

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 23, 2021

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:00p.m. (Virtual Meetings)

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

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

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, Kara Hiott-Bowles, 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. Chair Barnett noted that 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 Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

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

CARRIED

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Board return to Open meeting.”

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:30 p.m.

C. SINGING OF ‘O CANADA’

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Schaubel shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

BUSINESS OF THE BOARD – CONTINUED

Adoption of the Agenda

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated January 26, 2021 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 Jonathan Fast

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) Way Down Hadestown, via video, by the musical theatre class at Laura Secord

Director Hoshizaki shared a video of the Laura Secord Secondary School musical theatre class showcasing how they perform virtually during the COVID pandemic.

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – CONTINUED

Director's Report and Recognition

Director Hoshizaki announced the appointment of Maryam Safdar Ali as DSBN Human Rights Advisor. Director Hoshizaki shared a video of him speaking with Maryam about her background and experiences, as well as the importance of equity, inclusion, diversity and anti-racism.

2. Educational Showcases

a) Director's Artisan Card Contest

Chief Communications Officer, Kim Sweeney, thanked the winners of the Director's Artisan Card Contest, who did a wonderful job creating original art that represents their favorite time of year. The winners will receive a Recognition Certificate and a package of printed artisan cards. Tonight's video will also be sent to their schools so they can share it with their classmates.

Kim Sweeney shared a video of the Director's Artisan Card winners and their artwork.

b) Black History Activities for February and Beyond

Superintendent Pisek introduced the showcase, which was presented virtually by Pratima Burton, Zakia Hamdani, Christine Lafferty, and Lindsay Barrow. The showcase highlights how educators affirm and validate historical experience and the present relevance of Black History Month.

Pratima Burton explained that the narrative of the Black experience must be embedded into all curriculum all year long to ensure students see themselves reflected in the learning. Black History Month is an opportunity to center Black identities and celebrate Black Excellence which includes contributions of Black people throughout time and today.

Zakia Hamdani added that we are still evolving in our understanding of the Black community experience and its influence on all our lives. We will continue to learn about the experiences and achievements of Black communities and affirm and validate that Black history is Canadian history. We will also continue to equip educators with the tools to continue to lift our students' histories and lived experiences in authentic and productive ways. This way, we

EDUCATIONAL SHOWCASING OR PRESENTATIONS – CONTINUED

Black History Activities for February and Beyond

can truly honour the Black Canadians who have shaped our nation’s history and build a school culture that strengthens our student’s identities.

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. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Kevin Maves

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated February 2, 2021 be received.”

“That the report of the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars 2021-2022 be received and approved for submission to the Ministry of Education be received.”

“That the Forest of Reading Update be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel provided a summary of the Program and Planning Committee meeting, which included a presentation of DSBNs proposed 2021-2022 school calendars and an update on the Forest of Reading. This year all students will have a chance to participate virtually in the Forest of Reading event.

OLD BUSINESS – CONTINUED

2. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Doug Newton

Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated February 3, 2021 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Beamer reported that, as part of the PIC Speaker Series, Ann Douglas presented “Parenting in a Pandemic” to over 400 people on January 27, 2021. Three additional speakers have been added to the series:

- March 10, 2021 – Natasha Parent will present, “Should I be worried about screen time?”
- March 17, 2021 – Cassandra Muileboom will offer a story-based presentation to addresses the 5 A’s of anti-racism parenting.
- March 24, 2021 – Equity Connections will offer a panel presentation that will focus on a five-phase process to building effective allyship as a parent.

3. Report of the Policy Committee

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the report of the Policy Committee dated February 9, 2021 be received.”

“That the Policy Committee commence the process to review Policy A-09 Naming/Renaming of Schools forthwith so it may be considered at the May 11, 2021 Policy Committee meeting.”

“That Policy I-01: Policy – General be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy i-02: Policy Committee be approved as received and adopted.”

“That Policy A-12: School Councils be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy C-04: Community Planning and Partnerships be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy G-21: Advertising In Schools be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy D-11: Arts Program be approved as amended and adopted.”

OLD BUSINESS – CONTINUED

Report of the Policy Committee

“That Policy G-02: Safe Schools be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy G-38: Complaints Resolution Policy be approved as amended and adopted.”

CARRIED

Trustee Bradnam provided a summary of the eight policies that were reviewed and approved by the committee and noted some changes. Correspondence referred to the Policy Committee during the January Board Meeting generated discussion about Policy A-09 Naming/Renaming of Schools. The next round of policies up for vetting will be available on the DSBN website from February 16 – April 27, 2021.

4. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Lora Campbell

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated February 11, 2021 be received.”

CARRIED

Vice Chair Bradnam provided a summary of the February 2021 Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, which included a Student Voice presentation via video and a Presentation from Superintendent Dickson about the parameters for the upcoming student census survey.

Trustee Mitchell added that Superintendent St. John shared that the upcoming PD Day will provide staff with an opportunity to participate in a variety of learning opportunities and he also noted that there are now 150 students participating in the DSBN Preschool Transition program.

5. Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Moved by Salony Sharma

Seconded by Kellee Hollowell

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated February 17, 2021 be received.”

CARRIED

OLD BUSINESS – CONTINUED

Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Student Trustee Sharma provided an update on the EFN fundraiser that Senators are collaborating on with EFN. Student Trustee Sharma provided a summary of the Student Trustee Senate meeting which included discussions about graduation and revised MSIP scheduling.

Student Trustee Tavernese reported on the recent OSTA-AECO meeting which included round table discussions, information sessions, and keynote speakers.

Student Trustee Hollowell spoke to the newest OSTA-AECO advocacy project. This will be promoted on the Student Senate Instagram page and in schools.

6. Report of the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee

Moved by Kevin Maves

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the report of the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee dated February 17, 2021 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell provided a summary of the committee meeting, where Director Hoshizaki provided an update on system initiatives and shared that DSBN is hiring a Human Rights Advisor to support the work of equity, inclusion, and human rights. Superintendent Pisek shared that DSBN students, parents/guardians, and community representatives can apply to be on the DSBN Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Community Advisory Committee on the DSBN website.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of or by board members.

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

There were no correspondence or communication.

4. TRUSTEE COMMUNICATIONS AND SCHOOL LIAISON

There was no trustee communication or school liaison information shared.

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

Trustee Baggott reported that the Central West Regional OPSBA meeting took place on February 20, 2021. Discussions took place on the Future of Education and what our bricks and mortar schools mean to us. Trustee Dr. David Green provided an update on what has been implemented at Peel District School Board as it prepares to come out from under provincial supervision. He urged everyone to look at the governance documents and structures published on their board's web site. Trustee Baggott added that Superintendent McGregor also attended the meeting.

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

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of March 2021 meetings was provided.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Dave Schaubel
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING – CONTINUED

That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on February 23, 2021 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 Doug Newton

Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

SUE BARNETT
Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI
Director of Education and Secretary