

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 2021

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:56 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:48 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, Simon Hancox,
Helen McGregor, 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 7:01 p.m.

Chair Barnett welcomed Tiya Patel and Kya Steinbach-Parker to their first official board meeting as student trustees. She also welcomed Superintendent Darren VanHooydonk to his first Board meeting and Jennifer McGugan as the new recording secretary.

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 Alex Bradnam

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

CARRIED

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Doug Newton

“That the Board return to Open meeting.”

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:56 p.m.

C. SINGING OF ‘O CANADA’

The Board stood as ‘*O Canada*’ was performed by Steele Street Public School students, via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Jonathan Fast shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

In response to a question, Director Hoshizaki confirmed that the information provided to trustees regarding the delegation topics being presented at the Board meeting could be shared.

“That the Agenda be adopted.”

CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen

Seconded by Kevin Maves

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated June 21, 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 Shannon Mitchell

Seconded by Doug Newton

“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 Report

Director Hoshizaki noted the excitement on September 7 as staff welcomed new and returning students and he thanked DSBN staff and trustees for their commitment and dedication to student success. Director Hoshizaki shared that the DSBN was a lead sponsor at the recent Celebrations of Nations event. He noted some upcoming days of significance for DSBN staff and students which include the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation on September 30th, shared with

Orange Shirt Day, Rowan's Law Day on September 29, and World Teachers' Day on October 5. From a conversation with Kristen Kit, Olympian and DSBN alumna, Director Hoshizaki noted the impact a dedicated teacher had in her life.

Director Hoshizaki reported that Thorold Secondary School was approved by Trustees to receive a synthetic track, and that St. Catharines Collegiate will be receiving a synthetic track and turf field which will be named after the school's very own alumnus – Mohammed Ahmed. He also shared that the DSBN has provided an opportunity for spectators to attend outdoor student football games.

The DSBN has fully implemented the DSBN's Vaccination Disclosure Procedure and Director Hoshizaki reported that the DSBN has among the highest rates of fully vaccinated staff across the province.

2. Educational Showcases

a) Student Spotlight: Secondary Extracurriculars

Directors Hoshizaki introduced a video presentation on secondary extracurriculars that highlighted student excitement for activities such as field hockey, soccer, tennis, volleyball, swimming, ultimate frisbee, dance club, track student council and student senate.

In response to a trustee having technical difficulty, Director Hoshizaki confirmed the video will be shared with trustees.

G. STUDENT ACHIEVEMENT REPORTS

There were no student achievement reports.

H. DELEGATIONS

1. J. Lukings presented concerns about safety in classrooms with unmasked children as well as concerns about DSBN's mask exemption process. She suggested a standard of care for mask wearing be developed in consultation with community health partners.

Chair Barnett referred this topic to the Program and Planning Committee for further discussion at the next meeting to be scheduled in October.

2. H. Bateman presented concerns about DSBN's vaccination policy, vaccination disclosure by staff, unvaccinated staff being in contact with children not old enough to be vaccinated, and PPE procedures for the protection against COVID-19.

Chair Barnett referred this topic to the Program and Planning Committee for further discussion at the next meeting to be scheduled in October.

3. St. Catharines Environmental Alliance presented a request for the DSBN to create a viable, progressive, and inclusive tree policy.

Chair Barnett referred this matter to the October Finance Committee meeting.

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the St. Catharines Environmental Alliance request be reviewed at the October Finance Committee meeting.”

CARRIED

I. BOARD RECESS

There was no Board recess.

J. OLD BUSINESS

1. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Dave Schaubel

Seconded by Kate Baggott

“That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated September 8, 2021 be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Newton provided a summary of the meeting which included the Chair election, updates on schools reopening, an overview of the staff vaccine attestation procedure, and a summary of construction and renovation projects completed over the summer. The committee will continue to offer a virtual speaker series for DSBN parents this year with the first presenter speaking about children’s resiliency, mental health, and well-being.

2. Report of the Audit Committee

Moved by Nancy Beamer

Seconded by Alex Bradnam

"That the report of the Audit Committee dated September 13, 2021 be received."

"That the Regional Internal Audit Status Report be received."

Superintendent Veld provided highlights from the meeting, which included the election of the 2021-22 Chair Yusuf Essop, a request for the completion of committee member Declaration of Conflict of Interest and an annual self-assessment supported by Ontario Regulation 361/10, and a presentation of the Regional Internal Audit Status Report.

3. Report of the Program and Planning Committee

Moved by Lora Campbell

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the report of the Program and Planning Committee dated September 14, 2021 be received."

"That the Board receive the Indigenous Education Update."

"That the Board receive the New Grade 9 Math Curriculum Update."

"That the Board receive the Summer Learning 2021 Report."

CARRIED

Trustee Schaubel provided a summary of the meeting, which included a presentation of updates on Indigenous Education update, the New Grade 9 Math Curriculum and Summer Learning.

4. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen

Seconded by Kevin Maves

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated September 16, 2021 be received."

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell provided a summary of the Special Education Advisory Committee meeting, which included the Chair election, a summary of Special Education supports for students, an update on professional development available for staff supporting students with special learning needs, and a summary of Special Education summer programs that included a student success story.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

No questions.

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 Mitchell requested that the Board write a letter in support of COVID-19 vaccines for children ages five to eleven.

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Kate Baggott

“That the District School Board of Niagara write a letter to the Ontario Ministry of Education, including Health Canada, in support of COVID-19 vaccines for children ages five to eleven as a preventive measure to help stop the spread of the virus in our communities and in our schools.”

CARRIED

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

Trustee Baggott provided an OPSBA update. She noted the OPSBA online survey that is available for community members to share some of their thoughts about learning online during the COVID-19 pandemic and the post-pandemic school and learning environment.

INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS - CONTINUED

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of October 2021 meetings was provided.

A Program and Planning Committee meeting date will be scheduled in October 2021.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Shannon Mitchell

Seconded by Doug Newton

“That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on September 28, 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 Kate Baggott

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

SUE BARNETT
Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI
Director of Education and Secretary