

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022

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’

Applewood Public School Choir will perform O’Canada via video

D. REFLECTIVE READING

By Trustee Dave Schaubel

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 Motions:

“That the Minutes of the Organization Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 7, 2021 be confirmed as submitted.”

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 7, 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 – pages 15-17

a) Director’s Recognition

- Richard Lowell, Lunchroom Supervisor, E.I. McCulley Public School
- Jennifer Fricke, Derek Hockley, Kailyn Juras, Kelly Namtzu and Kerri Tonnies, Fundamental Skills Program (FSP) Staff, Oakwood Public School

b) Director’s Report

2. Educational Showcases

W. Hoshizaki

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

H. DELEGATIONS

I. BOARD RECESS (OPTIONAL)

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

A. Bradnam / S. Mitchell – Pages 18-25

Recommended Motions:

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated December 9, 2021 be received.”

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated January 13, 2022 be received.”

2. Report of the Student Trustee Senate

T. Patel / K. Steinbach-Parker / S. Sharma – Pages 26-27

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated December 21, 2021 be received.”

3. Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee

S. Mitchell – Pages 28-30

Recommended Motion:

“That the report of the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee dated January 18, 2022 be received.”

4. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

L. Campbell – Pages 31-35

Recommended Motions:

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated December 8, 2021 be received.”

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated January 19, 2022 be received.”

5. Report of the Finance Committee

K. Maves – Pages 36-93

Recommended Motions:

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated January 19, 2022 be received.”

“That the Capital Projects Verbal Update be received for information.”

“That the Niagara Student Transportation Services – 2020-21 Annual Report and 2021-22 Annual Plan be received for information.”

“That the 2021-22 Interim Financial Report, reflecting updated enrolments for October 31, 2021, and the corresponding changes in revenues and expenditures, be received.”

“That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of October, November, and December 2021, totaling \$78,914,199 be received.”

“That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ended December 31, 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
 - a) Draft Correspondence in Support of OPSBA Statement

K. Baggott – Pages 94-95

Recommended Motion:

“That the trustees of the District School Board of Niagara write a letter to the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario, Dr. Kieran Moore, the Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, and Medical Officer of Health for Niagara, Dr. Mustafa Hirji, in support of OPSBA’s statement of January 12, 2022 on schools resuming in-person learning on January 17, 2022.”

6. Future Meetings

Pages 96-97

- a) February Meeting calendar
- b) February Days of Significance calendar

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 January 25, 2022 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.”

O. ADJOURNMENT

Recommended Motion:

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

ORGANIZATION MEETING OF THE BOARD

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021

6:00 p.m. – 6:28 p.m. (Virtual Meeting)

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

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

OFFICIALS

Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Stacy Veld, Jennifer Feren, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Morgan

REGRETS

Lora Campbell

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer McGugan

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Wendy Coit, Sarah Skrydstrup

1. CALL TO ORDER

Director Hoshizaki opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m. by Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education and Secretary of the Board, who conducted the meeting until the election of the Chairperson.

2. READING APPLICABLE BY-LAW PROCEDURES FOR THE ELECTION OF NEW CHAIRPERSON AND VICE-CHAIRPERSON

Director Hoshizaki read DSBN By-Law F-1, that states “The order of business for the Organization Meeting of the Board is to elect the Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson of the Board.”

The nomination process for the positions of Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson was followed in

accordance with By-Law F-6.1.

3. APPOINTMENT OF SCRUTINEERS

In accordance with DSBN By-Law F-5, Director Hoshizaki named Stacy Veld, Superintendent of Business, and Jennifer Feren, Board Lawyer, as scrutineers for the election of a new Chairperson and Vice-Chairperson.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON

Director Hoshizaki reported that Trustee Sue Barnett was nominated and let her name stand for the position of Chairperson. Trustee Barnett was acclaimed Chairperson for the District School Board of Niagara.

Chair Barnett chaired the remainder of the Organization Meeting of the Board.

5. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON

In accordance with DSBN By-Law F-7, Chair Barnett noted that election of the Vice-Chairperson shall proceed in the same manner as prescribed for the election of the Chairperson.

Chair Barnett reported that Trustee Bradnam and Trustee Mitchell were nominated and let their names stand for the position of Vice-Chairperson.

Trustee Bradnam and Trustee Mitchell were given the opportunity to address the Board.

Karen Bellamy provided trustees with a link to the ballot for the position of Vice-Chairperson. Trustees who requested to cast their ballot via phone were called by the scrutineers.

Chair Barnett received the count and announced that Trustee Bradnam was elected to the position of Vice-Chairperson.

6. MOTION TO DESTROY THE BALLOTS

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Doug Newton

“That the ballots be destroyed.”

CARRIED

7. COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

There is no requirement to select committee membership at this time.

8. SIGNING AUTHORITY

In accordance with DSBN By-Laws B-2 and B-3:

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Kate Baggott

“That the Chairperson or the Vice-Chairperson of the Board, and the Secretary or Treasurer of the Board, be the signing officers of the Board.”

AND

“That for the payment of the accounts, automatic cheque signing equipment be used bearing the signature of the Chairperson and Treasurer of the Board.”

CARRIED

9. BORROWING AUTHORITY

A resolution authorizing the borrowing of money to meet current expenditures of the District School Board of Niagara (the Board).

- A. In accordance with Subsection 243(1) of the Education Act (R.S.O. 1990) (the Act), the Board considers it necessary to borrow the amount of up to 45 million dollars (\$45,000,000) to meet, until current operating revenue is received, the current operating expenditures of the Board for the period commencing on January 1, 2022 and ending on December 31, 2022 (‘the Period’).
- B. Pursuant to Subsection 243(3) of the Act, the total amount borrowed pursuant to this Resolution, together with the total of any similar borrowings and any accrued interest on those borrowings, is not to exceed the unreceived balance of the estimated revenues of the Board for the Period.
- C. The total amount previously borrowed by the Board pursuant to Section 243 that has not been repaid is \$0.
- D. The amount borrowed for current operating expenditures is within the Board’s Debt and Financial Obligation Limit as established by the Ministry of Education from time to time.

Moved by Doug Newton
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

1. “The Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson and the Secretary or Treasurer of the Board are authorized on

behalf of the Board to borrow in accordance with section 243 of the Education Act from time to time by way of promissory note, or overdraft, or bankers acceptance from the Bankers of the Board or from any other approved lender a sum or sums not exceeding in the aggregate 45 million dollars (\$45,000,000) to meet, until current operating revenue is collected, the current operating expenditures of the Board for the Period and to give to the Bankers of the Board or to any other approved lender promissory notes or bankers acceptances, as the case may be, sealed with the corporate seal of the Board and signed by any two of the Chairperson or Vice-Chairperson and the Secretary or Treasurer of the Board for the sums borrowed plus interest at a rate to be agreed upon from time to time with the Bankers of the Board or any other approved lender; and

2. The interest charged on all sums borrowed pursuant to this Resolution, plus any related charges, is not to exceed the interest that would be payable at the prime lending rate of the chartered banks listed in Schedule 1 of the Bank Act (Canada) on the date of borrowing; and
3. The Secretary or Treasurer of the Board is authorized and directed to apply in payment of all sums borrowed, plus interest, all of the moneys collected or received in respect of the current operating revenues of the Board.”

CARRIED

10. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS ORGANIZATION MEETING

Moved by Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its Organization Meeting held on December 7, 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

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Shannon Mitchell

Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

“That the Organization Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara be now adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:17 p.m.

SUE BARNETT

Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI

Director of Education and Secretary

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2021

Private Session: 6:30 p.m. – 6:37 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 7:13 p.m. (Virtual Meetings)

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Tiya Patel, Salony Sharma, Kya Steinbach-Parker

OFFICIALS

Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Darren VanHooydonk, Stacy Veld, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Morgan

REGRETS

Lora Campbell and Jonathan Fast

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer McGugan

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Wendy Coit, 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.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“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 7:00 p.m.

C. SINGING OF ‘O CANADA’

The Board stood as ‘*O Canada*’ was performed by Diamond Trail Public School Choir, via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Doug Newton shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Kevin Maves
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated ~~October~~ November 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 Dough Newton
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“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

There was no Director’s Report and Recognition.

2. Educational Showcases

There were no educational showcases.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

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 Kate Baggott

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated November 30, 2021 be received.”

“That the Board of Trustees approve the boundary shown on Appendix A to transfer the Garrison Road PS Grade 1 to Grade 3 French Immersion program to McKay PS, as follows:

- All new French Immersion students registering for Grade 1 for the 2022-23 school year will attend McKay PS, with transportation; and,
- Grade 1 and Grade 2 French Immersion students currently enrolled at Garrison Road PS for the 2021-22 school year can choose to attend either Garrison Road PS or McKay PS for the 2022-23 school year, with transportation; and,

That the French Immersion program will no longer be offered at Garrison Road PS effective the last day of June 2023 and all students will be directed to McKay PS.”

“That the Diplôme D’études en Langue Française (DELF) Assessment be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel reported that due to declining enrolment, it was proposed to expand and strengthen the French Immersion(FI) program at McKay PS by directing newly enrolled students to McKay PS and allowing Grade 1 and 2 students currently enrolled at Garrison Road PS to choose McKay PS. It was reported that the FI program at Garrison Road PS will close June 2023. Trustee Schaubel shared that the Diplôme D’études en Langue Française (DELF) Assessment was presented and noted that DSBN Grade 12 students in French Immersion or Core French can challenge the DELF, at no cost. DSBN has had a success rate of 98% of those who have participated in DELF testing sessions.

Director Hoshizaki noted that the December 14, 2021 Program and Planning meeting has been cancelled.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions.

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

Director Hoshizaki noted that a former AN. Myer student, Tre Ford, has recently been named Canada's best university football player.

4. TRUSTEE COMMUNICATIONS AND SCHOOL LIAISON

Trustee Barnett shared that the draw tickets for the Education Foundation of Niagara "Porta Backyarda" will only be available until December 27, 2021.

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

There was no OPSBA report.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of January 2022 meetings was provided.
The January Days of Significance calendar was provided.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Doug Newton

“That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on December 7, 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 Kate Baggott
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:13 p.m.

SUE BARNETT
Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI
Director of Education and Secretary

Director's Report and Recognition

January 25, 2022

DIRECTOR'S RECOGNITION FOR EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS

[Richard Lowell, Lunchroom Supervisor, E.I. McCulley Public School](#)

Richard Lowell is a Lunchroom Supervisor at E.I. McCulley Public School and has been carrying out the role reliably and consistently for 11 years. He never misses a day and was very eager to come back after schools had been closed during the pandemic, so as not to miss another day, he even came in recently after having a root canal!

Richard cares about the students at E.I. McCulley and they know it! He's kind of like the school grandpa and is warmly greeted by the students each day. Richard donates treats for all of the students around holidays and special occasions, dresses up and participates in school spirit days, has made appearances as Santa Claus over the years, and is so proud to wear his Jaguar spirit wear. He is compassionate and supportive of students who find themselves in times of need.

When Richard comes in each day he checks in on any potential adjustments to the day, or routines, and makes sure pylons are set up on the tarmac on wet days when the school fields are not able to be used. He keeps an eye on student safety, makes sure things are running smoothly in the classrooms he supervises, and keeps track of which class has their turn on the playground...even making sure to find a way to make up for rainy days and keep things equal and fair between the classes! He takes pride in his role as Lunchroom Supervisor and by doing so has earned the trust and respect of the Jaguar community.

Richard is typically supervising the kindergarten and primary classes where he does more than just help with lunch containers with lids that are too tight or help clean up spills or fix stuck zippers. He takes time to talk with and listen to students, getting down to their level and making them feel so valued. He understands the importance of positive relationships with students and contributes to a positive and caring culture in the school. Richard is very much appreciated by the staff and students at E.I. McCulley and is most deserving of the Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions award! Congratulations Richard!

REPORT TO BOARD

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

DIRECTOR'S RECOGNITION FOR EXTRAORDINARY CONTRIBUTIONS

Jennifer Fricke, Derek Hockley, Kailyn Juras, Kelly Namtzu, Kerri Tonnies
FSP Team, Oakwood Public School

The Fundamental Skills Program (FSP) team at Oakwood Public School: Jennifer Fricke, Derek, Hockley, Kailyn Juras, Kelly Namtzu and Kerri Tonnies, work together to problem solve, make collaborative decisions and work cohesively to meet a common goal to support their students. This type of teamwork is vital to student growth and success in low enrolment classes.

At Oakwood, the FSP team's commitment to student success and ongoing teamwork is evident from the moment you walk into their classroom as there is a sense of well-being for every student. From the calm atmosphere the team has created to students smiling and working together while others work on their own. Each student has an individual set up to accommodate their specific needs, each happy and learning.

When working with the central support team, the FSP team at Oakwood are always open to new ideas and recommendations suggested. Together they work to create action plans to support some of the challenging situations that the team faces. Jennifer, Derek, Kailyn, Kelly and Kerri understand that putting some of these ideas into place means a lot of hard work and sticking with it in order to achieve results. In doing so, they show that they are flexible thinkers who work together to increase student achievement.

What is so impressive is how the team debriefs daily. This is when they reflect and make any needed adjustments so that the next day is even better. This is another example of the exemplary teamwork in their classroom. They listen to and value everyone's ideas, opinions and perspectives, while making decisions as a team. This simple practice at the end of the day has profound results on student achievement.

Oakwood is lucky to have an outstanding team that approaches their vocation with such positivity. Their care for the students, high expectations and ongoing commitment to student success are the reasons they make such a positive impact. Thank you Kailyn, Jennifer, Derek, Kerri and Kelly for showing your students that they matter! Congratulations on receiving the Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions award.

REPORT TO BOARD

Tuesday, January 25, 2022

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

'Explore Your Future' Virtual Mentorship Series

The District School Board of Niagara is partnering with Niagara College, Skills Ontario and Ontario Power Generation once again to provide the virtual mentorship series, 'Explore Your Future.' This speaker series highlights careers in trades and technology for Niagara's young women. Over February, March and April, four sector-specific virtual events will be presented by women who are currently working in the skilled trades, with the important goal of making female and non-binary students aware of the many lucrative career pathways they can take; ones they may not have traditionally considered. Students from all of our secondary schools have registered, and more students are expected to sign-up.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9, 2021

SEAC MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Linda Morrice (Chair) - Pathstone Mental Health, Samantha Sendzik-Sinclair (Vice Chair) - Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region, Nick Smith - Niagara Support Services, Kelly Cimek - Community Living Welland Pelham, Danielle Reynolds - Niagara FASD Coalition, Amy Dunn - Autism Ontario – Niagara, 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, Darren Vanhooydonk - Superintendent of Elementary Schools, Jodie Kerr - OPC Representative: Elementary, Karen Ferguson - OPC Representative: Secondary, Nikki Train - Student Achievement Leader, Special Education

Recording Secretary

Jennifer McGugan

1. WELCOME

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. STUDENT VOICE

Special Education Student Achievement Leader, Nikki Train introduced the student voice video from a SSTW student. Johanna Provost, principal at St. Catharines Collegiate Secondary School, introduced the student who has a passion for guitar, culinary arts, baseball and curling. His enthusiasm and positive attitude toward school was clear. Some of his accommodations include visual schedules, extended time limits, levelled breaks, and a SEA computer. The student aspires to have a career in culinary arts.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Agenda dated December 9, 2021 be approved as presented”

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no new business arising from the Minutes of November 11, 2021 SEAC meeting.

5. SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Superintendent Michael St. John provided an update on students who require nursing support in DSBN schools and the Home and Community Care Support Services (HCCSS) nursing shortage. He noted that the DSBN continues to maintain communication with HCCSS and work with schools, families and HCCSS to provide possible solutions in problem solving to make sure that students are accessing learning supports. Superintendent St. John participated in a Ministry meeting where they expressed that they are aware of the concerns around nursing shortages and that working toward a solution is a priority.

In a response to a question, Superintendent St. John noted that a DSBN survey indicates there are 14 students that are not attending school due to a lack of nursing care. School teams and consultants are connecting with these students and their families to provide access to programming where possible. Schools are allowing a temporary health care designate, determined by families, to come into schools with proper consent to support students without nursing care. Ontario Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and Home & Community Care Support Services have extended the self-directed Family Managed Home Care program to allow for a family to apply for a nurse to support their student. If approved the DSBN would work with the family and the nurse to establish an agreement. HCCSS has communicated this opportunity to families that have students with complex health care needs. Currently, we do not have any applicants.

Moved by Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the DSBN SEAC Committee draft a letter to the Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care bringing an awareness of the significant impact nursing shortages have had on students and their ability to attend school, and strongly encourage immediate action.”

CARRIED

Nikki Train, Special Education Student Achievement Leader, provided an update on the hiring of contract and casual Educational Assistant (EA) positions.

In response to a question, Nikki Train, Special Education Student Achievement Leader noted that the DSBN has an open posting for casual EAs to support absences.

6. TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Alex Bradnam provided a summary of the November 23, 2021 Board meeting which included an update on the lessons, stories, discussion, videos, presentations, and interactive displays used by schools to educate students about Treaties Recognition Week, and a video clip created by grade 12 Communication Technology students at Welland Centennial Secondary School. Trustee Mitchell highlighted the exceptional technological design projects by secondary students across the system and the Parent Involvement Committee School Council Chair event and PIC Virtual Speaker Series presentations. Also noted was an update from the Student Trustee Senate on their new learning about the Niagara Region Public Health Live Chat resource, as well as ongoing work by the students in mental health and well-being. The Policy Committee report noted revised policy G-40 to support students with prevalent medical conditions that require the administration of emergency rescue medication at school during medical emergencies and new policy based on PPM 166, G-09 Anti-Sex Trafficking – Keeping Students Safe. Policies being reviewed at the February 2022 meeting are now open for feedback.

7. ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION**Autism Ontario - Niagara**

Autism Ontario in partnership with Alpha Rhythm Roots is holding a virtual Kwanzaa drumming performance on December 29, 2021 from 6:30pm – 7:00pm, registration at <https://www.autismontario.com/>. The Niagara Chapter is transitioning along with other local chapters to a Regional model and amalgamating with Hamilton, Norfolk, Haldimand and Brant to be called "Niagara South". The office is moved into the MacBain Community Centre in Niagara Falls.

Community Living Welland Pelham

Community Living Ontario is having a "Together We're Better" contest for school staff and students during Inclusive Education month for the chance to win prizes. Deadline to enter is Friday, February 4, 2022. To enter send an email to contest@communitylivingontario.ca with the subject line "Together We're Better" and include your name, grade, teacher's name and email address, and your school's name and address. Submit a photo collage, story, or poem describing how your school, classroom, and/or extracurricular program actively supports inclusion of students with an intellectual or developmental disability, and why your school is better because everyone is learning together.

Niagara FASD Coalition

No report.

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region

LDANR is hosting a webinar presented by LearnStyle on the topic of Assistive Technology the evening of Wednesday, December 15. There are still spots available in LDANR's high-school transition program for Grade 7 and 8 students, as well as their post-secondary transition program for Grade 11 and 12 students, both begin the first week of February.

Niagara Support Services

No report.

Pathstone Mental Health

No report.

OPC Representative: Elementary

Community agencies are working together to support students (FACS, Pathstone and Contact Niagara). Administrators participated in VTRA workshops. Teachers have access to a variety of professional development, including report card writing, self-regulation in the regular classroom setting, first aid, and mental health. The School Culture Survey has been started and schools are holding Community Care food drives, spirit days, and door decorating. Antigen tests are being offered to families to use during the winter break.

OPC Representative: Secondary

The Grade 9 EQAO will be written between December 12 and January 21. There are continued preparations and planning for course selections for next year. Schools are holding spirit weeks, participating in the School Culture Survey, and the end of semester culminating assessments will begin soon.

8. CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence was received from the Waterloo Region District School board requesting that the Minister commit to ensuring that all online and/or learning courses must be consistently maintained with enabled links and resources that meet accessibility standards.

The committee confirmed that a letter of support will be written on this matter.

9. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There were no questions received.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Amy Dunn

Seconded by Samantha Sendzik-Sinclair

"That this meeting of the SEAC Committee be now adjourned."

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:13 pm.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 2022

SEAC MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Committee Members Present

Linda Morrice (Chair) - Pathstone Mental Health, Samantha Sendzik-Sinclair (Vice Chair) - Learning Disabilities Association Niagara Region, Nick Smith - Niagara Support Services, Brent Beaudoin - VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children, Danielle Reynolds - Niagara FASD Coalition, Amy Dunn - Autism Ontario – Niagara, 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, Darren Vanhooydonk - Superintendent of Elementary Schools, Jodie Kerr - OPC Representative: Elementary, Karen Ferguson - OPC Representative: Secondary, Nikki Train - Student Achievement Leader, Special Education

Recording Secretary

Jennifer McGugan

1. WELCOME

Quorum was established and the Special Education Advisory Committee (SEAC) meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. STUDENT VOICE

Special Education Student Achievement Leader, Nikki Train introduced the student voice video from a grade 8 student. Mario Zeoli, principal at Jeanne Sauve French Immersion Public School, introduced the student who enjoys swimming, volleyball and learning about history. She is exceptional at advocating for her needs and has a passion for raising awareness about those who are deaf and hard of hearing. She is supported in her classroom with a sound field speaker, microphones, FM receiver and noise dampeners.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Moved by Amy Dunn

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Agenda dated January 13, 2022 be approved as presented”

CARRIED

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

There was no new business arising from the Minutes of December 9, 2021 SEAC meeting.

5. PROJECT SEARCH

Tracy Sacco, Patrick Carew and Karen Howie shared with the committee details about Project Search that will be launching in September 2022. Project Search is an employment preparation program for students with a primary diagnosis of an intellectual or developmental disability who are in their final year of high school.

6. SPECIAL EDUCATION REPORT

Nikki Train, Special Education Student Achievement Leader, provided an update on staff PD opportunities next week. There will be a variety of opportunities for staff, as well as Behaviour Management Systems (BMS) training. BMS training is replacing the former Non-Violent Crisis Intervention (NVCI) training. She reported that staff are working on report cards and that IEPs will be reviewed and revised accordingly for term two. Staff will have access to support and training in writing IEP expectations. Nikki shared that preschool transition meetings have begun with regional partners, as well as Kindergarten open houses.

Superintendent Michael St. John provided an update on the return to learning for this week. On Tuesday, January 11, remote learning began and on Wednesday, January 12, in-person learning began in exceptional circumstances where students could not be accommodated remotely. There were 375 students that attended this week in 31 different school sites. All students will return to in-person learning on January 17. This week students were well supported with teaching, transportation and nursing support through HCCSS. Messaging went out to parents today about the new parameters around in-person learning which includes details on the COVID-19 Screener, Rapid Antigen Tests, Masking, and Isolation Timeline and Protocols. Remote learning opportunities will be provided for families not ready to return to in-person learning. This support will be available for a few more weeks until they feel more comfortable having their children return. Students with special learning needs who choose to remain remote during this time will have access to supports and accommodations which may include LRT, EA and central staff support.

7. TRUSTEE REPORT

Trustee Alex Bradnam provided a summary of the December 7, 2021 Organization Meeting and the Board Meeting. The election at the Organization meeting for the new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson for the District School Board of Niagara resulted in Trustee Sue Barnett being acclaimed as Chairperson and Trustee Alex Bradnam being elected to the position of Vice Chairperson. After the Organization Meeting the business of the Board was undertaken, with a single report from the Program and Planning Committee that included a report on the changes to the French Immersion programs at Garrison Road and McKay Public Schools. To expand and strengthen the French Immersion (FI) program at McKay PS newly enrolled students will be directed to McKay PS, and current Grade 1 and 2 students enrolled at Garrison Road PS will be allowed to choose McKay PS. The FI program at Garrison Road PS will close June 2023.

8. ASSOCIATION AND BOARD INFORMATION

Autism Ontario - Niagara

Take home kits are being delivered to families with a variety of activities. A new Fund Development Coordinator has been hired. Plan to meet the new staff covering for Amy Dunn at the next SEAC meeting.

Niagara FASD Coalition

No report.

Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region

LDA Halton-Hamilton is hosting their Solutions for Learning Conference for Educators virtually on March 4th and 5th. Registration is currently open on their website: <https://www.ldahh.ca/sfl11/>. LDANR's January webinar will be taking place virtually on Wednesday, January 19th at 6:00 pm on the topic of Psychological Assessments presented by Dr. Michelle Lohnes of the West Niagara Psychology Centre. Registration information can be found on our website <https://www.ldaniagara.org>. LDANR's Winter programs begin the week of January 31st. Spots are still available in the high-school and post-secondary transition programs. Summer Camp applications will open on Monday, February 28th.

Niagara Support Services

No report.

Pathstone Mental Health

Pathstone Mental Health and the Research Institute have worked together on research projects. One is in partnership with the University of Western Ontario and interRAI. The purpose of this study is to evaluate the effect of the trauma-informed care training developed by Western on the improved use of the interRAI ChYMH CAPs from a trauma-informed perspective. Dr. Shannon Stewart (Faculty of Education - Western) is the Principal Investigator. Another project is in partnership with Dr. Dawn Good and Dr. Caitlyn Good from Brock University. Research was conducted in collaboration with staff and clients from Pathstone Mental Health. The goal of the research was to better understand the factors that make a child or adolescent "complex" and contribute to their poor mental health outcomes.

VOICE for Deaf and Hard of Hearing Children

There has been a full board change at VOICE. There is a plan in place to run the annual VOICE conference in the spring.

OPC Representative: Elementary

Workshops were offered to teachers on Monday as they were preparing for Virtual learning. EAs and LRTs are working to support students remotely. Teachers are working on report cards. Gr. 8 - Gr. 9 course planners and transition planning is moving forward. Technology has been handed out to support with virtual learning. N-95 masks have been delivered to schools and Covid screening has been updated for both staff and students.

OPC Representative: Secondary

Schools are wrapping up Semester 1 and preparing for Semester 2. Students will be doing summative assessments instead of formal exams. All learners will be accommodated. Schools are continuing to gather course selections and are planning for next year. Guidelines are being communicated for the return to in-person learning on Monday.

9. CORRESPONDENCE

A letter of support was sent to support the correspondence received from the Waterloo Region District School board requesting that the Minister commit to ensuring that all online and/or learning courses be consistently maintained and resources meet accessibility standards.

A letter was sent to the Ministers of Education and Health requesting immediate action to address the nursing shortages that are impacting the ability for some students to attend school.

10. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There were no questions received.

11. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Amy Dunn

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That this meeting of the SEAC Committee be now adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:30 pm.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 2021

STUDENT TRUSTEE SENATE MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Student Trustees

Tiya Patel - Stamford Collegiate Secondary
Salony Sharma - Westlane Secondary School
Kya Steinbach - Parker, Greater Fort Erie Secondary School

School Representatives

A.N. Myer - Nathan Sirianni	Grimsby - Georgia Rogers
A.N. Myer - Finesse Warriner	Laura Secord - Ayla Jamal
Beamsville - Samantha Gaka	Laura Secord – Sydney Robbs
Beamsville - William Bridger	Port Colborne – Emma Laur
DSBN Academy - Sandra Lee	Port Colborne – Samuel Tonnies
DSBN Academy - Kashish Modi	St. Catharines Collegiate - Tallon Cooper
E.L. Crossley – Natalie Anderson	St. Catharines Collegiate - Alihan Wahid
E.L. Crossley - Kayla McCall	Sir Winston Churchill – Owen Hildebrand
Eastdale - Jerusha Kumar	Sir Winston Churchill - Dheiksha Jayasankar
Eastdale - Jordan Kumar	Stamford - Mishaal Malik
Eden – Adrienne Rosete	Stamford - Jacob O’Connor
Eden - Alexa Wijnands	Thorold – Duaa Abbasi
Governor Simcoe - Manara Abdelgadir	Thorold - Grace Sargeant
Governor Simcoe – Jillian Archer	Welland Centennial - Donghwui Kim
Greater Fort Erie - Juliann Marcel	Welland Centennial – Zoe Ventnor
Greater Fort Erie – Ella Kucman	Westlane - Aidan Bilon
Grimsby - Sean Hamad	Westlane – Sonam Dhillon

Administrative Advisors

Leanne Smith - Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement
Robin Lakeit - Student Achievement Leader, Student Success
Susan Santesso - Teacher Consultant, Student Success

Trustees

Trustee Nancy Beamer and Trustee Dave Schaubel

Regrets

Kim Carruthers (Principal, A.N. Myer Secondary School); Amanda Greensides (Beamsville)

Recording Secretary

Nichola Lee - Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

A. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Salony began the meeting with an Acknowledgement of Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Governor Simcoe motioned for the agenda to be approved. Stamford seconded the motion. **CARRIED**

C. RETURN TO FOUR PERIOD SCHEDULING

The student Trustees opened the floor to Senators to discuss the return to a four-period schedule, and uncertainties about school closures.

D. DSBN INDIGENOUS STUDENT LEADERSHIP CIRCLE

Kya reported that she is working with the DSBN Indigenous Team to support Indigenous student voice with the creation of a group modeled on the Student Trustee Senate for Indigenous students to join.

E. SENATE SUBCOMMITTEES

Communications – the group discussed Senator Introductions for the Senate Instagram page to promote Student Trustee Senate. They want to focus on grade 9 students to build awareness and encourage them to join Senate.

Student Success – the subcommittee discussed the absence of MSIP in Semester Two timetables.

Mental Health - the subcommittee shared ideas to offer tangible mental health and well-being supports at DSBN schools, and to find ways to share recommendations at the Board level.

G. COMMUNITY SERVICE HOURS

Senators can record their participation in Student Trustee Senate towards their Community Involvement hours by sending the information to Ms. Santesso susan.santesso@dsbn.org.

H. MOTION TO ADJOURN

Stamford motioned to adjourn; Laura Secord seconded the motion.

CARRIED

Meeting adjourned at 4:55p.m.

I. NEXT MEETING

February 15, 2022

TUESDAY, JANUARY 18, 2022

Public Session – 5:30 pm virtual

EQUITY, INCLUSION AND ANTI-RACISM TRUSTEE ADVISORY COMMITTEE MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Trustee Committee Members

Shannon Mitchell (Chair), Nancy Beamer, Alex Bradnam, Doug Newton, Elizabeth Klassen

Student Trustee

Kya Steinbach-Parker

Committee Members

Kelly Pisek (Superintendent of Education), Pratima Burton (Equity Student Achievement Leader – K-12), Zakia Hamdani (Equity Consultant – K-12), Maryam Safdar Ali (Human Rights Advisor)

Guests

Sue Barnett (Chair of the Board)

Recording Secretary

Jennifer Reid

A. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

Trustee Shannon Mitchell welcomed committee members and guests to the second Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee meeting of the 2021-2022 school year.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Doug Newton

C. COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE – UPDATE

Trustee Mitchell shared that the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Community Advisory committee had its second meeting on January 11, 2022. Updates were shared with committee members on, Culturally and Historically Responsive Education, Gender Guidelines, and policy G-03: Equity and Inclusive Education.

Director Hoshizaki gave an update on the School Resource Officer Program. He shared that the Niagara Regional Police Services is looking to take a more global approach in revising the program and want to work with community partners, student senate, principals, and school councils.

The Gender Guidelines update was to inform the committee that it is still under review. The intent of the guidelines is to be responsive to the needs of the student and to the school supporting the student. Community members volunteered to work with the Equity Team on revising these guidelines.

The Committee was updated on the new dates for the elementary School Culture Survey. The survey for elementary will open on February 7.

It was shared that DSBN was successful in acquiring a \$25 000 grant from the David S. Howes Grant Program. Trustee Mitchell added that this topic is included on this evening's agenda as well.

Committee members were given an update on policy G-03: Equity and Inclusive Education. It was stated that the policy was presented and approved by Trustees at the November Policy Committee meeting and that the revised policy is linked on the DSBN policy webpage as well as the Equity webpage.

Committee members were given the opportunity to give input in the planning of community-based heritage months events.

D. BUILDING CULTURAL AWARENESS SERIES – DISRUPTING ISLAMOPHOBIA

Consultant Zakia Hamdani shared that the development of the Building Cultural Awareness series was created to extend the cultural learning that DSBN staff have been participating in, to the community. On October 28th, 2021 DSBN hosted the first topic for this series, Disrupting Islamophobia. These community events are in partnership with community members and will correspond with the heritage months outlined in the Days of Significance Calendar.

E. TOES: WHAT THEY SEE IS WHAT THEY WILL BE

System Administrator Pratima Burton shared that DSBN was successful in receiving a \$25 000 grant from the David S. Howes Fund grant from the Niagara Community Foundation. The purpose of the grant is to partnership with Tools of Empowerment for Success (TOES) Niagara to offer “What They See Is What They Will Be”, a mentorship program for black youth. Schools are reaching out to families and students to enroll in the online program that will commence on February 1, 2022. All applicants have been accepted in the past with previous partnerships. Further information is detailed in the committee report.

F. CULTURALLY & HISTORICALLY RESPONSIVE EDUCATION – CULTIVATING GENIUS

System Administrator Pratima Burton gave an update on the learning journey DSBN staff are engaging in with Dr. Gholdy Muhammad, author of Cultivating Genius. To expand the learning further, Dr. Gholdy Muhammad will be offering a session for administrators on January 27th. On the same day, the Parent Involvement Committee will be offering a session for families at 6:30 p.m.

G. LEARNING SKILLS THROUGH AN EQUITY LENS (anti-bias education)

Superintendent Kelly Pisek provided an update on the Principal Institute and shared that on November 4th, elementary administrators participated in a session that the Equity Team held on Learning Skills Through an Equity Lens. Further details are outlined in the report to the committee.

H. BRAVE SPACE GROUPS

Consultant Zakia Hamdani updated the committee on the initiative brave space groups. Currently there are eight active groups in secondary schools and other secondary schools are continuing to reach out and are planning to implement.

I. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

J. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Nancy Beamer

Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee be adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:02 p.m.

K. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 8, 2022 @ 5:30

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021

SAL MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Sue Barnett, Trustee (alternate)
Caroline Graham, John Howard Society of Niagara
Robin Lakeit, Student Achievement Leader, Student Success
Tracy Sacco, Student Achievement Leader, Alternative Education
Leanne Smith, Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement

ADMINISTRATION/RESOURCE

Melinda Dackiw, SAL & Attendance Secretary
Nadia Laselva, Attendance Counsellor
Nichola Lee, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

GUESTS

Jessica Folino, Vice-Principal, Grimsby Secondary
Norbert Kuebeck, Vice-Principal, Eastdale Secondary
Monika Pries-Klassen, Vice-Principal, DSBN Academy

REGRETS

Lora Campbell, Trustee

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE SAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Student Achievement Leader Robin Lakeit called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.
The Committee met to review the following cases:

B. SAL CASES

212-008

MC D.O.B 30/08/2005 16 yrs. 3 mos.

The student's SAL plan is to link co-op credits to their current employment. MC will also earn credits through night school. The Pathways program is being considered for semester two. The student receives community supports and the Committee recommends a connection to the school social worker.

MC has been approved for SAL.

212-009

NS D.O.B. 15/08/2005 16 yrs. 3 mos.

The student has struggled with attendance and would like to gain work experience and skills by enrolling in the John Howard Society's *Recipe for Success* program. To help the student focus on next steps, they will work on GWL30. The Committee recommends a referral to the school social worker.

NS has been approved for SAL.

212-010

CB D.O.B. 30/06/2004 17 yrs. 5 mos.

CB's goal is to graduate from high school and pursue culinary or counselling work. The student is connected to the school social worker and will work on GLE30. The Committee recommends co-op. CB student is interested in completing credits in summer school.

CB has been approved for SAL.

212-011

AP D.O.B. 04/08/2004 17 yrs. 7 mos.

The student's immediate goal is to gain work experience, so the Committee recommends the *Transition to Employment* program. AP is also focussing on completing Community Involvement Hours. They are connected to the school social worker and will work on MEL3E and HSE4M.

AP has been approved for SAL.

212-012

DP D.O.B. 05/01/2004 17 yrs. 4 mos.

The student experiences anxiety in the regular classroom and receives community supports. The Committee recommends a connection to the school social worker. DP is working part-time, and the Committee recommends co-op in future.

DP has been approved for SAL.

C. SAL CASE REVIEW

The Committee reviewed seven cases that are active. Six cases are active and compliant with the SAL plans. One case requires follow up due to lack of communication from the student.

D. ADJOURNMENT OF THE SAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 3:15pm

SAL MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2021



WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022

SAL MINUTES

COMMITTEE MEMBERS PRESENT

Lora Campbell, Trustee
Caroline Graham, John Howard Society of Niagara
Robin Lakeit, Student Achievement Leader, Student Success
Tracy Sacco, Student Achievement Leader, Alternative Education
Leanne Smith, Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement

ADMINISTRATION/RESOURCE

Melinda Dackiw, SAL & Attendance Secretary
Nadia Laselva, Attendance Counsellor
Nichola Lee, Administrative Assistant to the Superintendent

GUESTS

Karen Ferguson, Principal, Thorold Secondary
Jessica Folino, Vice-Principal, Grimsby Secondary

A. COMMENCEMENT OF THE SAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Student Achievement Leader Robin Lakeit called the meeting to order at 2:30 pm.
The Committee met to review the following cases:

B. SAL CASES

212-013

OR D.O.B. 15/09/2004 17yrs / 4 mths

Due to declining health the student has struggled in the regular classroom. OR has good supports from family and external agencies, and their goal is to return to regular programming. The Committee recommends that co-op credits are linked to part time work with the support of the co-op teacher. DCO30

OR has been approved for SAL.

212-014

MH D.O.B. 05/03/2005 16yrs / 8 mths

MH is connected to resource staff and a DSBN social worker to keep connected to school. The student lives independently but remains connected to family. The SAL plan is for MH to work on ENG2P, MEL3E and GLC2O in the Resource Room. The student will connect a part time job to co-op credits. The Committee suggests the student consider Niagara Link.

MH has been approved for SAL.

212-015

HJ D.O.B. 07/01/2006 16 yrs. 0 mths

The student has complex needs and is supported by numerous agencies. HJ does not engage in the regular school environment. The student enjoys hands-on activities and is interested in working in skilled trades. Committee recommends they work on MAT1L weekly at school.

HJ has been approved for SAL.

C. SAL CASE REVIEW

The Committee reviewed thirteen (13) cases that are active. (13) cases are active and compliant with the SAL plans.

D. ADJOURNMENT OF THE SAL COMMITTEE MEETING

The meeting adjourned at 3:00pm

E. NEXT SAL COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday, February 9, 2022

FINANCE COMMITTEE MINUTES

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 19, 2022

Public Session: 5:30 p.m. (Virtual Meeting)

ATTENDANCE

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kevin Maves (Trustee, Committee Chair), Sue Barnett (Board Chair),
Lora Campbell (Trustee), Jonathan Fast (Trustee)

ADMINISTRATION

Stacy Veld (Superintendent of Business Services),
Bob Dunn (Controller of Facility Services), Mary Anne Gage (Superintendent of Education),
Nicky Westlake (Controller of Finance)

TRUSTEE GUESTS

Alex Bradnam (Board Vice-Chair), Nancy Beamer, Doug Newton

RECORDING SECRETARY

Terri Cook

A. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kevin Maves called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Sue Barnett

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the agenda be approved as presented.”

CARRIED

C. CAPITAL PROJECTS VERBAL UPDATE

Superintendent of Business Services Stacy Veld stated that Facility staff have been working with the architects on design and costing with respect to the additions at Peace Bridge PS, Smith PS and the new joint school in Wainfleet. All required information has been submitted to the Ministry of Education and DSBN is waiting for approval to proceed to tender.

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

Through frequent reporting to the Ministry of Education, School Boards across the province have advised that ongoing and planned construction projects are potentially facing increased costs from contractors as a result of supply chain issues and commodity price increases that have occurred during the pandemic. It is anticipated that this may impact some of the DSBN's school projects and Superintendent Veld wanted Trustees to be kept apprised of the provincial direction being provided to the Ministry with respect to capital costs.

As approved in the Multi-Year Capital Plan by the Board of Trustees, DSBN staff will be addressing all school renewal needs in the planned additions at Smith PS and Peace Bridge PS schools of almost \$4M dollars and have requested Ministry funding for unique site costs on these projects of \$1.6M which is a common and past practice for School Boards once they have gone through the cost consultation process.

The design and costing phase of both the new school in Niagara Falls and the daycare addition at Lakeview PS are currently underway.

Superintendent Veld shared that as a result of significant revisions at Smith PS which include additional parking, creating a bus drop off and pick up area, and creating a safety berm along the north property line, a CN rail requirement, a total of 27 trees will need to be removed. DSBN has committed to plant 72 new trees consisting of eight different varieties as well as birds nest spruce trees along the front of the building. This requirement is part of the Site Plan Agreement issued by the Town of Grimsby.

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Sue Barnett

"That the Capital Projects Verbal Update be received for information."

CARRIED

D. NIAGARA STUDENT TRANSPORTATION SERVICES: 2020-21 ANNUAL REPORT AND 2021-22 ANNUAL PLAN

Superintendent Veld presented the Niagara Student Transportation Services (NSTS) 2020-21 Annual Report and the NSTS 2021-22 Annual Plan. NSTS historically presents this information to their Board of Directors at their annual meeting held in December. The reports are being shared with Trustees for information regarding NSTS's accomplishments over the past year and their plans for next year.

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Sue Barnett

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

“That the Niagara Student Transportation Services – 2020-21 Annual Report and 2021-22 Annual Plan be received for information.”

CARRIED

E. 2021-22 INTERIM FINANCIAL REPORT

Controller of Finance Nicky Westlake presented the first 2021-22 Interim Financial Report which is based on the revised estimates completed and submitted to the Ministry. The report provides a comparison of year-to-date actual revenue and expenditures to the prior year, explains key variances from budget, and forms a conclusion as to the projected surplus or deficit for the year.

Based on preliminary October 31, 2021 actual enrolment, total projected enrolment for the year is above budget by 136 ADE or 0.3%, with elementary enrolment projecting above budget by 236 ADE and secondary enrolment projecting below budget by 100 ADE. Included in the First Interim report are additional funds, both revenue and expenses for COVID-19 funding supports as well as other partnership and priority funds grants, that were announced after completing the annual budget.

After the approval of the budget, the Ministry of Education announced additional funds for COVID-19 Funding Supports, as well as other Partnership and Priority Funds (PPF) grants.

Revised estimates include an increase to revenue and expenditures for additional staffing, health and safety supports, special education and mental health, enhanced cleaning, and personal protective equipment. The first Interim Financial Report projects the use of \$4.9M of accumulated surplus to balance the budget which is consistent with the approved budget. The preliminary projection represents only two months of DSBN’s fiscal year. Updated projections of the 2021-22 will be provided at both the April and June 2022 Finance Committee meetings.

Moved by Lora Campbell

Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the 2021-22 Interim Financial Report, reflecting updated enrolments for October 31, 2021, and the corresponding changes in revenues and expenditures, be received.”

CARRIED

FINANCE COMMITTEE

Wednesday, January 19, 2022

F. SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

Controller of Finance Nicky Westlake presented the Summary of Accounts reports which summarizes the cash outflow of expenditures paid during the months of October, November, and December 2021. The summary highlights the costs associated with employee benefits, constructions/repairs & maintenance, transportation, utilities, professional services, information technology purchases and the other non-salary expenditures. The timing of the expenditures is reported on a cash-basis and does not include accruals for accounting purposes. The information in this report is not intended to match the timing of information presented in quarterly and annual financial reports.

Moved by Sue Barnett

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of October, November, and December 2021, totaling \$78,914,199 be received.”

CARRIED

G. SUMMARY OF AWARD OF CONTRACTS

Superintendent Veld stated that the Summary of Award of Contracts is presented to Trustees to provide information with respect to contracts awarded that are equal to or greater than \$750,000. The contract awarded during October 1 and December 31, 2021 was for Chromebook and Cloud Book Devices and Services to two vendors. The award is for a three-year period with two possible one-year extensions.

Moved by Lora Campbell

Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ended December 31, 2021, be received.”

CARRIED

H. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Sue Barnett

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Finance Committee meeting be adjourned.”

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 5:55 p.m.

Next meeting – February 16, 2022
Location – TBD



January 26, 2022

The Honourable Doug Ford
Premier of Ontario

The Honourable Stephen Lecce
Ontario Minister of Education

Dr. Kieran Moore
Chief Medical Officer of Health
Ontario Ministry of Health

Dr. Mustafa Hirji
Medical Officer of Health/Commissioner (Acting)
Niagara Region

Re: Letter of Support of OPSBA’s Statement

Trustees of the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) are supportive of the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association’s (OPSBA) January 12, 2022 statement in response to Minister Lecce’s confirmation that schools will resume in-person learning on January 17, 2022.

OPSBA Statement

“Throughout the pandemic, we have emphasized the importance of in-person learning to the health, development, and well-being of our students. With that said, we previously recommended a variety of measures to the government to ensure that our schools are as safe as possible for our staff and students. Those measures include:

- 1. Priority access for students and all school staff to receive all of the vaccine doses for which they are eligible.*
- 2. Providing students and all school staff access to PCR testing in order to maintain confidence in school safety through accurate tracking, and to minimize disruptions resulting from quarantining.*
- 3. Providing additional PPE, including N95 masks to school staff as soon as possible, and*
- 4. Adding COVID-19 to the list of Designated Diseases under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA).*

The government has acted on a number of these items, but some additional work is needed on others.

We are pleased to see that a number of clinics have been set up in a variety of locations across the province to provide priority vaccine access to school staff. We encourage the government and public health units to ensure that this access is provided to school staff in all parts of the province.

We are grateful for the delivery of N95 masks for staff to school boards across the province over the past week, and we request that the government ensure that school boards are provided with a sufficient supply for as long as is needed to keep our schools as safe as possible.

We understand and agree with the need to prioritize access to PCR testing for those working in healthcare and long-term care, however ask that consideration be given to increasing the province’s testing capacity to allow access for school staff and students. It is extremely important that the delivery of the Rapid Antigen Tests for staff and students happens as soon as possible. There are many in our school communities who remain concerned about our decreased ability to accurately track cases in our schools.

Finally, we encourage the government to use every tool available to them to increase vaccination rates – particularly among our 5 to 11-year-old students. School boards will work closely with Public Health Units to implement in-school vaccination clinics, and provide any other support needed to help increase vaccination rates. We are increasingly concerned about reports of significant discrepancies in youth vaccination rates on a region-by-region and neighbourhood-by-neighbourhood basis. We continue to recommend that the government add COVID-19 to the list of Designated Diseases under the Immunization of School Pupils Act (ISPA).

We thank all of the dedicated education workers, sector leaders, parents, and students for their dedication and resilience throughout this challenging period.

– Cathy Abraham, OPSBA President”

The DSBN encourages the Province to continue to work with Ontario school boards to create the safest school environment possible for our staff and students.

Sincerely,

Sue Barnett
Chair

c. Cathy Abraham, President, OPSBA
OPSBA Board of Directors

FEB 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01 Program and Planning 5:30 pm	02 PIC 5:30 pm	03	04	05
06	07	08 Policy 5:30 pm	09 SAL 2:00 pm	10 SEAC 5:30 pm	11	12
13	14	15 Student Trustee Senate Retreat 9:00 am	16 Finance 5:30 pm	17	18	19
20	21	22 Board Meeting COW 6:15 pm Regular 7 pm	23	24	25	26
27	28					

FEBRUARY 2022

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		01 Lunar New Year* World Hijab Day	02	03 Setsubun	04	05 Vasant Panchami
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14 Valentine's Day Kindness Awareness Week (Feb 14-18)	15 Buddha's Death (Nirvana Day)	16	17	18	19
20 World Day of Social Justice	21 Family Day International Mother Language Day	22	23 Pink Shirt Day	24	25 Avyám-i-Há (Feb 25 – Mar 1)	26
17	28					

NOTE: Days of Significance/Holy Days may vary a few days before or after the indicated date due to the observance of the lunar calendar for some cultures/faiths and time zones.

** Denotes Days of Significance/Holy Days that begin in **the evening before** the indicated time.*