

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22, 2022

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:36 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:04 p.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

Tiya Patel, Salony Sharma, Kya Steinbach-Parker

OFFICIALS

Warren Hoshizaki (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, Mary Anne Gage, Ann Gilmore, Simon Hancox, Kelly Pisek, Marian Reimer Friesen, Leanne Smith, Michael St. John, Darren VanHooydonk, Stacy Veld, Jennifer Feren, Maryam Safdar Ali, Kim Sweeney, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Morgan

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer McGugan

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Wendy Coit, 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.

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 Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Sue Barnett

“That the Board return to Open meeting.”
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:36 p.m.

C. SINGING OF ‘O CANADA’

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Student Trustee Tiya Patel shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Agenda be adopted.”
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated January 25, 2022, 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 Kevin Maves

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) Director’s Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions

- **Bobbi Rorison, Educational Assistant, Orchard Park Public School**

Via video, Director Hoshizaki recognized Bobbi Rorison for being a caring, dedicated, supportive and knowledgeable educational assistant. She shares her love for every student and easily forms trusting relationships with students, families and staff. She takes pride in her work and continues to pursue professional development to build her capacity. Director Hoshizaki presented Bobbi Rorison with a token of the Board’s appreciation for her contributions.

- **Tom Bilon, Head Custodian, Kate S. Durdan Public School**

Via video, Director Hoshizaki recognized Tom Bilon for being an exemplary employee who has gained extensive knowledge throughout his career. He shows a passionate dedication and ownership to the school. Tom takes pride in his work and is always available to help staff, students, and families. Director Hoshizaki presented Tom Bilon with a token of the Board’s appreciation for their extraordinary contributions.

b) Director’s Report

- **Black History Month and Community Event**

Director Hoshizaki shared that the DSBN is committed to ensuring all students' identities are represented and included as we continue to prepare them for life as global citizens in a very diverse world. Black History Month is a time to celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians and their communities, as well celebrating Black history and excellence can be highlighted and embedded into the curriculum throughout the year.

- **Pink Shirt Day**

Director Hoshizaki noted that Pink Shirt Day will be recognized on Wednesday, February 23, 2022. Students and staff are encouraged to wear anything pink to show support and commitment to inclusion, belonging and kindness.

2. Educational Showcases

a) Director's Artisan Card Contest Winners

Director Hoshizaki introduced Senior Manager of Communications and Public Relations, Kim Sweeney, who shared that there were 400 Director's Artisan Card Contest submissions. She introduced a video highlighting this year's winners. Director Hoshizaki thanked and congratulated all the winners of this year's contest.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORT

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 Doug Newton

Seconded by Dave Schaubel

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated February 1, 2022, be received."

"That the report of the Elementary and Secondary School Year Calendars 2022-2023 be received and approved for submission to the Ministry of Education."

"That the Secondary Technology and SHSM (Specialist High Skills Majors) Program Update be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel provided a summary of the February 1 meeting where the proposed school year calendars for 2022-2023, upon Board approval, will be submitted to the Ministry of Education. Trustee Schaubel provided highlights of the Secondary Technology and SHSM program which includes an Indigenous and Skilled Trades series and Try A Trade 2022.

2. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated February 2, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Beamer provided an update on the February 2 Parent Involvement Committee (PIC) meeting that included a January PIC speaker series update highlighting “Taking Care of You” by Anne Murray, and Dr. Gholdy Muhammad’s book Cultivating Genius. There are plans to add spring sessions to the PIC speaker series. The PIC was updated on DSBN’s progress with it’s Anti-Sex Trafficking Policy and protocols. The committee also heard details of students’ return to in person learning on January 17, at which time secondary schools were able to resume extra curriculums and continue preparing for modified in person events for both the 2022 DSBN Skills and Try A Trade challenges.

3. Report of the Policy Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Policy Committee dated February 8, 2022, be received.”

“That Policy A-18: Environmental Sustainability be deferred to May 17.”

“That Policy F-03: Facility Access, Key Control and Intrusion Alarm be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy G-23: Transfer of Students from Grade 8 to Secondary schools be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy D-04: Elementary Interschool Athletic Program be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy G-25: Co-Instructional Activities be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy A-11: Flag Protocol be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy E-05: Digital Technology Use by Staff be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy E-16: Electronic Communications, Cloud Applications and Social Media Use by Staff be approved as amended and adopted.”

CARRIED

Trustee Bradnam provided an update on the February 8 Policy Committee Meeting. A total of 7 policies were reviewed and approved. Policy A-18: Environmental Sustainability was deferred to the May 17 Policy meeting. Trustee Bradnam highlighted rationale for revisions made to the policies. Policies being reviewed at the May 17 Policy Committee meeting will be open for vetting on the DSBN website from February 25 to April 23.

Trustee Klassen noted that Policy A-11: Flag Protocol made no reference to the DSBN Well-Being Flag, a representation of student voice that symbolizes kindness, diversity, acceptance, and respect, and it did not include guidelines to determine criteria for flying flags.

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“That Policy A-11: Flag Protocol be voted on separately and that this policy be referred back to the Policy Committee for further review and discussion.”

Recorded Vote:

Trustee Baggott	Opposed
Trustee Beamer	Opposed
Vice Chair Bradnam	Opposed
Trustee Campbell	Opposed
Trustee Fast	Opposed
Trustee Klassen	In Favour
Trustee Maves	Opposed
Trustee Mitchell	Opposed
Trustee Newton	Opposed
Trustee Schaubel	Opposed
Chair Barnett	Opposed

DEFEATED

The board returned to the consideration of the main motions in their entirety having previously been moved and seconded.

4. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated February 9???, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Campbell reported that at the February SAL Committee meeting, five (5) applications for SAL were presented and reviewed by the Committee. All five (5) cases were approved for SAL. The Committee reviewed fifteen active cases. Of the fifteen (15) cases, ten (10) are active and compliant with the SAL plans. Five (5) cases have been discontinued. Of those five (5), there are three (3) students returning to full-time learning, one (1) case discontinued for non-compliance and one (1) student has left the school district.

5. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Trustee Maves

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated February 10, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell provided an update from the February 10 Special Education Advisory Committee where new SEAC member Gabriela Ortega, of Inclusion Action Ontario, was welcomed and guest presenter Dorothy Harvey, the Director of Clinical Services at the Niagara Children’s Centre (NCC), provided an overview of the organization’s role and responsibilities as a Children’s treatment rehabilitation centre. Also presented was an update on permanent contract Educational Assistant positions. Information was shared on Policy and Program Memorandum 81 (PPM 81), Provision of Health Support Services in School Settings. School boards have been given the opportunity to provide feedback on the draft PPM 81 and SEAC will be informed throughout the process. In addition, responses to questions submitted by a SEAC member were presented that included outlining the approval of software and apps in a school setting, the grade 8-9 transition process and secondary programming for students with intellectual disabilities, and the use of assessment tools in special education classes were outlined.

6. Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Moved by Tiya Patel

Seconded by Salony Sharma and Kya Steinbach-Parker

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated February 15,2022, be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Patel provided an update on the February 15 Student Trustee Senate Meeting, where the senate was introduced to the upcoming Student Trustee elections in April. During subcommittees students discussed the transition to second semester and concluded the meeting with a roundtable discussion. The consensus was that the transition has been smooth, with many students appreciating the normalcy and rhythm of regular class schedules and in-person learning. Student Trustee Steinbach-Parker provided an update on the February 18-19 OSTA-AECO’s annual Board Council Conference. DSBN Student Trustees met with student trustees from across the province to discuss current issues in the education system. There were information sessions given by keynote speakers, such as Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a question, Director Hoshizaki noted that, beginning today, DSBN discontinued providing cohort contact information to Niagara Region Public Health for COVID-19 positive cases and cohort dismissals. The four School Boards in Niagara will continue to follow Ontario Ministry of Education and Ministry of Health provincial direction and report absenteeism rates of 30% or higher due to illness in schools.

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Establish an Ad Hoc Governance Committee

Moved by Doug Newton

Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“That an Ad Hoc Governance Committee be struck.”

“That Trustees interested in sitting on the Ad Hoc Governance Committee submit their names to Chair Barnett.”

“That the mandate of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee shall be to review and to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees for:

- (a) In-person board and committee meetings.
- (b) Housekeeping amendments to the Board’s By-Laws and Rules of Order;
- (c) Review the Code of Conduct as required under the Education Act; and
- (d) Consideration of adding an Indigenous Trustee to the Board of Trustees.”

CARRIED

In response to a question, Chair Barnett noted that no more than 5 trustees can sit on the Ad Hoc Governance Committee and those interested should send an email to Chair Barnett.

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 received.

4. TRUSTEE COMMUNICATIONS AND SCHOOL LIAISON

Trustee Mitchell noted the Celebrating Black Joy and Excellence community virtual event that is part of the DSBN’s Building Cultural Knowledge Series happening Thursday, February 24.

Chair Barnett noted the Brock Leaders Citizenship Society's Denim, Diamonds and Diplomas virtual event on March 3, 2022.

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

Chair Barnett attended the Public Education Symposium held on January 28, 2022 and noted the many valuable learning opportunities.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of March 2022 meetings was provided.
The March Days of Significance calendar was provided.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Doug Newton
Seconded by Dave Schaubel

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on February 22, 2022, 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 Kate Baggott
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

SUE BARNETT
Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI
Director of Education and Secretary