



PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, February 2, 2021
5:30 pm – M.S. Teams
AGENDA**

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of the Agenda
3. Business Arising from the Minutes
4. New Business:
 - 2021-2022 School Year CalendarJohn Dickson
 - Forest of Reading Update Mary Ann Gage & Helen McGregor
5. Other Business
6. Adjournment
7. Next Meeting: Tuesday, March 9, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.



Report to Program and Planning Committee Tuesday, February 2, 2021

Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars 2021-2022

Background:

The Education Act, *Regulation 304 — School Year Calendar, Professional Activity Days*, sets the requirements for the preparation and submission of school year calendars to the Ministry of Education for approval.

The 2021-2022 calendar provides for 196 possible school days between September 1, 2021 and June 30, 2022. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days shall be designated as professional activity days. In addition, up to four days may be designated by the Board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The Board may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days.

Proposed Modifications to 2021-2022 School Year Calendar:

The Education Act permits a board to designate a school year and school holidays that are different from those prescribed by the Ministry. As such, DSBN is proposing a modified calendar for 2021-22, which includes the following:

- designate two Professional Activity Days at the beginning of the September – Wednesday, September 1st and Thursday, September 2nd. Since we still face much uncertainty with respect to our 2021-2022 school year, it would be advantageous to have two days before school begins to prepare for the new school year.
- designate Friday, December 24, 2021 as a Board Holiday AND move the two-week Winter Break from Monday, December 20, 2021-Friday, December 31, 2021 to Monday, December 27, 2021-January 7, 2022.

A 2021-2022 calendar that includes the above changes meets all other school calendar requirements including 194 school days and includes 7 professional activity days between September 1st and June 30th.

Consultation Process:

School Year Calendar Committee meetings and electronic communication.

The committee members include:

- John Dickson, Superintendent
- Pam Spero, OPC
- Sharon Burns, OPC
- Jennifer Sims Murray, ETFO
- Shannon Smith, OSSTF
- Tara Colavecchia, APSSP
- Brenda Mahoney, CUPE
- Lisa Mooney, PIC
- Paulette Alcox, SESS

Committee members were tasked with the following:

- Review calendar year information
- Create draft Elementary and Secondary school year calendars
- Vet as appropriate with the groups represented (includes all Elementary and Secondary Principals, Vice-Principals, School Chairs, Parent Involvement Committee and all Federations and Unions)
- Gather feedback
- Vet drafts through Senior Administration
- Consult with the co-terminus Board to achieve alignment

Note: Once the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendar has been approved by the Board and the Ministry, the system will be informed.

Timeline:

- ☐ Program and Planning — February 3, 2021
- ☐ Board — February 23, 2021
- ☐ Ministry Submission — (On or before) March 1, 2021

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS FOR 2021-2022**Professional Activity Days**

In accordance with the *Education Act, Regulation 304 — School Year Calendar*, the following seven days have been identified as Professional Activity Days for both elementary and secondary panels for 2021-2022:

Elementary Professional Activity Days

- Wednesday, September 1, 2021
- Thursday, September 2, 2021
- Friday, November 19, 2021
- Friday, January 21, 2022 - Assessment Report Card Writing
- Friday, February 18, 2022
- Friday, June 10, 2022 - Assessment Report Card Writing
- Thursday, June 30, 2022

Secondary Professional Activity Days

- Wednesday, September 1, 2021
- Thursday, September 2, 2021
- Friday, November 19, 2021
- Wednesday, February 2, 2022 – Turn Around Day
- Friday, February 18, 2022
- Wednesday, June 29, 2022
- Thursday, June 30, 2022

Secondary Examination Days

- Semester 1: Wednesday, January 26 — Tuesday, February 1, 2022
- Semester 2: Wednesday, June 22 — Tuesday, June 28, 2022

Board & Civic Holidays

- Labour Day Monday, September 6, 2021
- Thanksgiving Day Monday, October 11, 2021
- Board Holiday Friday, December 24, 2021
- Winter Break Monday, December 27, 2021– Friday, January 7, 2022
- Family Day Monday, February 21, 2022
- March Break Monday, March 14 – Friday, March 18, 2022

- Good Friday Friday, April 15, 2022
- Easter Monday Monday, April 18, 2022
- Victoria Day Monday, May 23, 2022

Recommendation:

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

Respectfully submitted by
John Dickson, Area 3 - Superintendent of Education (Elementary)
Date: February 2, 2021

For further information, please contact John Dickson or the Director of Education.

DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY DAYS

School Year Calendar 2021-2022

DATE	PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY EVENT
September 1, 2021	Elementary and Secondary
September 2, 2021	Elementary and Secondary
November 19, 2021	Elementary and Secondary
January 21, 2022	Elementary – Assessment Report Card Writing
February 2, 2022	Secondary – Turn Around Day activities related to promotion / class placement and school growth plan summary
February 18, 2022	Elementary and Secondary
June 10, 2022	Elementary - Assessment Report Card Writing
June 29, 2022	Secondary
June 30, 2022	Elementary and Secondary



Program and Planning Meeting Forest of Reading Update February 2, 2021

Background

The Forest of Reading program is Canada's largest recreational reading program and is the only book award program where children and young adults pick the winner!

The English school-aged programs are Blue Spruce, Silver Birch, Yellow Cedar, Red Maple, and White Pine. The goal of the DSNB Blue Spruce program for early learners is to promote family engagement and early literacy. The goals of the DSNB Silver Birch, Yellow Cedar and Red Maple programs for junior and intermediate students are to nurture a community of lifelong readers, connect readers beyond the classroom, honour student voice, promote appreciation of Canadian authors and illustrators and celebrate the accomplishments of dedicated readers.

DSNB elementary and secondary schools have been participating in this valuable opportunity for our students with your support for many years. This year we have adapted our approach to allow students to participate in a series of virtual opportunities.

This year's Forest of Reading nominated titles are listed [here](#).

Elementary Update

This year's reimagined program presents a unique opportunity to connect readers and educators beyond their classroom and beyond their school. As a district, we are proud to continue with the Forest of Reading in a virtual environment and have invested in e-books to support instruction and reading for enjoyment. Students of all ages can participate simply by reading.

Additionally, for Silver Birch, Yellow Cedar and Red Maple readers in grades 5-8, student voice will be invited through board-wide asynchronous book club discussions facilitated by dedicated student ambassadors and educator champions. Students may also participate in monthly synchronous book club meetings, coordinated by Curriculum Support Services, that will feature book related trivia opportunities and author talks with a question and answer period.

The DSNB Forest of Reading will culminate with "A Week in the Forest" during the first week of May. A daily virtual celebration will be held for each of the programs. Families and our youngest readers in Kindergarten to Grade 3 will come together for a Blue Spruce family-friendly event involving literacy related fun. Silver Birch, Yellow Cedar and Red Maple students in grades 5-8 will select an interactive workshop inspired by one of the Forest of Reading titles.

Secondary Update

DSNB Secondary is pleased to be offering another year of *#DSNBreads* with some excellent new additions. Along with synchronous and asynchronous events and discussions in D2L and via our *#DSNBreads* website, we are excited to be adding a new French component to

#DSBNReads and the Forest of Reading for 2021. La Forêt de la lecture: Mélèze & Tamarac *#lisonsensemble* will allow students to participate in these events with other students in French.

This year's events will begin with Student Ambassador Training that will take place in February. This leadership opportunity will allow Student Ambassadors to lead other students in virtual events including book clubs, asynchronous/synchronous book talks, and an author speaker series based on this year's White Pine, Mélèze & Tamarac books, and Book Love texts. These events and resources will extend throughout semester two.

Central resources have been created by the Curriculum Support Services Secondary team to help teachers easily embed engaging activities into their curriculum. Teachers and Library Technicians will receive resources to support running successful virtual book clubs and extracurricular events.

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Anne Gage, Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement (K-8)
Helen McGregor, Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement (9-12)