



PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Tuesday, June 1, 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:
 - Summer Learning Programs and Support Leanne Smith, Mary Anne Gage, Michael St. John
 - Specialist High Skills Major Update Leanne Smith
 - Software Application for Student Use Privacy and Security Report Simon Hancox
 - Virtual Art Show Helen McGregor and Marian Reimer Friesen
5. Other Business
6. Adjournment
7. Next Meeting: Tuesday, September 14, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.



Program and Planning Report

DSBN SUMMER LEARNING PROGRAMS AND SUPPORT

June 1, 2021

Background

The DSBN will provide Summer Learning programs again this year for all students from Senior Kindergarten through Grade 12, including Adult learners. Our summer learning programs will provide valuable learning opportunities for students both in-person and online. As we have throughout the year, we will continue to collaborate with Niagara Region Public Health related to safety protocols within our in-person summer learning sites.

Senior Kindergarten through Grade 4 – Summer HEAT

The goal of the Summer HEAT program is to continue to develop literacy and numeracy skills to support students for success in September. This year we are planning for an in-person experience and are hosting Summer Heat at thirteen sites. The program will run July 5 through July 23, from 8:30 – 12:15. Registration is invitational to ensure this experience is available to students from identified priority schools.

Each year we provide specialized programming at four Indigenous Summer HEAT sites. New this year is the introduction to the Mohawk language. In collaboration with community and the DSBN Indigenous lead, DSBN has hired 2 teachers who are Mohawk language speakers to help facilitate an introduction to the language through mini-lessons, games, art etc.

Niagara Nutrition Partners have offered to supply all thirteen Summer HEAT sites with nutritious food items that will be available to students each day. As well, we are working on a partnership with Niagara Parks Conservation Authority (NPCA) where staff from the NPCA will offer programming to students at all sites.

Junior and Intermediate Students

We are ready to launch four programs to support students entering grades five through grade 8 to further develop literacy, numeracy, and technology skills through a project-based program. This summer learning experience is a non-credit program. The programs are 3 weeks in duration and are offered both in-person and remote. Session 1 will run from July 5 – July 23 and Session 2 (remote only) will run from July 26 – August 13.

Secondary (7 – 12, Adult)

There will be two summer school sessions: July 1 – 27 and July 28 – August 23. Students have a choice to register for in-person or eLearning credits. A full breadth of programming and courses are available including new credits, credit recovery, bootcamp, cooperative learning, English as a Second Language, and Summer Link (Dual Credits with Niagara College). There are also adult programs available to earn secondary school credits including a summer entry PSW program. Our 'Super in 7' and 'Great in 8' programs have expanded to 15 days to include 5 days of innovative math learning to improve student's readiness for the new Grade 9 de-streamed mathematics curriculum. This summer we will have two in-

person locations. Reach ahead programs are available at many smaller locations to provide equitable opportunities for all DSBN students.

Special Education

The DSBN Special Education team will be offering elementary and secondary summer programs in-person that focus on transitions, social skills, and technology for students with special learning needs supported by a variety of Special Education staff and educational partnerships. Multiple transition programs, offered by DSBN Special Education staff or in partnership with the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region or Bethesda, will support student re-engagement and prepare them for upcoming school transitions.

Students with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) will be supported through a variety of programs. DSBN Special Education staff will provide programs that focus on the development of social skills through play, problem-solving, movement and sensory opportunities. Through a partnership with Learnstyle, students with ASD will learn problem-solving strategies, coding concepts and build friendships through a shared interest in computers, coding, and robotics. Also, in partnership with Learnstyle, using assistive technology, students will have access to programming that supports building independence, self-advocacy, and technology skills while enhancing literacy learning. All special education programs will provide important support and continuation of learning for students in the development of social, communication, literacy, numeracy, and technology skills to prepare for a return to in person learning in September.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The Mental Health and Well-Being team will be offering continued elementary and secondary summer mental health support and programming for students and families. DSBN social workers will provide continued individual student/family intervention and group programming for students with attendance concerns. Students and families with significant attendance concerns will receive in-person support from a DSBN attendance counsellor two weeks prior to the start of school in September. DSBN youth counsellors will provide social emotional learning program support to Summer HEAT, as well as a Social-Emotional Learning Program, Merrell's Strong Start, Merrell's Strong Kids, or Merrell's Strong Teens, open for registration through the DSBN website. Students will have opportunities to develop social, emotional, resiliency, coping, and communication skills.

Conclusion

Summer learning programs continue to build important social, literacy and numeracy skills, provide opportunity for many students to reach ahead with secondary credits and prepare all students for a return to in-person learning in September.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Anne Gage – Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement

Leanne Smith – Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement

Michael St. John – Superintendent of Special Education and Mental Health and Well-Being



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
REPORT TO PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
June 2021
SHSM UPDATE

Background:

The Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) is a specialized program that allows students to gain credits toward their Ontario Secondary School Diploma and focus their learning on a specific economic sector at the same time. The SHSM is a Ministry of Education approved program.

Students receive the SHSM seal on their diploma when they:

- complete a specific bundle of 8-10 courses in the student's selected field
- earn industry certifications like first aid and CPR qualifications
- gain important skills on the job through cooperative education placements

Students who pursue an SHSM can customize their high school education to suit their interests, earn credits that postsecondary institutions and employers recognize, and explore and refine career goals to make informed decisions about their future. A student who successfully completed their SHSM receives their Ontario Secondary School Diploma with a red seal, an SHSM record documenting their certifications, and formal recognition on their Ontario Student Transcript.

DSBN has been offering SHSM programs for over 15 years. We currently have 1400 students enrolled in 70 programs in 15 different sectors. We anticipate 500 students will graduate with a red seal in June.

New for September 2021:

Each year, school boards review their current programs, completion rates, and have opportunity to apply for new programs. When considering which SHSMs to offer, school boards and schools need to determine how to build the capacity to provide a range of opportunities for students.

We are pleased to announce that the Ministry of Education has approved 4 new SHSM programs for implementation in September:

- Agriculture at Westlane Secondary School
- Construction at Laura Secord Secondary School
- Construction at St. Catharines Collegiate
- Transportation at AN Myer

Through the Building Opportunities in the Skilled Trades, additional funding is available over the next three years to expand Technology based SHSM programs and help prepare students for the jobs of tomorrow.

For the 2021-22 school year, DSBN has been approved for an additional \$437,000 to provide 22 additional sections to our schools in Technology and Cooperative Education. These sections will support student enrollment and increase SHSM completion rates.

Through the generous support of the Board and our community partners, DSBN continues to be a provincial leader in providing students opportunities that develop innovation, creativity, and entrepreneurship. SHSM programs allow students a seamless transition after graduation to apprenticeship training, college, university, or the workplace.

Respectfully Submitted,
Leanne Smith, Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement (9-12)



Program and Planning Meeting

Software Application for Student Use Privacy and Security Report

June 1st, 2021

Background:

The DSBN Application, Privacy and Security Task Force (APS) was formed to review current practices for reviewing software applications for student use. Members of the task force included: information technology services staff, special education and curricular staff, legal department staff and both elementary and secondary administrators. The mandate of the committee has been to develop a more efficient process to assess educational software and applications in compliance with pedagogical considerations as well as privacy legislation that is user-friendly for school and central staff as well as for parents.

DSBN Software Application Portal:

The task force has developed an easily accessible Web-Portal for educators to use as an efficient resource to review current board approved software applications for student use, request approval for applications not currently approved as well as outline important mitigation strategies to be implemented for safe use of software.

Curriculum and Special-Education Pedagogical Review:

Curriculum and special education staff will complete pedagogical reviews of software applications. The review will consider the purpose and benefits to learning of software applications to determine if they support good instructional practice in keeping with Board priorities.

Educational Computing Network of Ontario (ECNO): Vetting of Application Security and Privacy (VASP):

As part of the process for reviewing software applications, like many other school boards in Ontario, the DSBN Information Technology Services Department has contracted the services of ECNO for the vetting of software. The VASP process provides a comprehensive assessment of applications that comply with the most recent privacy and security legislation. The information provided through this process is used by board staff to approve or decline the use of applications.

Parental Consent:

To provide an efficient way for parents to provide consent for students to use applications, rather than developing a separate consent form, the DSBN Legal Department has included technology consent in the Digital Citizenship Agreement currently signed each year by parents. The revised form provides a link to further information about approved applications used by students to allow for informed consent.

Administrative Procedure Updates:

The Task Force has made recommendations for the update of 2 administrative procedures; Admin Pro: 4-02 Digital Technology Use by Students and Admin Pro: 1-08 Digital Technology Use by Staff. The changes include the revisions to the Digital Citizenship Agreement for student use as well as the inclusion of the staff process for application approval.

School/System Implementation:

The revised process for review of software applications and an introduction to the DSBN Web Software Application Portal will be shared with administrators at the August administrator meetings and then with staff at the first school staff meetings in the fall. The Privacy and Security Mitigation Procedures for Application Use by Educators will be added to the bank of annual staff training modules created by the DSBN Legal/Privacy Department.

Respectfully submitted,
Simon Hancox, Superintendent of Education



DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA
REPORT TO PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE
June 2021
2020-2021 Virtual Art Show

Background:

We know that the arts are very important for students and even more so during a pandemic, so we have adapted our in-person shows to a virtual platform. It is such a joy to be able to celebrate student creativity, artistic growth, and accomplishments during this time.

This Year:

The Elementary Virtual Visual Art Show launched on the DSBN Website on Monday, May 17 and showcased approximately 2,100 pieces of art from across our DSBN Elementary schools. We are so proud of the creativity and skill shown by our students in Visual Arts this year! Whether learning remotely or in person, our students have engaged in a variety of experiences in Visual Arts that have allowed them the opportunity to create, present, reflect, respond, analyze and explore forms and cultural contexts.

Educators, students and their families have been encouraged to tour the individual school galleries from May 17-31 on the DSBN [Elementary Virtual Art Show Webpage](#). They are sure to be inspired by the artwork and celebrate the talent, creativity and learning that has taken place throughout the school year. Special thanks go out to Kyle Kitchen, Elementary Curriculum Consultant and Mary Zwolak, Elementary Student Achievement Leader for curating the beautiful submissions as well as creating the digital platform.

In secondary, our two traditional art shows continued in a virtual format. The Off the Wall Art Show took place at the end of March. With over 100 students, teachers, family and community in attendance, it featured visual art created by students throughout our secondary schools. The collection of artwork was launched to the public in a live event and the student curated work is still available for viewing at the [Off the Wall Art Show Webpage](#) or (<https://sites.google.com/dsbn.org/offthewall2021/home>)

The Grad Art Show celebrates the artwork of this year's graduates across our secondary schools. While the show has traditionally celebrated visual artwork, this year we have expanded selections to include all forms of art. It will be promoted by the Communications Team out to the public in a live launch event on June 10th at 7 PM. The link to the website showcasing the art will be released at that time.

Not only do the secondary art shows celebrate creativity and artistic expression, but they provide a deeper learning opportunity for students. It is important to note that both secondary art shows were student curated and mc'd events. This is critical to ensuring that our art shows have student voices and perspectives at the forefront. It also provides student leadership opportunities that enhance portfolios required for post-secondary applications. We would like to recognize the following students and teachers for their leadership:

Secondary Student Curation Team:

Kaytlan Bujilov, Grade 9, Westlane
Jordan Crawford Grade 10, Beamsville
Mina Gough, Grade 12, Laura Secord
Claire McCarthy, Grade 11, AN Myer
Kashish Modi, Grade 11, DSBN Academy

Rachel Moskalyk, Grade 11, EL Crossley
Mariah Rackal, Grade 10, Laura Secord
Bella Recine, Grade 11, Laura Secord
Abi Serfas, Grade 9, Welland Centennial

Secondary Art Show Teacher Committee:

Stacy Dunn-Hodges

Becca Marshall

Kathaleen McNeil

Lori Thibault

Larissa Turcotte

Sherry Wilkinson

Respectfully submitted,

Helen McGregor, Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement (9-12)

Marian Reimer Friesen, Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement (K-8)