDonald (Vice Chair)	CNIB Foundation
Kelly Cimek	Community Living Welland Pelham
Amy Dunn	Autism Ontario - Niagara
Nick Smith	Niagara Support Services
Juan Miranda	Down Syndrome Niagara
Samantha Sendzik	Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region
Danielle Reynolds	Niagara FASD Coalition
Staci Whittle	Niagara Children's Centre
Alex Bradnam	Trustee, District School Board of Niagara
Shannon Mitchell	Trustee, District School Board of Niagara

Administration/Resource:

Michael St. John	Superintendent of Special Education
John Dickson	Superintendent of Elementary Schools
Nikki Train	Student Achievement Leader, Special Education
Karen Ferguson	OPC Representative: Secondary
Jodie Kerr	OPC Representative: Elementary

Recording Secretary:

Jennifer McGugan

QUORUM/CALL TO ORDER

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Chair Linda Morrice began the meeting with the Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

Student Voice

Principal of McKay Public School, Michael Burns, began the video presentation by introducing the grade 5 student who has experienced much success gaining strategies and skills in the Structured Strategies Program before transferring to McKay. The student showed his creativity and excitement around including movement into his day. He also showed how he uses a SEA Chromebook to support learning within the classroom. The student shared with the committee that he would like to become an actor or an astronaut.

APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Chair Morrice Introduced the new representative for Down Syndrome Niagara, Juan Miranda. Chair Morrice requested a motion to approve the Agenda of the March 11, 2021 SEAC meeting.

Moved by Shannon Mitchell, Seconded by Amy Dunn

"That the Agenda dated March 11, 2021 be approved as presented."

CARRIED

SUPERINTENDENT AND SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Michael St. John and Nikki Train

Nikki Train presented to the committee the DSBN ONSIS information reported to the Ministry of Education. She

shared graphs outlining proportions of both elementary and secondary students with IEPs represented as either exceptional or non-exceptional, as well as the proportion of students represented for each Ministry of Education category of exceptionality. Also, presented was information on placement of students with special education needs.

Superintendent Michael St. John shared that the DSBN is thankful that Niagara Region Public Health (NRPH) and Niagara Health have supported our students with special learning needs, their families, and staff by vaccinating over 1,000 DSBN educators who provide direct support. He also acknowledged the work of school administrators in facilitating timely and coordinated messaging for school staff. The DSBN is seeking to hire another Speech Language Pathologist.

TRUSTEE REPORT

Shannon Mitchell and Alex Bradnam

Trustee Shannon Mitchell and Trustee Alex Bradnam provided an update on the DSBN Board Meeting of February 23, 2021. Trustee Mitchell shared that the student winners of the Annual Artisan Card Contest were acknowledged at the meeting. She noted the student and staff showcase by the Laura Secord Secondary School musical theatre class and the showcase highlighting how educators affirm and validate historical experience by embedding the narrative of the Black experience into all curriculum all year long. She also shared that there is work being done by the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee and that Maryam Safdar Ali, the newly appointed DSBN Human Rights Advisor, was introduced by the Director through a pre-recorded video of a conversation about the importance of equity, inclusion, diversity and anti-racism at the most recent board meeting.

Trustee Bradnam shared with the committee that the Parent Involvement Committee Speaker Series has focused on anti-racism parenting and making equity connections and there are sessions upcoming on March 17 and March 24. He noted the DSBN's ongoing commitment as a system to continue to equip educators, parents and school communities with the tools to acknowledge our students' histories and lived experiences in authentic and productive ways toward building school cultures that strengthen our students' identities. He shared that a summary of recently approved policies was presented at the board meeting and that, currently, there are policies up for vetting on the DSBN website until April 27, 2021. He invited SEAC members to provide feedback. Trustee Bradnam also presented that the proposed 2021-2022 school year calendar is now awaiting Ministry approval.

ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION

Autism Niagara

Amy Dunn

We are celebrating World Autism Awareness Day on Tuesday, April 6th, 2021. Registration and more information can be found here <https://raisetheflagforautism.com/>.

Community Living Welland Pelham

Kelly Cimek

No report.

Down Syndrome Niagara

Juan Miranda

No report.

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region

Paige Vaccarella

LDANR is holding a Program Information Night on March 16th at 6:00 via Microsoft Teams. LDANR is partnering with LDAO to develop a guide for Grade 11 and 12 students with LDs to prepare them for the transition to post-secondary. We continue to offer our SOAR transition programs during the 2021-2022 year. Fall applications will open on May 31, 2021. Applications are open for LDANR's SLAM Summer Camp. We plan to offer one full-day site in-person, and another site virtually in half-day increments. Applications for Spring programs open March 22nd. LDANR is holding a virtual Trivia Night fundraiser on Friday, March 26th.

Niagara FASD Coalition

Danielle Reynolds

No report.

Niagara Support Services

Nick Smith

No report.

Pathstone Mental Health**Linda Morrice**

No report.

CNIB Foundation**Shannon MacDonald**

Continuing with weekly programming.

NCC**Staci Whittle**

Meeting with DSBN to discuss preschool transitions at the end of the month.

OPC Representative: Elementary**Jodie Kerr**

EA allocation process is happening. Students are returning from Virtual School. The My Voice Counts – Student Census Survey was presented to school councils. Students are enjoying the outdoors.

OPC Representative: Secondary**Karen Ferguson**

Progress Reports will be distributed tomorrow. Students will be participating in the student Census between March 22 and April 1. Preparing for the new math program for Sept. Math will be de-streamed. Moving forward with planning/staffing for next year.

CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from the Hastings and Prince Edward District School board requesting consideration from the Ministry to provide opportunity for vaccination of students with high special needs and staff working with them. NRPH provided an opportunity for DSBN staff that directly support students with special learning needs to access vaccinations. The committee will not be writing a letter of support.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There were no questions received.

ADJOURNMENT***Moved by Amy Dunn, Seconded by Shannon MacDonald.***

“That the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting adjourn.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:20 pm

NEXT MEETING: Thursday, April 8, 2021 at 5:30 pm

APR 2021

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					01	02
					Board Holiday	
						03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
	Board Holiday	Program & Planning 5:30 pm	PIC 5:30 pm	SEAC 5:30 pm		
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	Spring Break	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
		Student Trustee Senate 6pm	SAL 1pm Finance 6pm	Equity, Inclusion & Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory 5:30 pm		
25	26	27	28	29	30	
		COW 6:15 pm Regular Session 7 pm				