

## PROGRAM AND PLANNING COMMITTEE



**Tuesday, March 9, 2021  
Virtual - MS Teams**

## MINUTES

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### **Present:**

Trustee Committee Members: Nancy Beamer, Kevin Maves, Doug Newton for Jonathan Fast, Kate Baggot for Shannon Mitchell and Dave Schaubel (Chair).

Trustee Guests: Sue Barnett, Alex Bradnam  
Student Trustees: Salony Sharma and Karina Tavernese

Administration: Warren Hoshizaki, Director of Education  
Helen McGregor, Area 5 Supt. of Curriculum & Student Achievement (9-12)  
Leanne Smith, Area 6 Supt. of Curriculum & Student Achievement (9-12)  
Marian Reimer Friesen, Area 4 Supt. of Education, Curriculum & Student Achievement (K-8)  
Mary Anne Gage, Area 4 Supt. of Education, Curriculum & Student Achievement (K-12)

Guests: Mat Miller, Principal Grimsby and New West Niagara Secondary Schools  
Mary Zwolak – CSS Elementary Math Team  
Erik Teather – CSS Elementary Math Team

Recording Secretary: Debra Dinga, Administrative Assistant

Regrets: Trustees, Jonathan Fast and Shannon Mitchell

### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Dave Schaubel called the meeting of the Program and Planning Committee to order at 5:30 p.m.

### **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**

Moved by Trustee Baggott, seconded by Trustee Newton:

***"That the agenda be approved as presented."***

**CARRIED**

**BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

There was no business arising from the minutes.

**NEW BUSINESS****West Niagara Secondary School Update** – *Superintendent, Helen McGregor & Principal, Mat Miller*

Superintendent McGregor provided a brief update on the new elementary school in Wainfleet and introduced Principal Miller to provide the West Niagara Secondary School (WNSS) update.

Principal Miller shared the excitement that is happening as we move forward with the West Niagara Secondary School (WNSS) build. The branding has been set in place including the Wolf Pack mascots, and team uniforms which will be unveiled to students soon. A newsletter and website have been initiated to help “Track the Pack” with regular updates as we move toward the school’s opening in September 2022.

The features of the this modern “state of the art” school were shared which include bright, modern classrooms, a synthetic turf field and rubberized track, two double gyms and fitness center, greenhouse and specialized tech shops, all located on a 20 acre property. The range of programs were also shared and will include Specialized School to Community (SSTC), Specialized School to Work (SSTW), French Immersion and Specialist High Skills Major (SHSM) Programs. Additionally, an extensive variety of sports and extracurriculars will be offered.

The next steps for WNSS include tendering and the start of construction in Spring 2021. DSBN will provide ongoing up-dates to the WNSS community, School Council presentations are being made and there will be opportunities for student voice to be heard from future WNSS students.

A large fundraising committee called “Friends of the Arts in West Niagara” has been established in support of raising funds for a 750-seat theatre at WNSS. Already, The Town of Lincoln has pledged to contribute \$200,000 and numerous letters of support have been received from community members, organizations, and businesses. A virtual fundraising event will take place on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Moved by Trustee Maves, seconded by Trustee Beamer

***“That the West Niagara Secondary School (WNSS) Update be received.”***

**CARRIED**

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**New Elementary Math Curriculum Report** – Superintendent, Marian Reimer Friesen and Elementary CSS Team Members – Mary Zwolak and Erik Teather

Superintendent Reimer Friesen shared that DSBN has been on a very successful math journey and was one of a few school boards consulted on the new elementary math curriculum. Math Consultant, Erik Teather was part of the research group to work with the Ministry of Education to build the report framework. Erik Teather shared the differences in the 2020 and 2005 curriculum and explained that the new curriculum is based on more current research and contains new strands on social-emotional learning skills in mathematics and financial literacy. There is also a new focus on Coding and Mathematical Modelling, as well as only one (1) report card mark for mathematics.

System Administrator, Mary Zwolak reviewed the underlying principles of the new math curriculum and explained how this framework helps ensure that students see themselves as capable math learners.

The DSBN Math “Scope and Sequence” outlines a year-long plan for teaching math which supports integrated learning. DSBN’s math goal is: “To nurture a love of mathematics, while developing thinking and reasoning skills, confidence and perseverance, and mathematical understanding that empowers students to solve problems in their current and future lives” which aligns with changes to the curriculum.

Math learning supports have been created for DSBN educators in each grade and parent supports are available on the Ministry website as well as through their child’s teacher. A positive attitude toward math is critical in children’s development and learning both at school and at home.

Moved by Trustee Baggott, seconded by Trustee Beamer

***“That the New Elementary Math Curriculum Report be received.”***

**CARRIED**

**De-streaming Grade 9 in DSBN Report** – Superintendents, Helen McGregor & Leanne Smith

Superintendent Smith explained that currently students entering Grade 9 must choose an academic, applied or locally developed streamed educational pathway for English, French, Math, Science and Geography. Beginning in September 2021, Gr. 9 Mathematics will be de-streamed when The Ministry of Education puts a new grade 9 math curriculum in place.

Ontario is the only province that streams students and research strongly indicates that streaming students before age 15 narrows future post-secondary opportunities whereas de-streaming supports marginalized students and provides more equitable outcomes for students.

DSBN already has experience in offering de-streamed courses and achieved positive outcomes at the

DSBN Academy. We believe it is important to move beyond just de-streaming math in Gr. 9 in all our secondary schools. With this in mind, DSBN will offer de-streamed Gr. 9 Math and English courses in all secondary school beginning in September 2021 so we don't limit future opportunities for our students. In addition, individual secondary schools will have the option to also offer de-streamed Gr. 9 Geography, Science and French in September 2021 and all DSBN secondary schools will offer de-streamed Geography, French and Science in September 2022.

Our plans will be communicated to all school staff, student and parents who will all be notified of the changes coming in the Fall. We expect the Ministry will be adding additional de-streamed courses by September 2022. As well, for the Summer 2021, writing teams will be initiated and professional development opportunities and summer institutes will be planned to prepare for de-streaming in September.

Moved by Trustee Maves, seconded by Trustee Baggott

***“That DSBN receive the De-streaming Grade 9 in DSBN Report and DSBN supports the implementation of de-streamed English curriculum in all secondary schools starting in September 2021 and DSBN support the implementation of de-streamed Geography, French and Science curriculum in all secondary schools starting in September 2022.”***

**CARRIED**

**Additional Qualification Report** – Superintendent, Mary Anne Gage

Superintendent Gage shared a new model for Additional Qualification (AQ) programs in DSBN. AQ courses support teachers to expand their knowledge and skills in many subject areas while gaining qualifications accredited by the Ontario College of Teachers (OCT). The DSBN has a strong commitment to staff growth and to the funding of AQ courses. Currently the DSBN partners with different universities.

The new model would allow DSBN to become our own AQ provider with the benefit of writing our own courses providing for more flexibility, autonomy, improved scheduling, and formatting of courses. Additionally, we could hire DSBN educators to write and teach AQ courses which would eliminate candidate fees thereby reducing course costs by 60%.

DSBN is currently in the process of working toward accreditation with the goal of being ready to offer DSBN AQ courses in Fall of 2021.

Moved by Trustee Baggott, seconded by Trustee Newton

***“That the Additional Qualification Report be received.”***

**CARRIED**

**Educational Research Committee Report** – *Superintendent, Mary Anne Gage*

Superintendent Gage brought forward the research proposal that was accepted at the February 22 Educational Research Committee Meeting entitled “The 2021 Ontario Student Drug Use and Health Survey” (OSDUHS) from The Centre for Addiction and Mental Health (CAMH)). DSBN has participated in this biennial research since 2009 which anonymously surveys trends of substance use and mental health. The data gained supports and responds to youth issues including the creation of curriculum for students. This research will begin and conclude in DSBN prior to June 29, 2021.

Moved by Trustee Maves, seconded by Trustee Beamer

***“That the Educational Research Committee Report be received, and the research approved.”***

**CARRIED**

**OTHER BUSINESS**

There was no other business.

**NEXT MEETING**

The next Program and Planning Committee meeting is scheduled for **Tuesday, April 6, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.**

**ADJOURNMENT**

Moved by Trustee Beamer, seconded by Trustee Baggott

***“That the meeting of the Program and Planning Committee adjourn.”***

**CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned at 6:19 p.m.