



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

BOARD ROOM – EDUCATION CENTRE

February 20, 2020

6:00 – 6:52 p.m. (Public Session)

ATTENDANCE:

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

Officials: Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, John Dickson, Helen McGregor, Wes Hahn, Marian Reimer Friesen, Kelly Pisek, JoAnna Roberto, Leanne Smith, Michael St. John, Stacy Veld, Jennifer Feren, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Morgan, Kim Yielding

Regrets: Doug Newton, Keylee Smith, Karina Tavernese, Ness Griffin

Recording Secretary: Christina Dero

Technical Support: 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 6:00 p.m.

Chair Barnett noted the absence of Trustee Newton.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. SINGING OF “O CANADA”

The Board stood as “O Canada” was performed by the Steele Street Public School choir, via video.

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

**Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Nancy Beamer**

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

In response to a request from a trustee to amend the agenda to allow speakers from the gallery, Chair Barnett explained that delegations were not permitted as this is a Special Meeting of the Board, but if they wish to speak at a Board meeting, they can follow the proper channels and request a delegation.

D. NEW BUSINESS**1. CODE OF CONDUCT INVESTIGATION REVIEW**

In compliance with the Education Act, Trustee Baggott was present but did not participate in the deliberations or vote on the resolutions.

The Board of Trustees will confirm or revoke the determination and sanction imposed by the Board on Trustee Baggott at the January 28, 2020 Board Meeting regarding the Code of Conduct complaint.

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

“That the Board revokes its January 28, 2020 determination that Trustee Baggott breached the DSBN’s Code of Conduct.”

DEFEATED

Discussions took place around the request to revoke the January 28, 2020 determination that Trustee Baggott breached DSBN’s Code of Conduct.

Chair Barnett reminded trustees that their comments should be limited to the specific sections of the Code of Conduct that Trustee Baggott was found to have breached.

In response to a question, Board Lawyer, Jennifer Feren clarified that trustees must focus on the original Findings of Fact Report, the submissions, and how they specifically relate to the Code of Conduct breaches as determined by the Board in January.

NEW BUSINESS – continued**CODE OF CONDUCT INVESTIGATION REVIEW**

Trustees had the opportunity to speak about whether they believe the determination should be revoked and reasons for defeating the resolution included that, even after having reviewed and considered Trustee Baggott's written submissions, the trustees were confident in the correctness of the January 28, 2020 determination of breach and therefore did not wish to revoke their prior determination.

During deliberations Trustee Beamer challenged Chair Barnett's ruling to allow Trustee Klassen's comments.

Director Hoshizaki, as Secretary of the Board, spoke to the challenge and requested a show of hands asking if trustees were in favour of the appeal to overturn Chair Barnett's ruling. After the count, Director Hoshizaki confirmed that Chair Barnett's ruling would stand.

Chair Barnett noted that seeing no revocation of its prior decision, the January 28, 2020 decision of the Board stands and is hereby confirmed.

**Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Dave Schaubel**

“That the Board confirm the sanction that bars Trustee Baggott from the February 25, 2020 public board meeting.”

**CARRIED
BY 2/3 MAJORITY**

Having confirmed the January 28, 2020 determination that Trustee Baggott breached the Code of Conduct, discussions took place regarding the original sanction imposed and whether they agree or disagree with the sanction that bars Trustee Baggott from the February 25, 2020 public board meeting. After considering the original decision and Trustee Baggott's written submission, the trustees were confident in the correctness of the January 28, 2020 sanction barring Trustee Baggott from the February 25, 2020 public board meeting and therefore confirmed the original sanction.

E. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS SPECIAL MEETING

**Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Alex Bradnam**

“That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on February 20, 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

F. ADJOURNMENT

**Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Jonathan Fast**

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.

SUE BARNETT, Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI, Director of Education
and Secretary