

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 2023

Public Session: 5:30 p.m.

AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER

B. ELECTION OF CHAIR

C. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

D. NEW BUSINESS:

- 1. Early Reading Strategy Update**
[M. Reimer Friesen](#)
- 2. Dual Credit Program Update**
[L. Smith](#)
- 3. School Year Calendar 2023-24**
[S. Hancox](#)

E. OTHER BUSINESS

F. NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, March 7, 2023 at 5:30 p.m.

G. ADJOURNMENT

EARLY READING STRATEGY

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

BACKGROUND

In February 2022, the Ontario Human Rights Commission (OHRC) released its *Right to Read* inquiry report which offers suggestions for supporting students with reading disabilities. The authors called for changes to Ontario's approach to early reading in terms of curriculum, instruction, screening, interventions, accommodations, and assessments.

In response, the Ministry of Education (MOE) released *Effective Reading Instruction: A Teacher's Guide* in the spring of 2022, and boards were encouraged to begin implementing the approaches within it during 2022-2023. The MOE also made a commitment to update the 2006 *Language* curriculum with a focus on evidence-based approaches that emphasize direct, explicit, and systematic reading instruction by September 2023.

Beginning in 2023-24, the MOE will require that all students in Kindergarten (Year 2) through Grade 2 be screened for early reading skills twice yearly using evidence-based screening tools.

EARLY READING OVERVIEW

The DSBN's early reading goal is to systematically develop foundational early reading skills within purposeful, meaningful, and inclusive contexts that support student growth as confident and proficient readers who enjoy and understand what they read.

Foundation

In DSBN classrooms, we recognize the importance of building on students' early experiences and prior knowledge as a foundation for developing early reading skills. Instructional practices support the belief that all students are capable of learning to read with the right support.

Teachers support this learning through:

- delivering whole-group and small-group mini-lessons to cultivate self-efficacious readers who enjoy reading;
- developing foundational skills in oral language;
- planning lessons that build on students' skills in listening and speaking, reading, writing; and
- monitoring results as students progress through the developmental stages of reading in the areas of phonemic awareness, phonics, vocabulary, fluency, word study and comprehension.

Shifts in Practice

With the anticipation of a new curriculum in the fall we have made some shifts to reflect the research surrounding early reading development, which will have a positive impact on students' acquisition of early reading skills.

- The first shift is for K-2 educators to take 8-10 minutes a day to implement the Heggerty phonemic awareness program and 8-10 minutes a day to implement the Jolly Phonics Scope and Sequence of letters and sounds.
- The second shift is implementing the use of decodable texts to allow students to apply the learning from the phonemic awareness and phonics instruction.

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IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

The elementary Curriculum Support Services team reviewed many research-based resources, and ultimately selected a few as a starting point for the early reading strategy. The Heggerty phonemic awareness program was purchased in the fall for all K-2 teachers, along with the Jolly Phonics teacher's guide. Both programs encourage the systematic and explicit instruction supported by the research. The introduction of decodable texts into DSBN classrooms is a key strategy in this effort. Schools were provided with numerous decodable texts for students and *The Phonics Companion* as a professional resource for teachers.

DSBN primary staff, supported by Instructional Coaches, Learning Resource Teachers, Renewal Support Teachers and Curriculum Support Services staff, are working hard to implement the intentional shifts in reading instruction to reach the Early Reading goal.

In addition:

- Administrators were given an overview of the Early Reading Strategy and engaged in discussions with instructional coaches about how to provide job-embedded support to staff.
- Instructional Coaches have received ongoing, in-depth training, preparing them to support teachers in shifting instructional practice and implementing new resources with fidelity.
- Renewal Support Teachers, Multi-language Resource Coaches and Learning Resource Teachers have received ongoing professional development throughout this process.
- Approximately 500 Kindergarten through Grade 2 educators received a half-day of professional development on the effective implementation of the new resources.-
- Brock tutors received appropriate training to support supplementary reading instruction in all DSBN schools.

We are excited to continue to refine our reading instruction to improve outcomes for all students.

Respectfully submitted by

Marian Reimer Friesen, Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement, Elementary

Dual Credit Program

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

BACKGROUND

The purpose of Dual Credit opportunities is to assist secondary school students, between the age of 16 to 21 years of age, in their completion of their Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) and successful transition to a college and/or apprenticeship program. The primary focus is on students who face significant challenges in completing the requirements for graduation but have the potential to succeed in college or apprenticeship. This primary target group includes disengaged students who have the potential to succeed but are at risk of not graduating, and students who left school before graduating but have returned to earn their diploma. Dual Credit programs are made possible through the School College Work Initiative (SCWI) with funding provided by the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Colleges and Universities.

Students enroll in a course that provides them with both their secondary school credit and credit in a college course. There are two main types of deliver models for the dual credit:

- College-delivered dual credit courses - students travel to Niagara College and complete a credit delivered by the college instructor with the support of a DSBN secondary school teacher
- Team-taught dual credit courses - the Niagara College instructor's course content is taught by a college professor or instructor and closely matched secondary course content is taught by a secondary school teacher. The instructor and secondary classroom teacher collaborate on expectations and course delivery to meet the expectations of both the college course and secondary school credit.

DSBN DUAL CREDIT PROGRAM

The partnership between the District School Board of Niagara and Niagara College has existed since 2007. Since this time, the program has expanded significantly to include college credits in the skilled trades, and opportunities linked to the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP) and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) programs.

The range of programming offered meets the needs of our students by:

- supporting students who are close to graduation with the necessary credits to earn their OSSD
- providing a risk-free opportunity to learn in a college setting at no cost to the student
- providing a link to post-secondary pathways with extensive support in completing the application process
- exposing students to a range of career opportunities and training
- building students' confidence in their ability to continue their learning beyond secondary school

SWAC programs comprise secondary school courses and college dual credit courses delivered entirely on a college campus. Students attend classes on campus on a full-time basis. The secondary school courses

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are taught by secondary school teachers, and the college dual credit courses are taught by college professors or instructors, within a collaborative learning community on the college campus. Since 2012 we have had two Niagara LINK classes, one at the Welland campus and one at the Niagara-on-the-Lake campus. Students complete secondary school credits and also complete one dual credit course each semester. These programs allow students to explore campus life and see themselves as post-secondary students.

Many of our dual credit courses are delivered at the Niagara College campus in Welland. Students travel to the college where they take a course delivered by a college professor or instructor and receive additional support from a secondary school dual credit teacher. Students are integrated into courses with other college students. They also may complete additional secondary school credits at their home school.

Team-taught dual credit courses were introduced at DSBN in 2020 with a construction dual credit courses aligned with the SHSM Home Build in partnership with Mountainview Building Group. The college instructor was on site at the Home Build and students completed a course that covered both the college curriculum and their secondary school credit. DSBN has offered team-taught dual credits in Automotive and Hairstyling.

DSBN is offering the Hairstyling Level 1 dual credit program for the third year at the St. Catharines Collegiate. This is offered as a college oversight program in partnership with Niagara College. The OYAP Level 1 Dual Credit programs give students the opportunity to complete their first level of in-school apprenticeship training, free of charge, while still in high school. This is a great benefit to students who are able to start their post-secondary education through this program. In the past two years, students from the Level 1 program have been national champions at the Skills Canada Hairstyling competition attesting to the level of skills developed by students while attending this program.

For semester 2, DSBN is offering five team-taught dual credit courses in our secondary schools:

SHSM Construction Dual Credit	Eden High School
SHSM Automotive Dual Credit	Port Colborne High School
Foundations of ECE Dual Credit	Governor Simcoe
Level 1 OYAP Hairstyling	St. Catharines Collegiate
Level 1 OYAP Automotive	A.N. Myer

Dual credit programs offer students who face challenges in completing their secondary school diploma a way to become re-engaged if they have the potential and interest to succeed in college or apprenticeship courses. Dual credit programs give students the opportunity to succeed personally and academically, help build self-confidence, and provide the experience of life on a college campus.

Respectfully submitted by

Leanne Smith, Superintendent of Curriculum and Student Achievement (Secondary)

SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS 2023-24

Tuesday, February 7, 2023

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 2023-2024 calendar provides for 195 possible school days between September 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. 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.

SUMMARY

Consultation Process:

School Year Calendar Committee meetings and electronic communication.

The committee members include:

- Simon Hancox, Superintendent
- Todd Halliday/Mamie Hurd, OPC, Elementary
- Matthew Ezrin, OPC, Secondary
- Jennifer Sims Murray, ETFO
- Chris Reid, OSSTF
- Jessica Gollan, APSSP
- Brenda Mahoney, CUPE
- Amber Hughes & Lisa Mooney, PIC
- Paulette Alcox, SESS
- Maryam Safdar Ali, Human Rights Advisor

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 Council Chairs, Parent Involvement Committee and all Federations and Unions)
- Gather feedback
- Vet drafts through Senior Administration
- Consult with various School Boards throughout the province
- Consult with co-terminus Board, to achieve alignment

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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 7, 2023
- Board — February 28, 2023
- Ministry Submission — (on or before) March 1, 2023

HIGHLIGHTS FROM SCHOOL YEAR CALENDARS FOR 2023-2024

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 2023-2024:

Elementary Professional Activity Days

- Friday, October 6, 2023
- Friday, November 24, 2023
- Friday, January 19, 2024 - Assessment Report Card Writing
- Friday, February 16, 2024
- Monday, April 8, 2024
- Friday, June 7, 2024 - Assessment Report Card Writing
- Friday, June 28, 2024

Secondary Professional Activity Days

- Friday, October 6, 2023
- Friday, November 24, 2023
- Friday, February 16, 2024
- Monday, April 8, 2024
- Friday, June 21, 2024
- Thursday, June 27, 2024
- Friday, June 28, 2024

Of Note:

- The PA Day on June 21st has been planned to coincide with National Indigenous Peoples Day. This allows for Indigenous staff and students to participate in the celebrations of this day without having to write exams or be expected to submit any culminating tasks.

Secondary Examination Days

- Semester 1: Wednesday, January 24, 25, 26, 29, 30, 2024
- Semester 2: Wednesday, June 19, 20, 24, 25, 26, 2024

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Board & Civic Holidays


- Labour Day Monday, September 4, 2023
- Thanksgiving Day Monday, October 9, 2023
- Winter Break Monday, December 25, 2023– Friday, January 5, 2024
- Family Day Monday, February 19, 2024
- March Break Monday, March 11 – Friday, March 15, 2024
- Good Friday Friday, March 29, 2024
- Easter Monday Monday, April 1, 2024
- Victoria Day Monday, May 20, 2024

Recommendation:

"That the report of the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars – 2023-2024 be received and approved for submission to the Ministry of Education."

Respectfully submitted by
Simon Hancox, Superintendent of Education


School Year Calendar 2023 - 2024

Legend ▶ **H** - Statutory Holiday **E** - Scheduled Examination Day **P** - Professional Activity Day **B** - Board Designated Holiday  Half Day

Draft Elementary Calendar

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 st Week					2 nd Week					3 rd Week					4 th Week					5 th Week				
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
August 2023					1	2	3	4	7 H	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31	
September 2023	19							1 H	4 H	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29
October 2023	20	1		2	3	4	5	6 P	9 H	10	11	12	13	16	17	18	19	20	23	24	25	26	27	30	31			
November 2023	21	1				1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20	21	22	23	24 P	27	28	29	30	
December 2023	16							1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25 B	26 B	27 B	28 B	29 B
January 2024	17	1		1 B	2 B	3 B	4 B	5 B	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19 P	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		
February 2024	19	1					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16 P	19 H	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	
March 2024	15							1	4	5	6	7	8	11 B	12 B	13 B	14 B	15 B	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29 H
April 2024	20	1		1 H	2	3	4	5	8 P	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30			
May 2024	21					1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20 H	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31
June 2024	19	2		3	4	5	6	7 P	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19	20	21	24	25	26	27	28 P					
July 2024				1 H	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		
TOTAL	187	7		Note: The 2023-2024 calendar provides for 195 possible school days between September 1, 2023 and June 30, 2024. The school year shall include a minimum of 194 school days of which three days must be designated as professional activity days with respect to specific provincial education priorities as outlined in the Policy/Program Memoranda 151 and up to four extra days may be designated by the board as professional activity days. The remaining school days shall be instructional days. The boards may designate up to ten instructional days as examination days																								

School Year Calendar 2023 - 2024

Legend ▶ **H** - Statutory Holiday **E** - Scheduled Examination Day **P** - Professional Activity Day **B** - Board Designated Holiday  Half Day

Draft Secondary Calendar

Month	Number of Instructional Days	Number of Professional Activity Days	Number of Scheduled Examination Days	1 st Week					2 nd Week					3 rd Week					4 th Week					5 th Week				
				M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F	M	T	W	T	F
August 2023					1	2	3	4	7 H	8	9	10	11	14	15	16	17	18	21	22	23	24	25	28	29	30	31	
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December 2023	16							1	4	5	6	7	8	11	12	13	14	15	18	19	20	21	22	25 B	26 B	27 B	28 B	29 B
January 2024	18		5	1 B	2 B	3 B	4 B	5 B	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24 E	25 E	26 E	29 E	30 E	31		
February 2024	19	1					1	2	5	6	7	8	9	12	13	14	15	16 P	19 H	20	21	22	23	26	27	28	29	
March 2024	15							1	4	5	6	7	8	11 B	12 B	13 B	14 B	15 B	18	19	20	21	22	25	26	27	28	29 H
April 2024	20	1		1 H	2	3	4	5	8 P	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30			
May 2024	22					1	2	3	6	7	8	9	10	13	14	15	16	17	20 H	21	22	23	24	27	28	29	30	31
June 2024	17	3	5	3	4	5	6	7	10	11	12	13	14	17	18	19 E	20 E	21 P	24 E	25 E	26 E	27 P	28 P					
July 2024				1 H	2	3	4	5	8	9	10	11	12	15	16	17	18	19	22	23	24	25	26	29	30	31		
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