

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:21 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:19 p.m. (Virtual Meetings)

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

Kate Baggott, Alex Bradnam (Vice Chair), Sue Barnett (Chair), Nancy Beamer, Lora Campbell, Elizabeth Klassen, 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, Stacy Veld, Jennifer Feren, Maryam Safdar Ali, Kim Sweeney, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Morgan

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer McGugan

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Wendy Coit, Darlene Duncan, Nate Burns

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.

Trustee Maves and Trustee Fast provided regrets and were absent.

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 26, 2022



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 6:21 p.m.

C. SINGING OF ‘O CANADA’

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Student Trustee Kya Steinbach-Parker 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 Elizabeth Klassen

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated March 22, 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 Doug Newton

Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“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

- **Educational Assistant Support Team, Senator Gibson Public School**

Via video, Director Hoshizaki recognized the Educational Assistant Support Team at Senator Gibson who support students in the Fundamental Skills Program, the Structured Strategies Program and throughout the school. Team members are Alexis Candler, Samantha Casement, Dylan Cubitt, Carol Holubowsky, Brandon Johnston, Jennifer McKnight, Lynette Meecham, Caroline Put, and Melanie Ryan. The team is an integral part of creating a culture of caring and they model inclusion by understanding the importance of knowing each learner to support student well-being and academic success. They are the first to help when a need arises in school and they continuously model teamwork, and respect and help students to learn positive strategies and skills. Director Hoshizaki presented the Senator Gibson Educational Assistant Support Team with a token of the Board’s appreciation for their contributions.

- **Jeff Hale, Head Custodian, Mike Cam, Day Custodian, and the Night Custodial Crew, Westlane Secondary School**

Via video, Director Hoshizaki recognized the strong custodial staff at Westlane Secondary School led by head custodian Jeff Hale, and day custodian Mike Cam who are both hard-working, approachable, and committed to their roles at Westlane. The pride and commitment they have for their school, staff, students, and community is evident. Jeff and Mike are quick to acknowledge the outstanding work of the night custodial crew: Danny Vescio, Abby Doney, Mary Anne Martin, Pete Rustico, Debbie Ruttan, Roxanne Stefanac and Jane Zabor. Director Hoshizaki presented these Westlane staff members with a token of the Board’s appreciation for their extraordinary contributions.

b) Director's Report

- **“Trade”ing Indigenous Cuisine**

Director Hoshizaki reported that Indigenous students from all three Niagara Falls secondary schools participated in the “Trade”ing Indigenous Cuisine Culinary Event at Stamford Collegiate on April 20, 2022, as part of the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program (OYAP). Fort Erie Secondary School graduate, Pauline Cotter, shared her culinary skills as an Indigenous chef and role model for students. Students learned about Indigenous culture and the support that Niagara Peninsula Aboriginal Area Management Board offers as they transition to post-secondary and career opportunities supported by OYAP.

- **Career Fair for Indigenous Students**

Director Hoshizaki shared that Niagara College and Brock University hosted a Career Fair for local secondary students at the Niagara Regional Native Centre on March 29, 2022. There were 36 DSBN students that attended and had the opportunity to interact with Indigenous post-secondary students, community organizations and peers, and build new connections, friendships, and support for their future.

- **Niagara Chapter – Native Women (NCNW) Blockers and Attackers Event**

Director Hoshizaki noted that the DSBN was proud to be an Eagle Feather sponsor of the NCNW Blockers and Attackers event on April 8 and 9. The event showcased talented female athletes who connected their identity and culture to their successes. Participants heard how critical it is to maintain an Indigenous identity for healthy self-esteem and lifelong success while bonding over their shared interest in sports.

- **Forest of Reading/ Forêt de la lecture Student Conference**

Director Hoshizaki shared that after a two-year pause, the annual DSBN Forest of Reading event was held on April 21, 2022, at the Niagara Falls Convention Centre. This celebration is the culminating event for students in Grade 7 and 8 who have participated in the OLA Forest of Reading® program within their schools. There were over 460 students in attendance that had the opportunity to connect with their peers and educators from across the DSBN who share a passion for reading.

- **Provincial Champions**

Director Hoshizaki reported that the Governor Simcoe Secondary School Redcoats robotics team travelled to the FIRST Robotics WORLD Championship in Houston Texas, which runs from April 20 to 23. They will compete against 450 teams from across the globe.

2. Educational Showcases

a) Celebrating Earth Week

Superintendent Hancox shared that over 23,000 elementary and secondary students and staff spent time in their schoolyards and local green spaces as part of a challenge, organized by the Outdoor Education team, to take learning outside. Outdoor learning resources and tools were shared to assist elementary and secondary educators. Superintendent Reimer Friesen noted that the Elementary Curriculum Support Services team launched an Earth Week campaign, featuring a toolkit of teaching and learning materials. DSBN hosted its first Earth Day live event on Friday, April 22nd featuring presentations from Indigenous StoryTeller Isaac Murdoch and Canadian Environmental Activist David

Suzuki, and a series of video success stories showcasing some of the exciting eco-initiatives happening in schools. Superintendent Reimer Friesen introduced a short video of the event highlighting both the outdoor learning and Earth Day events.

b) Creating a Quiet Meditation/Multi-Faith Room at Welland Centennial Secondary School

Superintendent Smith noted the DSBN's commitment to fostering diverse, equitable, and inclusive learning and working environments. The DSBN recognizes and embraces the religious diversity represented in its students, staff, and community members. Human Rights Advisor, Maryam Safdar Ali, highlighted a recent initiative that involved establishing quiet meditation/multi-faith rooms at the education centre and DSBN schools, for all students and staff of all faiths and beliefs to use to pray, worship, meditate, and/or reflect. A video was shared that was created by the DSBN communication team about Welland Centennial secondary school's meditation/multi-faith room.

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. Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the report of the Ad Hoc Strategic Planning Committee dated March 21, 2022, be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Klassen reported that at the March 21 meeting an overview of the purpose and timelines of the Strategic Plan 2022-27 was presented. She shared that input from all stakeholders will be sought and the plan will be presented to the Board of Trustees for approval prior to the end of this Board's Term.

2. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated April 5, 2022, be received."

“That the Board of Trustees approve the elementary boundary change to establish the boundaries for Kate S. Durdan PS and the new Niagara Falls elementary PS as shown on Appendix A;

That the boundary change takes effect on the day after the Board of Trustees approval and all new registering students within the Niagara Falls elementary school boundary will attend James Morden PS until the new school is open after which students will attend their respective home school;

That existing students within the new Niagara Falls elementary school boundary currently attending Kate S. Durdan PS have the option to temporarily attend James Morden PS;

That the school boundaries be updated accordingly.”

“That the Board support the DSBN Toolkit for Supporting Students who have Experienced Sexual Violence.”

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel provided an update on the April 5th meeting where the Committee received presentations on the new Niagara Falls Elementary Public School temporary school boundary holding at James Morden Public School, the Toolkit for Supporting Students who have Experienced Sexual Violence, the New Elementary Science and Technology Curriculum, and the New Primary and Junior EQAO Assessment.

In response to questions, Board Lawyer, Jennifer Feren, stated that just as required under the Niagara Regional Police Services Protocol, the parent(s)/guardian(s) should be contacted first, and where they are not able to be contacted the school principal can stand in loco parentis. She stated that if a student chooses not to have a parent/guardian or staff member present the interview would not happen on school property. She also noted that the Niagara Regional Police Services Protocol is being reviewed with the co-terminus board and NRPS.

In response to a question, Superintendent St. John shared that all students have access to the supports available in schools, such as social workers. Students who have experienced trauma, or any student that may require support, can connect with school staff to access available resources.

3. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated April 6, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Campbell reported that at the April SAL Committee no new applications were brought forward. The Committee reviewed the progress of twenty-two current SAL plans. Twenty-one students are currently active and compliant with their SAL plans. One case is being discontinued because the student has returned to in-person learning.

4. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Doug Newton

Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated April 6, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Newton provided an update on the PIC Speaker Series Spring Sessions including the March 30th presentation with Dr. Susan Dion on Braided Learning: Illuminating Indigenous Presence through Art and Story, and upcoming sessions with Online Safety Expert, Paul Davis. Also presented were updates on the Kindergarten Open Houses, in-person elementary and secondary June Graduation ceremonies, online EQAO assessment format, Education Foundation of Niagara’s Prom Project, and an overview of the DSBN’s new Toolkit for Supporting Students Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence. During the last PIC meeting in May, the Committee will discuss and plan the final speakers for the remainder of this year’s Speaker Series.

5. Ad Hoc Governance Committee

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the reports of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated, March 28, 2022, and April 11, 2022, be received.”

“That the District School Board of Niagara (DSBN) request the Niagara Indigenous Community to name one person to represent, on the Board, the interests of Niagara Indigenous students;

That the Board appoint the named representative as a member of the Board;

That the member appointed to the Board serve on the same term cycle as publicly elected trustees (November 2022 – 2026);

That the District School Board of Niagara correspond with the Ministry of Education to confirm the voting rights of the DSBN Indigenous trustee.”

“That the draft District School Board of Niagara Code of Conduct (2022-2026) as presented be approved; and

That the District School Board of Niagara Code of Conduct (2022-2026) form part of the Trustee Handbook; and

That the District School Board of Niagara Code of Conduct (2022-2026) be implemented and take effect at the commencement of the new term of the Board of Trustees.”

CARRIED

Trustee Newton reported that the topic of in-person board meetings was discussed and will be revisited for further discussion at a future meeting. He reported the Committee supports adding an Indigenous Trustee to the Board of Trustees, that with the Board's approval will involve sending a letter to the Ministry of Education seeking support and engaging the Indigenous community to name a representative. The Committee recommended the approval of the draft amended Code of Conduct.

In response to questions, Director Hoshizaki clarified that should Board members elect to return to in-person meetings this year, meetings would proceed as hybrid and all senior staff would participate remotely.

6. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated April 14, 2022, be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell shared the Committee received a video student voice presentation from a kind, positive, and enthusiastic student who shared the importance of April being a special month where people wear tie-dye to raise awareness and "Celebrate the Spectrum" for students like him who have autism. The Committee was provided with updates on class transitions, as well as the planning of inclusive summer programming to be offered for students from kindergarten to grade 12 during the month of July. Highlights from the Board meeting were shared including the strong participation of high school students competing in the 24th annual Technological Skills Challenges and intermediate students participating in the Try a Trade program, information on serving Multi-Language Learners, and a presentation on Sovereignty and Equity led by Student Achievement Leader of Indigenous Education, Georgie Groat.

7. Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Moved by Tya Patel

Seconded by Salony Sharma and Kya Steinbach-Parker

"That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated April 19, 2022, be received."

Trustee Sharma provided an update on the Student Trustee Senate elections for the 2022-24 term held in-person on April 19. Trustee Sharma announced that Julianna Marcel from Greater Fort Erie Secondary School has been elected as the incoming Student Trustee. Trustee Patel shared that also on April 19 was an in-person Student Trustee Senate meeting where Student Trustees informed the Senate about the DSBN's Toolkit for Supporting Students Who Have Experienced Sexual Violence, a document that provides guidance and defines the roles and responsibilities of staff when students disclose an incident of sexual violence. Senators also received presentations about Health & Physical Education classes

shifting from gendered classes to open and inclusive in the next school year and the implementation of Quiet Meditation and Multi-Faith Spaces in schools across the board. Trustee Steinbach-Parker reported that the Ontario Student Trustee Association Annual General Meeting is on May 26-29 in downtown Toronto. Also, she provided an update on her ongoing work with the Indigenous Student Leadership Circle, presentations from the Niagara Regional Native Centre and Fort Erie Native Friendship Centre, and the Indigenous Career Fair on March 29.

8. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated April 20, 2022, be received.”

“That Policy A-03 be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy A-04 be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy A-06 be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy A-07 be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Policy B-01 be approved as amended and adopted.”

“That Borrowing Resolution 2021-03 authorizing the Board to borrow up to \$15,927,346 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects, pursuant to the provisions of section 243(1) of the Education Act, be approved; and

“That Borrowing Resolution 2021-04 authorizing the Board to borrow up to \$2,754,344 for the short-term financing of Ministry funded capital projects, pursuant to the provisions of section 243(1) of the Education Act, be approved.”

“That the 2021-22 Interim Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2022, and the corresponding changes in revenues and expenditures, be received.”

“That the Multi-Year Capital Plan be received, and staff be authorized to proceed with all identified projects up to and including the 2022-23 year, subject to confirmation of necessary Ministry of Education approvals.”

“That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of January, February and March 2022, totaling \$83,279,074 be received.”

“That the Award of Contracts Summary for the period ended March 31, 2022, be received.”

Superintendent Veld reported that Policies that have financial implications to the Board were presented to the Committee for approval. The Committee approved two borrowing by-laws to support borrowing

immediately under the Capital Priorities funding program. Controller of Finance, Nicky Westlake, presented the second Interim Financial Report for the period ending February 28, 2022. The Multi-Year Capital Plan for the 2022-23 year was presented to the Committee to address various capital needs within the DSBN. Controller Westlake presented the Summary of Accounts report which summarizes the cash outflow of expenditures paid during the months of January, February, and March 2022. The Summary of Award of Contracts was presented to Trustees to provide information with respect to the two contracts awarded between January 1, 2022, and March 31, 2022, which were for the St. Catharines Collegiate synthetic field and for Ventilation Upgrades at Ferndale Public School. The proposed 2022-23 budget will be presented for Trustee approval at the next meeting on May 24.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

In response to a question, Director Hoshizaki noted that absentee data regarding masking is not available.

In response to a question, Jennifer Feren noted that the DSBN must adhere to the Ministry's decision to not require masks. The DSBN supports students to continue masking, encourages students to stay home if they are sick and continues with cleaning and hygiene protocols.

In response to a question, Director Hoshizaki reported that strategies are in place to support staff absences and ensure jobs are filled.

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 was no correspondence received.

4. Trustee Communications and School Liaison

Trustee Newton shared that he visited Smith Public School along with Trustee Klassen to support a grade 2 student who authored a book titled "I Am a Great Friend". The book highlights the importance of being kind and a good friend to others. Trustees Newton and Klassen provided copies of the book to students at Smith Public School.

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

Trustee Baggott reminded the Board of the OPSBA 2022 AGM being held June 9 to 11, 2022 in Ottawa and the 2022 CSBA Congress in Saskatoon.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of May 2022 meetings was provided.
The May 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 April 26, 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 8:19 p.m.

SUE BARNETT

Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI

Director of Education and Secretary