

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2020

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:35 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 7:39 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

Salony Sharma and 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

Regrets

Keelee Hollowell

Recording Secretary

Christina Dero

Technical Support

Wendy Coit and Darlene Duncan

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.

COMMENCEMENT OF THE MEETING OF THE BOARD - CONTINUED

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.

Chair Barnett noted the absence of Student Trustee Hollowell.

3. Declarations of Conflict of Interest

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Nancy Beamer

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

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

CARRIED

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Board return to Open meeting.”

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:35 p.m.

C. SINGING OF ‘O CANADA’

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Klassen shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Doug Newton

Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. Approval of Board Minutes

Moved by Dave Schaubel

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated September 22, 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 Shannon Mitchell

“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) Mary Vanderveen, Lunch Room Supervisor, Crossroads Public School

Via video, Director Hoshizaki recognized Mary Vanderveen for her impact on students, her positive nature, and her giving spirit during her 26 years of giving to the DSBN.

Director Hoshizaki presented Mary Vanderveen with a token of the Board's appreciation for her extraordinary contributions.

2. Educational Showcases

There were no educational showcases.

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 Kevin Maves

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the months of August and September 2020, totaling \$33,922,052.22 be received."

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – CONTINUED

2. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Nancy Beamer

Seconded by Doug Newton

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated October 7, 2020 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Newton provided a summary of the Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meeting which included an overview the enhanced protocols for students return-to-school, DSBN Virtual School, and the proactive visits by Public Health to schools. The PIC Conference will not take place this year because of COVID restrictions, but the committee is looking at ways to support the community virtually.

3. 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 October 8, 2020 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell provided a summary of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, which included a Student Voice presentation via video, discussions about the supports available at DSBN Virtual School for students with special needs, and an update about Special Education supports.

4. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Lora Campbell

Seconded by Kate Baggott

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated October 14, 2020 be received.”

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – CONTINUED

Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Trustee Campbell reported that the committee heard and approved a total of five cases. The committee also reviewed the progress of current SAL cases. There are fourteen cases currently active and compliant with their SAL plans and one case has been terminated this year.

5. Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Moved by Salony Sharma

Seconded by Karina Tavernese

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated September 22, 2020 be received.”

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated October 20, 2020 be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Tavernese reported that the Student Trustee Senate has launched an Instagram account to help promote communications. Student Trustee Tavernese also provided a summary of the September 22, 2020 Student Trustee Senate meeting and the recent OSTA-AECO meeting.

Student Trustee Sharma provided an overview of the October 20, 2020 Student Trustee Senate meeting, which included discussions about conducting school raffle fundraisers online. Funds raised will support DSBN students.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

Chair Barnett informed trustees about the creation of an Ad Hoc Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, with membership of up to five trustees, if there is enough interest.

Trustee Mitchell was asked to Chair the committee and she accepted.

Chair Barnett asked trustees to send her or Trustee Mitchell an expression of interest by email if they are interested in sitting on the advisory committee.

Chair Barnett added that this committee will advise the system’s equity working committee on issues related to equity, inclusion and diversity led by Superintendent Kelly Pisek.

QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS – CONTINUED

Senior staff answered questions from trustees:

- Student trustees can take part in the Ad Hoc Equity and Inclusion Advisory Committee, provide input, and cast non-binding votes
- The final number of DSBN students returning to in-class learning in November is unknown because the deadline to submit intention is today, but as of now, over 500 students will be returning to in-class learning
- If students are having technical problems with online learning, parents are asked to contact the Virtual School Principal or access the help desk
- DSBN's Annual Budget book was issued based on the original budget submission, and the additional use of 1% of accumulated surplus that was later approved by trustees will be reflected in revised estimates
- DSBN has worked with Public Health regarding mask guidelines at the Education Centre. Staff working within their own space where social distancing is possible are not required to wear masks. If the public is coming into the building, they are asked to wear a mask and to meet staff in designated areas.

L. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

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

Chair Barnett noted that she and Director Hoshizaki have been asked to take part in a teleconference with the Minister of Education this week.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS – CONTINUED

Correspondence and Communication

Chair Barnett advised that she attends a weekly meeting with the Minister of Education and school board chairs from around the province and Director Hoshizaki does the same with Directors of Education.

Recently, Parliamentary Assistant to the Minister of Education, Sam Oosterhoff announced the funding for two new additions to DSBN schools.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

- a) Trustee Bradnam reported that Eden High School’s Spiritual Life Centre will be holding a virtual fundraising banquet on November 20, 2020. Tickets can be purchased from Spiritual Life Director, John Bryan for \$15.

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

Trustee Baggott reported that during the OPSBA’s AGM Meeting, she supported a motion to start a political action note in requesting that the government return any accumulated surplus funds used by some boards to help fund COVID 19 related expenses, such as lower class sizes. DSBN is one of only a few school boards that have an accumulated surplus funds.

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

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of November 2020 meetings was provided.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on October 27, 2020 be now ratified by the Board.”

RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING – CONTINUED

“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 Shannon Mitchell

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:39 p.m.

SUE BARNETT
Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI
Director of Education and Secretary