

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 2020

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:34 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:07 p.m. (Virtual Meetings)

ATTENDANCE

Board

Kate Baggott, Alex Bradnam, Sue Barnett (Chair), Nancy Beamer, 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 Sweeney, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Morgan

Recording Secretary

Christina Dero

Technical Support

Wendy Coit and Sarah Skrydstrup

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 7:00 p.m. There were no members absent.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD – CONTINUED

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the Board do now enter Committee of the Whole.”

CARRIED

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Kate Baggott

“That the Board return to Open meeting.”

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:34 p.m.

C. SINGING OF ‘O CANADA’

“The Board stood as ‘*O Canada*’ was performed by the Ross Public School choir, via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Student Trustee Hollowell shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Lora Campbell

Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated October 27, 2020 be confirmed as submitted.”

CARRIED

3. Business Arising from the Minutes

There was no business arising from the minutes.

4. Ratification of Business Conducted in Committee of the Whole (Private Session)

Moved by Dave Schaubel

Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

“That the business transacted in Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board.”

CARRIED

F. EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS

1. Director’s Report and Recognition

a) Student Activism and Leadership

During "Secret Path" week in October, the grade eight Virtual School 1 class learned about the history of Residential Schools through the story of Chanie Wenjack and launched a "ReconciliACTION" by participating in the #walkforwenjack. The team of student activists took on the task of writing a press release and compiling photos of students who participated. Altogether, students and teachers were able to walk approximately 470km! Not only did they walk for Chanie Wenjack, they were also able to raise over \$600 for the Gord Downie and Chanie Wenjack Fund.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – CONTINUED

Director’s Report and Recognition

b) Remembrance Day 2020 at Dalewood French Immersion Public School

In celebration of Remembrance Day and to honour those who have served and sacrificed their lives for Canada, a Dalewood Public School student arranged to have a family member, who is in the Air Force, do a fly by in multiple locations including the area around the school, at the low height of 500 ft. As many Remembrance Day ceremonies were limited or virtual this year, the flight was a reminder for us to reflect on the importance of those who have given their lives for our freedom.

A video highlighting the Dalewood French Immersion Public School Remembrance Day activities was shared.

2. Educational Showcases

a) Prime Minister’s Award to Reaching Excellence: Leonard Aylward, Recipient

Director Hoshizaki shared a video of his recent conversation with Prime Minister’s Award to Reaching Excellence recipient, Leonard Aylward about STEM learning and the impact that his work is having on students.

b) Student Voice: A.N. Myer Secondary School Student Advisory Team

Director Hoshizaki shared a video that showcased how the A.N. Myer Student Advisory Team is encouraging student engagement using technology and apps.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no student achievement reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Accounts

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of October 2020, totaling \$20,890,049.93 be received.”

CARRIED

2. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Doug Newton

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated November 4, 2020 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Beamer provided a summary of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meeting where discussions regarding the PIC Virtual Speaker Series continued. Ann Murray’s virtual presentation, *Taking Care of YOU! Workshop* will take place on December 4, 2020 and Ann Douglas will present Parenting in a Pandemic on January 27, 2021. All participants of Ann Douglas’s presentation will receive a copy of her newest book, *Happy Parents Happy Kids*. Trustee Beamer added that Lisa Mooney and Tracy Leemet hosted a virtual School Council Chair event on November 18, 2020.

3. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated November 11, 2020 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Campbell reported that there were no new SAL cases brought forward during the November meeting. The Committee reviewed the progress of current students participating in the SAL program. There are eleven (11) students currently active and compliant with their SAL plans.

OLD BUSINESS – CONTINUED

4. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Kevin Maves

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated November 11, 2020 be received.”

“That the annual International Education Financial Report be received at the time of first interim reporting, and that the projected net surplus be available to fund one-time costs associated with DSBN strategic initiatives within the same fiscal year.”

“That the Board of Trustees receive this report; and that if the DSBN is eligible for EDCs, staff bring a report to Trustees for their consideration to initiate the EDCs process.”

“That the Annual Report on Board Investments, as at August 31, 2020, be received.”

“That the Schedule of Accumulated Surplus for the year ended August 31, 2020, be approved.”

CARRIED

Trustee Maves provided a summary of the Finance Committee report which included the annual International Education Financial Report, discussions about EDCs (educational development charges), the Annual Report on Board Investments, and the Schedule of Accumulated Surplus.

5. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated November 12, 2020 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell provided a summary of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting. The committee heard a student voice presentation via video and Superintendent St. John shared that the DSBN has been reaching out to homeschooling families to connect them with a version of virtual learning that supports their unique situations. Social workers are being hired to support students and families. Trustee Mitchell added that there will be ongoing support for grade 8 students moving to grade 9 and transition plans will be individualized for each student.

OLD BUSINESS – CONTINUED

6. Report of the Audit Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Kate Baggott

“That the report of the Audit Committee dated November 16, 2020 be received.”

“That the 2019-20 Annual Report of the Audit Committee be approved for submission to the Ministry of Education.”

CARRIED

Superintendent Veld reported that the Audit Committee reviewed and approved the 2019-20 Annual Report of the Audit Committee for the Ministry of Education.

7. Report of the Policy Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

“That the report of the Policy Committee dated November 17, 2020 be received.”

“That Policy I-03: Policy Generating Process be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy E-03: Health and Safety be approved as received and adopted.”

“That Policy E-10: Staff Development be approved as received and adopted.”

“That Policy E-15: Workplace Violence and Harassment Prevention be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy D-10: Outdoor Education be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy G-28: Student Discipline be approved as amended and approved.”

CARRIED

Trustee Bradnam reported that six policies were reviewed and approved by the Policy Committee and added that the next set of policies up for vetting will be available on the DSBN website from November 27, 2020 – January 22, 2021. The next Policy Committee meeting will be held on February 9, 2021.

OLD BUSINESS – CONTINUED

8. Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Moved by Salony Sharma

Seconded by Karina Tavernese

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated November 17, 2020 be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Tavernese reported that the Student Trustee Senate was presented information about school resource officers. Discussions took place about various ongoing projects, including the creation of a Student Senate logo.

Student Trustee Sharma reported that the sub-committee for Faces of DSBN has met and are deciding on logistics for the Student Excellence campaign.

Student Trustee Hollowell reported on a recent IEAC Meeting, which included discussions about the importance of connecting with all self-identified students in DSBN.

9. Report of the Equity and Inclusion Trustee Advisory Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell

Seconded by Alex Bradnam

“That the report of the Equity and Inclusion Trustee Advisory Committee dated November 18, 2020 be received.”

“That the Equity and Inclusion Trustee Advisory Committee Terms of Reference be approved.”

“That the DSBN Equity Advisory Committee Terms of Reference be approved.”

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell reported that the newly formed committee reviewed the terms of reference for the Equity and Inclusion Trustee Advisory Committee and the DSBN Equity Advisory Committee. Superintendent Pisek shared six tenants of focus for Equity and Inclusion work in the DSBN. This can be found on the newly launched Equity and Inclusion page on the DSBN external webpage. Pratima Burton spoke to DSBN’s commitment to providing monthly, ongoing professional development for all staff and Zakia Hamdani spoke to the committee about the importance of student voice.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of or by Board members.

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Organization Meeting of the Board

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That for the Organization Meeting of the Board of Trustees on December 1, 2020, the nomination period described in Board By-law F-6(ii) be suspended and replaced with a requirement that nominations shall be submitted to the Secretary of the Board from Wednesday, November 25, 2020 until 12:00 noon on Friday, November 27, 2020.”

CARRIED

Chair Barnett noted that the proposal of advancing the nomination period and having it close on Friday November 27 at noon, will help to provide the Director’s Office with more time to prepare for the virtual organization meeting on December 1, 2020.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. Staff Reports

There were no staff reports.

2. Trustee Information Session

There was no trustee information session.

3. Correspondence and Communication

There was no correspondence or communication.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

There was no trustee communications or school liaison.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – CONTINUED

5. Ontario Public School Boards’ Association (OPSBA) Report

Trustee Baggott reported that OPSBA attended a consultation regarding the move to expand the mandate for TVO related to on-line learning. There is an opportunity for OPSBA to make a submission to the Minister of Education and they would like to hear from staff and trustees about the following:

1. Response to TVO taking on a central leadership role in supporting online learning in the publicly funded education system
2. Identify current strengths in school board delivery of on-line/e-learning
3. Any areas that TVO could support school boards in delivery of on-line learning

In response to questions from trustees, Trustee Baggott provided clarification about TVO’s current role in online course development and about funding that is received by DSBN to develop online courses.

Discussions took place about:

- Concerns about TVO privatizing
- The loss of funding
- The impact this would have on the number of teachers DSBN has
- The importance of students returning to in-class learning
- The availability of data about student achievement and satisfaction with online vs. in-class learning
- Writing curriculum that is specific to the needs and diversity of DSBN students
- TVO being a leader in online education

Trustee Baggott will write a summary of the Board’s perspective and submit to OPSBA on the Board’s behalf.

Information published by the Ontario Public School Boards’ Association is available at www.opsba.org.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of December 2020 meetings was provided.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

“That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on November 24, 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

O. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Kate Baggott

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 p.m.

SUE BARNETT
Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI
Director of Education and Secretary