

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 25, 2022

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:29 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 7:47 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 Dave Schaubel

“That the Board return to Open meeting.”

CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:29 p.m.

C. SINGING OF ‘O CANADA’

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Dave Schaubel 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 Organization Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 7, 2021, be confirmed as submitted.”

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 7, 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 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

- **Richard Lowell, Lunchroom Supervisor, E.I. McCulley Public School**
Via video, Director Hoshizaki recognized Richard Lowell for being a dedicated lunchroom supervisor who contributes to a positive and caring culture in the school. He shared how Richard cares about the students and shows compassion and support to students in need. Richard keeps an eye on student safety and takes time to talk with students and make them feel valued. Director Hoshizaki presented Richard Lowell with a token of the Board’s appreciation for his contributions.
- **Jennifer Fricke, Derek Hockley, Kailyn Juras, Kelly Namtzu and Kerri Tonnies, Fundamental Skills Program (FSP) Staff, Oakwood Public School**
Via video, Director Hoshizaki recognized the Fundamental Skills program team’s commitment to student success and ongoing teamwork. He noted that the team listens to and values each student’s perspective while being flexible thinkers that approach their work with positivity. Their care for the students, high expectations and ongoing commitment to student success are the reasons they make such a positive impact. Director Hoshizaki presented the FSP staff at Oakwood Public School with a token of the Board’s appreciation for their extraordinary contributions.

b) Director’s Report

- **Explore Your Future’ Virtual Mentorship Series**
Director Hoshizaki highlighted the District School Board of Niagara’s partnership with Niagara College, Skills Ontario and Ontario Power Generation to provide the virtual mentorship series,

‘Explore Your Future.’ This speaker series highlights careers in trades and technology for Niagara’s young women. Over February, March and April, four sector-specific virtual events will be presented by women who are currently working in the skilled trades, with the important goal of making female and non-binary students aware of the many career pathways they can take.

- Director Hoshizaki shared an example of community support and outreach toward Stamford Collegiate Secondary School, noting that this is one of many examples of how DSBN schools receive support from their communities during the holiday season.

2. Educational Showcases

There were no educational showcases.

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 Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated December 9, 2021, be received.”

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated January 13, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell provided a summary of the December 9 meeting that included a St. Catharines Collegiate student presentation outlining the accommodations to his program and an update on students who require nursing support in DSBN schools and the Home and Community Care Support Services (HCCSS) nursing shortage. Trustee Bradnam provided a summary for the meeting for the January 13 meeting that included a Jeanne Sauvé student presentation highlighting her interests and strengths, as well as the sound field speaker, microphones, FM receiver and noise dampeners that support her in the classroom. The committee heard a Project Search presentation by Tracy Sacco, Student Achievement Leader of Alternative Education, and Patrick Carew and Karen Howie of Transition

to Employment, as well as details on upcoming staff PD opportunities, report cards, IEPs, preschool transition meetings, and the DSBN return to learning plan for the week of January 10, 2022. A letter was sent to the Ministry of Education and the Ministry of Health and Long-Term Care and shared with all other SEACs in the province highlighting the impact nursing shortages have had on students and their ability to attend school. Also, a letter was sent to the Ministry of Education requesting that the Minister commit to ensuring that all online and/or remote learning courses be consistently maintained and that resources meet accessibility standards.

2. Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Moved by Tiya Patel

Seconded by Kya Steinbach-Parker and Salony Sharma

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated December 21, 2021, be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Patel provided an update on the Student Trustee Senate Meeting, which took place on December 21, where Student Senators were asked about their experiences and perspectives about the return to four period scheduling. Student Trustee Steinbach-Parker noted that students would have appreciated more time to process the timetable change before it happened. She also shared that the senate discussed the Indigenous Student Leadership Circle and that she is working with the Indigenous education team to establish a group of secondary Indigenous students with the first introductory meeting on December 8th, 2021. Student Trustee Sharma reported that the last month has been a challenge for students as they transitioned between in-person and virtual learning. She noted the students’ appreciation of the board’s inclusion of student voice during the decision-making process behind exams.

In response to a question, Student Trustee Sharma reported that the student trustees have not had an opportunity to address the senate on the matter of school start times. She noted the positive response from students around the flexibility of schedules during online learning and the transition back to in-person learning. Student Trustees Patel and Steinbach-Parker agreed.

In response to a question, Director Hoshizaki noted that the DSBN has not gathered data from DSBN students on school start times.

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

Moved by Doug Newton

Seconded by Dave Schaubel

“That the report of the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee dated January 18, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell provided an update on the Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee meeting on January 18th. She shared that Trustees were provided with a verbal update, from the Community Advisory Committee meeting, on Gender Guidelines, the Equity and Inclusive Education policy and the School Resource Officer Program. Presentations were also given on the Building Cultural Awareness series, Culturally and Historically Responsive Education, Learning Skills through an Equity Lens, and Brave Spaces. In addition, the DSBN was successful in receiving a \$25 000 grant from the David S. Howes Fund, through the Niagara Community Foundation and in partnership with Tools of Empowerment for Success, to support a mentorship program for black youth.

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 December 8, 2021, be received.”

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated January 19, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Campbell reported that at the December 8 Supervised Alternative Learning (SAL) Committee meeting five applications were reviewed and approved and at the January SAL Committee meeting three SAL applications received approval. There are currently thirteen DSBN students who are active and compliant with their SAL plans.

5. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast

Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated January 19, 2022, be received.”

“That the Capital Projects Verbal Update be received for information.”

“That the Niagara Student Transportation Services – 2020-21 Annual Report and 2021-22 Annual Plan be received for information.”

“That the 2021-22 Interim Financial Report, reflecting updated enrolments for October 31, 2021, and the corresponding changes in revenues and expenditures, be received.”

“That the Summary of Accounts paid for the month of October, November, and December 2021, totaling \$78,914,199 be received.”

“That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ended December 31, 2021, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Maves reported that the committee received an update on capital projects from Superintendent Stacy Veld. It was noted that school boards have been advised that ongoing and planned construction projects are potentially facing increased costs because of supply chain issues and commodity price increases that have occurred during the pandemic. Also presented, was the NSTS 2021 Annual Report and 2021-22 Annual plan by Superintendent Veld, as well as the 2021-22 Interim Financial Report and

Summary of Accounts Report, by Nicky Westlake, Controller of Finance. The Summary of Award of Contracts was presented by Superintendent Veld who reported that the contract awarded during October 1 and December 31 was for Chromebooks and Cloud Book Devices and Services to two vendors.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were 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 Beamer shared that the PIC Speaker Series, 'Cultivating Genius and Joy Where All Children Thrive' with Dr. Ghody Muhammad, is on January 27.

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

Moved by Doug Newton

Seconded by Dave Schaubel

"That the trustees of the District School Board of Niagara write a letter to the Chief Medical Officer of Health of Ontario, Dr. Kieran Moore, the Minister of Education, Stephen Lecce, the Premier of Ontario, Doug Ford, and Medical Officer of Health for Niagara, Dr. Mustafa Hirji, in support of OPSBA's statement of January 12, 2022, on schools resuming in-person learning on January 17, 2022."

CARRIED

Trustee Baggott shared that this motion was read at school boards across Ontario in support of the OPSBA statement on January 12, that can be found on the OPSBA website.

6. Future Meetings

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

Superintendent Veld shared there will not be a February Finance Committee Meeting. Student Trustee Patel reported that the February 15 Student Trustee Senate retreat has been postponed and will be rescheduled.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on January 25, 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 Alex Bradnam

Seconded by Lora Campbell

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

CARRIED

The meeting adjourned at 7:47 p.m.

SUE BARNETT

Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI

Director of Education and Secretary