

BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 24, 2023

Private Session: 6:20 p.m. – 6:42 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 8:20 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

Kate Baggott, Alex Bradnam (Vice Chair), Sue Barnett (Chair), Nancy Beamer (virtual), Helga Campbell, Lora Campbell Jonathan Fast, Susan Jovanovic, Elizabeth Klassen, Deanne MacIntosh, Shannon Mitchell

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Tiya Patel, Julianna Marcel, 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

Nate Burns, Wendy Coit

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 Lora Campbell

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

Moved by Kate Baggott
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Board return to Open meeting.”
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 7:00 p.m.

C. SINGING OF ‘O CANADA’

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

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Elizabeth Klassen shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Lora Campbell

“That the Agenda be adopted.”
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Kate Baggott

“That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 6, 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 Shannon Mitchell

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“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 Team, Grapeview Public School

Director Hoshizaki recognized the outstanding educational assistant team at Grapeview Public School which consists of Erica Ballin, Kimberly Bartolini, Nakita Benjamins, Donna Clute, Julia Deveau, Rose Dollinger, Claire James, Natalie King, Laura Romano, Angela Smith, and Deanna Thompson. Each day these educators promote and model inclusivity while working together for the success of each student in their care and go well beyond their own classrooms and schedules to meet the needs of all students.

b) Director’s Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Jeremy Weeks, Head Custodian, Connaught Public School

Director Hoshizaki recognized Jeremy Weeks for his commitment to his role as Head Custodian at Connaught Public School and for serving as a role model who goes above and beyond every day to have a positive impact on students, staff, and the community. While ensuring safety and completing jobs with speed and precision, Jeremy builds and sustains relationships with every student. He is always willing to collaborate and contribute to initiatives at Connaught.

c) Director’s Report

Director Hoshizaki provided information highlights on the following items:

- **Trades Have No Gender**
- **Guidance Professional Development**

2. Educational Showcases

a) Ontario Public School’s Winter Glow Story Stroll

Superintendent Pisek introduced Brad Butler, Principal at Ontario Public School, and Kindergarten teacher, Janet Warkentin-Kraus, who shared a presentation highlighting the Ontario Public School's Kindergarten Program's Winter Glow Story Stroll featuring the book, "The Wish Tree" by Canadian Author Kyo Maclear. Several of the student wishes shared at the Ontario Public School event were read by Board members.

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 Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Alex Bradnam
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated December 7, 2022, be received."

CARRIED

Trustee MacIntosh shared that over 400 people registered for the January 18th PIC speaker series event with Dr. Jon Callegher, Executive Director of Job Talks, who helped to raise awareness for the high demand for skilled trades in the workforce. DSBN students shared their experiences with Co-Operative Education, the Specialist High Skills Majors Program as well as the Ontario Youth Apprenticeship Program. The next speaker series event with Dr. Shimi Kang will be about her universal parenting model that focuses on how to maintain balance in children's lives. Also, the committee heard an overview of the DSBN's draft Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan and was asked to provide feedback. Finally, the committee discussed plans to support schools with parent engagement by subsidizing schools that wish to purchase a technological tool for hybrid meetings and events.

2. Report of the Special Education Advisory Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated December 8, 2022, be

received.”

“That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated January 12, 2023, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell reported on the December 8th meeting that included a video presentation about a grade nine student with special learning needs that transitioned successfully into the SSTC program at St. Catharines Collegiate secondary school. The student is an artist with a remarkable knowledge of space, maps and flags. The committee received an update on the Special Education Department's professional development for DSBN staff, including Remediation Plus training, Understanding the Importance of Co-Regulation, IEP Development, and Strategies to Support Communication, Self-Regulation and Social Skills.

Trustee Klassen reported on the January 12th meeting where the student voice video included a kindergarten student at John Brant Public School who is deaf. Staff shared about the success of the student and expressed how excited they and the students were to have learned to communicate using American Sign Language. Updates were provided on the Preschool Transition Process and the Entry to School Program. DSBN Staff are working collaboratively with Niagara Children's Centre and Bethesda, while they make observations and collect information to support students, families, and schools with a smooth transition to school. Finally, the committee received an overview of Safe Schools initiatives including the Anti-Sex Trafficking Protocol, the Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan, and supporting students with prevalent medical conditions.

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

Moved by Shannon Mitchell

Seconded by Nancy Beamer

“That the report of the Equity, Inclusion & Anti-Racism Trustee Advisory Committee dated December 14, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell provided a summary of the December 14 meeting where Trustees were provided with updates on the DSBN Equity Action Plan and the professional development opportunities that support it, Indigenous Education, the newly developed EIAR Student Alliance group, and school-based equity and inclusion initiatives. The committee received a presentation on the DSBN Bullying Prevention and Intervention Plan and was asked for feedback. To help support families, committee members were asked to give input on community resources offered beyond the DSBN that will be available on the DSBN website for parents. Also, an overview and examples of the alignment of Equity and Inclusion Education and Special Education in supporting students with special education needs were given.

4. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Helga Campbell

Seconded by Jonathan Fast

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated December 14, 2022, be received.”

“That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated January 18, 2023, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell shared that at the December 14th meeting, twelve applications were reviewed and approved. The Committee also reviewed the progress of twenty-five current SAL plans. Twenty-four students were active and compliant, and one case was terminated. At the January 8th meeting, three applications were reviewed and approved. The Committee reviewed the progress of thirty-six current SAL plans and twenty-nine students were active and compliant. There were seven cases that will be revisited at the next meeting as they have not been compliant.

5. Report of the Student Trustee Senate

Moved by Julianna Marcel

Seconded by Tiya Patel and Kya Steinbach-Parker

“That the report of the Student Trustee Senate dated December 20, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Patel shared that she spoke to administrators about the importance of addressing the issue of vaping, alongside Superintendent Gilmore at the secondary administrators’ Area Meeting on January 11th. Administrators shared that educating students, supervision and tracking, and allowing students to mentor each other are strategies that contribute to combatting the issue of vaping in schools. Student Trustee Steinbach-Parker shared that Superintendent Gilmore facilitated discussions regarding congregating in school washrooms and vaping. Also, positive responses were received towards the newly established DSBN Indigenous student leadership circle. During subcommittee breakouts senators planned and began to execute the creation of posts that highlight study tips, writing exams and ways to destress. Student senators also discussed the initiatives that are taking place within school equity clubs across the region. Student Trustee Marcel provided an update on the Student Success Subcommittee discussions about healthy food options in schools and their ideas for moving towards providing more diverse, affordable options in school cafeterias. She also shared that the Student Trustees will be attending the OSTA-AECO (Ontario Student Trustee Association) Board Council Conference in February.

In response to a question, Director Hoshizaki noted that speaking with Chartwell is a good option for discussing healthy school cafeteria food options.

6. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Sue Barnett

Seconded by Susan Jovanovic

“That the report of the Finance Committee dated January 18, 2023, be received.”

“That the Niagara Student Transportation Services 2022-23 Annual Plan be received for

information.”

“That the 2022-23 First Interim Financial Report be received.”

“That the Summary of Accounts paid for the months of November and December 2022, totaling \$56,753,040 be received.”

“That the Award of Contracts Summary Report for the period ended November 30, 2022, be received.”

CARRIED

Trustee Barnett shared that the 2022-23 Annual Plan for the Niagara Student Transportation Services was shared, and the 2022-23 Interim financial report was presented. Based on preliminary October 31st actual enrolment, the total projected enrolment for the year is above budget. Other income has resulted in increases from provincial grants that were announced after the budget was prepared, and investment income as a result of increasing interest rates. The interim report projects the use of accumulated surplus to balance the budget and the Summary of Accounts for November and December 2022 was received by the Committee. Year over year, all categories have remained consistent with the exception of a significant increase in Construction/Repairs & Maintenance, which is expected given the large capital projects that are underway. Finally, the Award of Contracts was presented to the committee for information showing the contracts awarded for our major capital projects.

K. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions.

L. NEW BUSINESS

1. Amending the Education Act for Student Trustees to Move and Second Motions

Moved by Kate Baggott

Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

“That the Chair of the Board send a letter to the Minister of Education, with copies to local MPPs and all other school boards, requesting that the Education Act be amended to give student trustees the right to independently move and second motions.”

CARRIED

Student Trustee Patel shared the importance of allowing student trustees the right to independently move and second motions. Student Trustee Patel noted that OPSBA has been advocating for this amendment to include student voice and concrete support is needed for the Ministry to consider this amendment to the Education Act.

M. INFORMATION AND PROPOSALS

1. STAFF REPORTS

There were no staff reports.

2. TRUSTEE INFORMATION SESSION

There was a trustee information session on January 24, 2023, on 'Understanding Human Rights' presented by Maryam Safdar Ali, DSBN Human Rights Advisor.

3. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATION

There was no correspondence or communication.

4. TRUSTEE COMMUNICATIONS AND SCHOOL LIAISON

There were no trustee communications.

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

Trustee Baggott reminded trustees to attend the Public Education Symposium later this week. She shared that the next OPSBA meeting is at the end of February.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of February 2023 meetings was provided.
The February Days of Significance calendar was provided.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on January 24, 2023, 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

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

SUE BARNETT
Chair

WARREN HOSHIZAKI
Director of Education and Secretary