



**THE MINUTES OF THE  
SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
DISTRICT SCHOOL BOARD OF NIAGARA**

**VIRTUAL MEETING**

**August 31, 2020**

5:00 – 6:03 p.m. (Public Session)

**ATTENDANCE:**

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

**Student Trustees:** Keelee Hollowell, Salony Sharma, Karina Tavernese

**Officials:** Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, John Dickson, Mary Anne Gage, Helen McGregor, Simon Hancox, Marian Reimer Friesen, Kelly Pisek, Leanne Smith, Michael St. John, Stacy Veld, Jennifer Feren, Kim Yielding, Karen Bellamy

**Recording Secretary:** Christina Dero

**Technical Support:** Jim Merrick, Wendy Coit

**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 5:00 p.m.

**3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest**

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

**B. SINGING OF “O CANADA”**

“O Canada” was performed by the Kate S. Durdan Public School choir via video.

**C. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD****1. Adoption of the Agenda**

**Moved by Jonathan Fast  
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

**“That the Agenda be adopted.”**

**CARRIED**

**D. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS****1. Staff Reports****a) DSBN School Reopening Plans for 2020-2021**

**Moved by Shannon Mitchell  
Seconded by Kate Baggott**

**“That an additional 1% of the Board’s Accumulated Surplus be added to the 2020-2021 budget.”**

**CARRIED**

**Trustee Maves arrived at 5:05 p.m.**

Director Hoshizaki, along with senior staff, provided highlights of DSBN’s School Reopening plans. This included an overview of DSBN’s in-class and virtual school models, as well as mask guidelines, communications, and protocols for suspected and confirmed Covid-19 cases.

Director Hoshizaki provided information about elementary staffing and added that as part of DSBN’s plan for a safe re-opening of schools, staff has considered the need for physical distancing and therefore, lower class sizes.

In addition to provincial funding provided, the Ministry of Education is proposing changes to allow school boards to access their accumulated surpluses in excess of the previously allowed 1% limit. In order to ensure staffing requirements and lower class sizes in elementary in-school classes, DSBN will be required to add the additional 1% of accumulated surplus, currently projected to be \$4.5 million to the 2020-21 budget.

Director Hoshizaki and the senior team answered questions about:

- student access to nurses and mental health resources
- class size guidelines for virtual learning
- scheduling for families with multiple students learning from home
- clarification and rationale for the timetabling template being used in secondary schools
- how students were grouped for the secondary cohorts
- mask guidelines
- outdoor classes
- adequate physical space to accommodate smaller classes

**INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – continued**

**DSBN School Reopening Plans for 2020-2021**

- the hiring of long-term occasional teachers
- procedures for staff living in New York state.

Trustee Baggott suggested that a letter be sent to the Ministry of Education to request that DSBN have full access to its accumulated surplus in order to lower class sizes further and to respond to staffing emergencies on an on-going basis. After discussion, it was decided that this request will be deferred to the Finance Committee.

**E. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING**

**Moved by Shannon Mitchell  
Seconded by Nancy Beamer**

**“That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on August 31, 2020 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**

Chair Barnett welcomed Superintendent Simon Hancox and Superintendent Mary Ann Gage to their first official DSBN Board meeting.

**O. ADJOURNMENT**

**Moved by Shannon Mitchell  
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen**

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

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 6:03 p.m.

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**SUE BARNETT, Chair**

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**WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education  
and Secretary**