

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2022

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

AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

C. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

D. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Summer Learning Update**
M. Gage, L. Smith, M. St. John
- 2. Renewal Support Update**
M. Reimer Friesen, A. Gilmore

E. OTHER BUSINESS

F. ADJOURNMENT

G. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 1, 2022 at 5:30 p.m.

Summer Learning Update

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

BACKGROUND:

The DSBN is proud to provide valuable summer learning programs for students and recognizes the important role these programs play in supporting student achievement. This summer, students ranging from Year 1 kindergarten through grade 12, benefitted from this experience. With a focus on learning renewal, students were well prepared for a strong transition to school in September.

SUMMER LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES:

Summer HEAT: Kindergarten – Grade 4

The goal of the summer heat program is to continue to develop literacy and numeracy skills for all students. The Summer Heat program engaged 1100 students at 12 school sites. New this year, with a strong focus on learning renewal, students from Year 1 kindergarten through grade 4 received greater opportunities for small group instruction, in the areas of literacy and math, provided by both their classroom teacher and a learning resource teacher. Learning was further enhanced through the addition of tutors, provided through the strong partnership with Brock University, Faculty of Education. At each site, tutors guided both individual and small group learning to support growth in literacy skills and a confidence in reading. Working in conjunction with the Mental Health and Well-Being team, DSBN Youth Counsellors provided engaging programming and strategies to support students with social-emotional learning.

We continue to value the partnerships with both DSBN families and the local community. This year, each Summer Heat site partnered with parents / families to reinforce the learning program by offering a variety of parent / family engagement sessions that were unique, individualized, and responsive to the feedback provided. These sessions were very well attended and included opportunities for families to engage in learning with their child that would continue after Summer HEAT ended. Community partners such as Niagara Nutrition and local Public Libraries continue to contribute to the success of the Summer HEAT program. New this year was the partnership with Indigo which supported the purchase of rich literacy resources.

Specialized programming was provided at three Indigenous Summer HEAT sites for over 300 students. This year we continued to offer a Mohawk language program that was supported by both an Elder of Six Nations and 2 members of the DSBN Indigenous Education team. The students engaged in traditional stories which included math and literacy games to learn simple dialogue in the Mohawk Language. New to this program was the introduction of a one-day lacrosse session for each of the three sites. Students learned the history of lacrosse, 'The Creator's Game', and had the opportunity to learn some basic skills. This program was supported by a community member from Fuse Lacrosse. We had great feedback from students and families on this new program.

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Summer Learning: Grade 5 – 8, Secondary

For students entering Grades 5 to 8, a non-credit literacy and numeracy program was offered in person at Sir Winston Churchill and at A.N. Myer. Students had opportunities to learn using a project-based format over 3 weeks. The theme this year was the Canada Games. 254 participated in person and 97 participated virtually online.

In secondary, our summer learning returned to our pre-pandemic model of one session from July 4th to July 29th. Secondary credits were earned through eLearning, reach ahead credits, credit recovery, cooperative learning and in person secondary credits. Students earned over 3700 credits and the success rate was over 98%. For 68 students, their summer learning credits allowed them to graduate and receive their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD).

Reach ahead credits for students entering grade 8 or 9 continue to be very popular. Students earned a total of 342 credits in Health and Physical Education, Integrated Arts, Culinary, and Integrated Technology at various DSBN sites.

We continue to see a large number of students participating in eLearning. Over 2000 credits were achieved through eLearning.

Edu Travel returned this summer and over 750 students took advantage of experiential opportunities to learn and earn secondary credits. These adventures took Civics and Career students to Ottawa, Montreal, and New York City. Senior students traveled to Fiji, Italy, California, France, England – earning a variety of credits.

Summer cooperative learning allowed many students to earn valuable experience and 2 cooperative learning credits. This program was six weeks in length and students earned over 400 credits towards their OSSD, and also SHSM programs.

International Languages returned to in-person learning this summer after two years of virtual learning. Over 352 students aged 4 to 14 learned languages including Arabic, Spanish, Korean, Chinese, and Polish to name a few of the languages

Our Adult Learners (28 students) had the opportunity to begin a **hybrid** model with extended hours in order to accelerate our PSW certification program during July and August. The new model will allow them to earn their credentials by the end of December and be employed at the start of 2023.

Special Education

The DSBN provided inclusive learning opportunities for students with special education accommodations across all summer learning programs offered from K- 12. In addition, we offered 5 specialized programs over 15 sections that focused on transitions, social skill development, self-regulation, and growing independence with technology and other accommodations. All students were supported within the program of their choice to foster the development of social, communication, literacy, numeracy and technology skills. New this year, we provided LRTs to support elementary

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program sites and Educational Assistants to support in all sites to promote success for students with special education learning needs.

Mental Health and Well-Being

The Mental Health & Well-Being Department continued to support DSBN students in the areas of mental health promotion, prevention and intervention over the summer. Classes in the Summer HEAT program participated in MindUP programming provided on-site by a Youth Counsellor. All elementary and secondary students had the opportunity to participate in Merrell's Strong Start/Kids/Teens offered board-wide by the Youth Counsellor team. Social Workers provided individualized intervention to students and families requiring more intensive support over the summer. Students who participated in summer learning opportunities had the opportunity to further develop social, emotional, resiliency, coping, and communication skills.

SUMMARY:

Summer learning programs provided an important opportunity for students to build social, literacy and numeracy skills, provided opportunity for many students to reach ahead with secondary credits, and prepared all students for a strong transition to school in September 2022.

Respectfully submitted by:

Mary Anne Gage - Superintendent of Education, Elementary, Area 4

Leanne Smith – Superintendent of Education, Secondary Curriculum and Student Achievement

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

Renewal Support Update

Tuesday, October 4, 2022

BACKGROUND:

In response to the pandemic's impact on the learning development of students, the Ministry of Education provided boards with funding for tutoring supports in spring of 2022. Schools determined student strengths and learning needs and used these funds to implement a variety of intervention programs.

SPRING 2022:

Elementary

This spring, through a strong partnership with Brock University and Niagara College, the DSBN recruited and hired 45 post-secondary students to serve as Tutors for select elementary schools. Retired and occasional teachers were also hired to add to the complement of Elementary Tutors. Trained by the DSBN curriculum team, Tutors were well prepared to work directly with students to provide small group instruction that further developed literacy and math skills with primary students.

Tutor support continued during the summer as 24 were hired to support students who attended summer learning programs. Specifically, during Summer HEAT, two tutors were placed at each of the 12 sites and once again provided targeted instruction to increase literacy skills for primary students. To support a strong transition in September, student achievement data was collected and shared with the home school.

Through the community partnership with the Learning Disabilities Association of Niagara Region, 30 DSBN students participated in the Reading Rocks program. This program is designed to support students in Grade 1-8 through individualized tutoring in the area of reading. Students worked one-to-one with a trained literacy tutor to build foundational reading skills and computational fluency during 1 hour sessions, twice a week for four weeks. Learning occurred through a combination of direct instruction and engaging literacy games and activities.

Secondary

In 2021-22, secondary schools used these funds to offer tutoring, led by contract and LTO teaching staff, in a variety of delivery models that suited the needs of the school community. These models included tutoring sessions before school, during lunch and/or after-school, both in-person and through Microsoft Teams. Tutoring referrals were made through In-School-Team, with mechanisms in place for students and parents to make their own requests for support.

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A combination of in-class support and withdrawal during instructional time was also offered by teachers hired to support the Learning Renewal Goals for each secondary school (10.17 FTE). Learning Renewal Goals and the allocation of Learning Renewal teacher sections were determined by achievement and credit accumulation data.

Secondary schools also continued to promote the tutoring options that have regularly been available to students:

- TVO Mathify: a mathematics tutoring program run through the Ministry of Education that students can access for free Monday to Friday 9am to 9pm, and Saturday and Sunday from 3pm to 9pm.
- DSBN's Grade 11 and 12 Math Homework Help Program: a tutoring program run through our D2L online platform where grade 11 and 12 students can connect virtually with a teacher Sunday to Thursday from 7 to 10pm.

PLAN FOR 2022/2023:

Building on the success from spring 2022, the learning renewal plan has a focus on support for both students and teachers. The Ministry funding was enhanced by Trustees through the budget process which ensured support will be maintained throughout the entire school year until June.

Elementary

Funding has resulted in the hiring of the equivalent of 40 elementary Renewal Support Teachers, both full and part time, to provide essential intervention support in early literacy in target schools. In addition, these staff are working to support capacity building for staff through co-planning and co-teaching.

The success of our Brock tutoring partnership became the foundation for our expanded elementary tutoring program. To start the year, every K - 8 school will benefit from the 100 hours of school-based tutoring, with further allocations to follow based on data and need. Brock has recruited, interviewed, selected, and trained students who are in teacher education programs. As in the past, the tutors will primarily work to support targeted literacy intervention.

These strategies provide additional layers of support to an already robust system which includes Instructional Coaches, Learning Resource Teachers, and Multi-Language Resource Coaches. To further support alignment, phonics and phonemic awareness resources have been purchased for all primary classroom teachers to complement current literacy instruction, and professional development will be provided to ensure successful implementation.

Secondary

Learning Renewal Goals and the distribution of Learning Renewal teachers in every secondary school (61 sections per semester - 20.33 FTE total for the year) will continue to be determined by student

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achievement and credit accumulation data. Learning Renewal teachers will continue to offer in-class and withdrawal support to both individual students and small groups of students. New this year is a commitment to align the work of Learning Renewal teachers with the school's improvement plan. In many schools for example, Learning Renewal teachers will facilitate teacher learning teams with a focus on instructional strategies in a destreamed classroom.

Secondary schools will continue to promote the regular use of TVO Mathify and Math Homework Help. Tutoring, led by contract and LTO teaching staff, will also continue to be offered through a variety of models to suit the needs of the school community. New to this year is a commitment to form partnerships with external tutoring agencies. Our goal is to continue removing barriers and expand tutoring opportunities for all students.

SUMMARY:

DSBN's learning renewal action plan will be critical to enabling students to get back on track and succeed. We will continue to leverage and expand upon proven, high-yield programs and supports, and empower our schools to introduce new strategies to address critical gaps.

Respectfully submitted by:

Ann Gilmore, Superintendent Curriculum and Student Achievement, Secondary

Marian Reimer Friesen, Superintendent Curriculum and Student Achievement, Elementary