MINUTES

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2026

Public Session: 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

(*denotes approval received to attend electronically)

BOARD

Kate Baggott (Chair), Sue Barnett, Nancy Beamer, Mike Brousseau, Helga Campbell, Jonathan Fast, Elizabeth Klassen (Vice Chair), *Deanne MacIntosh, Shannon Mitchell

ADMINISTRATION

Kelly Pisek (Chief Executive Officer), Karen Bellamy, Jennifer Feren, Ann Gilmore, Simon Hancox, Milica Petkovic, Breann Pyke, Melanie Sendzik, Neil Sheard, Stacy Veld

INDIGENOUS STUDENT TRUSTEE

Ivy Jones

STUDENT TRUSTEE

William Connor
Daisy Dong

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer Reid

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Ann Hamm

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

Chair Kate Baggott opened the meeting with an Acknowledgement of the Traditional Territory of the Haudenosaunee and Anishinaabe peoples.

2. CALL TO ORDER AND NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

Chair Baggott called the Regular Meeting of the Board to order at 6:00 p.m. and noted that Trustee Deanne MacIntosh was participating virtually. Trustee Owen Riel and Trustee Lora Campbell were absent.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

4. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood for a video performance of '*O Canada*' by the John Brant Public School Kindergarten class and remained standing for a moment of silence to honour the passing of members of the DSBN community.

5. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Mike Brousseau

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

6. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated August 25, 2026, be confirmed as submitted."
CARRIED

7. DELEGATIONS

There were no delegations.

8. CEO REPORT TO BOARD

a. Provincial Education Requirements for Ontario School Boards

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the Provincial Education Requirements for Ontario School Boards report be received."
CARRIED

b. Verbal Updates

CEO Kelly Pisek provided updates on the three new elementary school builds in Welland (Dain City), Thorold (Rolling Meadows), and Welland/Thorold (Fairgrounds), noting all three new builds are on schedule to open in September 2027.

In recognition of the final Board meeting of the current term, CEO Kelly Pisek expressed sincere appreciation for trustees' commitment to student achievement and well-being, and expressed appreciation for their leadership, strong governance, collaboration through change, and unwavering support of DSBN students and families.

9. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

a. Report of the Audit Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Sue Barnett

"That the report of the Audit Committee dated September 21, 2026 be received."

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

CARRIED

Trustee Sue Barnett reported that Regional Internal Audit Manager, Andrea Eltherington presented the 2025-2026 Regional Internal Audit Status Report. CEO Kelly Pisek provided MOE updates regarding Police Record Check requirements under Ontario Regulation 521/01. Committee members were reminded to submit their annual Conflict-of-Interest Declaration, as required under Ontario Regulation 361/10, and self-assessment for 2026-2027.

b. Report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee

Moved by Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated September 22, 2026 be received."

"That the Policy Governance Framework report dated September 22, 2026, be received."

"That the report of the Ad Hoc Governance Committee dated October 6, 2026 be received."

"That Policies i-01: Policy - General; i-02: Policy Committee; i-03: Policy Generating Process be revoked."

"That Policy i-01: Policy – General be approved."

"That the Policies listed in Category 1a – For Trustee Approval (attached) as amended are confirmed as ongoing governance policies that will be reviewed cyclically though the Governance Committee or as determined by Policy i-01: Policy Framework."

"That the Policies listed in Category 1b – For Trustee Receipt (attached) as amended are confirmed as ongoing governance policies that will be received cyclically by the Board or as determined by Policy i-01: Policy Framework."

"That the Policies listed in Category 2 – Policies to Revoke – Community Facing Resources Exist or is Recommended (attached) are hereby revoked for inclusion in a community facing resource."

"That the Policies listed in Category 3 – Policies to Revoke – No Community Facing Resource Recommended (attached) as amended are hereby revoked."

"That the Board approve Trustee Honoraria for the period commencing November 15, 2026, in accordance with Ontario Regulation 320/26, Honoraria for Board Members."

"That commencing November 15, 2026, Board and Statutory Committee Agenda and official approved minutes are posted and remain on DSBN's public website for a period of the current year plus three years."

"That, for the purpose of implementing this retention period, Board official approved Minutes from the Board years commencing November 15, 2023, November 15, 2024, and November 15, 2025, be posted to DSBN's public website; and that such records be removed from the website as they exceed the current Board year plus three-year posting period established by Board policy."
CARRIED

Trustee Beamer reported that during the September 22 meeting, committee members received and supported a new policy framework, a revised preamble policy, and the posting of draft minutes pending formal approval. At the October 6 meeting, the committee approved a revised Policy General and new Trustee Honoraria, effective November 15; reviewed and revised the policy library using the new framework and discussed two proposed By-Laws amendments to be considered at the November Board meeting.

c. 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 September 23, 2026 be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell reported that the committee received MOE updates from CEO Pisek. Superintendent Hancox highlighted professional learning in IEP development and special education programming and confirmed representation for SEAC's next four-year term. The committee was presented with the 2026-2027 Special Education Plan, Parent/Guardian Guide, and draft DSBN SEAC Handbook and discussed ongoing efforts to strengthen family engagement, supports and outcomes for students with special education needs.

d. Report of the Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Shannon Mitchell

Seconded by Sue Barnett

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated September 24, 2026 be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell reported that the committee met at Thundering Heights Public School, where Principal, Amy Morocco and Senior Manager of Facility Services, Carrie Stasiak led a tour of the new facility. CEO Kelly Pisek provided updates on recent MOE requirements for Ontario school boards. The committee also received updates on the redesigned DSBN website and new Ministry guidelines for secondary students. A sub-committee was established to review and revise the PIC By-Laws, and the upcoming "Chairing with Confidence" event on November 4 was discussed.

e. Student Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee Report

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Shannon Mitchell

"That the Student Trustee and Indigenous Student Trustee report dated October 27, 2026 be received."
CARRIED

Indigenous Student Trustee and Student Trustee's presented the report and highlighted student engagement initiatives, events, and leadership opportunities as well as the ongoing collaboration between students, staff, and administrators, to support student voice.

f. Notice of Recommended Motion:
"Take Notice that in accordance with the Board By-law and Rules of Order section Q-2, the following proposed amendments to the By-Laws and Rules of Order of the District School Board of Niagara will come forward for consideration at the Board meeting scheduled on November 17, 2026, with such amendments to take effect upon the passing of the recommendations contained therein."

Q-2		No amendment, alteration or addition to the By-Laws shall be made unless written ~~notice~~ recommendation setting forth the proposed amendment, alteration or addition is given after consideration of the change at a Governance Committee meeting previous to that Board Meeting at which the same comes up for consideration and unless confirmed by two-thirds vote of all the members of the Board.
Q-4		**Insert New By-Law:** The CEO may make administrative or editorial revisions to the Board By-Laws and Rules of Order and to Board Policies including: • correction of grammatical, typographical, formatting, or numbering errors; • updates to position titles, department names, organizational structures, and contact information; • revisions to terminology, nomenclature, legislation citations, document references, hyperlinks, forms, or cross-references; • changes required to maintain consistency within the Board By-Laws and Rules of Order and approved Board policies; and

		• housekeeping changes that do not materially affect the authority, responsibilities, or substantive requirements established by the Board By-Laws and Rules of Order or Board Policies. Administrative or editorial revisions to the Board By-laws and Rules of Order or Board Policies will be presented to Trustees for information at the next Board meeting. The requirements for prior notice and confirmation by two-thirds vote as set out in By-Law Q-2 do not apply. The revisions shall take effect immediately upon receipt by the Board."

10. STAFF REPORTS TO BOARD

a. Staffing and Recruitment 2026-2027

Moved by Mike Brousseau
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the Staffing and Recruitment 2026-2027 report dated October 27, 2026, be received."
CARRIED

Executive Officer of Human Resource, Breann Pyke presented the report noting that changes to the Human Resources department have been made to strengthen recruitment practices, broaden candidate pools, improve hiring quality and to operationalize a process for police checks as required by the Ministry.

b. Responsive Instruction: Early Reading Strategy

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Jonathan Fast

"That the Responsive Instruction: Early Reading Strategy report, dated October 27, 2026, be received."
CARRIED

Superintendent Melanie Sendzik presented the report, outlining that the report is consistent with PPM 168, and supports the early identification of student learning needs and provides responsive instruction and intervention to improve reading.

c. Outdoor Education Annual Report 2025-2026

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Mike Brousseau

"That the DSBN Outdoor Education Annual Report 2025-2026 be received."
CARRIED

Supervisor of Outdoor Education, Colleen Fast presented highlights from the annual report, marking the 10th year of Outdoor Education at the Living Campus. The presentation highlighted the hands-on, curriculum-connected learning the programs provide, including four new Secondary Special Education Days and an overnight camping experience with the NPCA. Colleen noted that the programs build students' confidence, relationships, independence and sense of belonging.

11. QUESTIONS ASKED OF AND BY BOARD MEMBERS

There were no questions asked of and by Board members.

12. CORRESPONDENCE AND COMMUNICATIONS

a. Correspondence regarding School Naming for new school in Thorold
b. Correspondence regarding School Naming for new school in Welland
c. Correspondence regarding School Naming for new school in Dain City
d. Correspondence from the City of St. Catharines

13. FUTURE MEETINGS

a. Board and Committee Meetings
b. Days of Significance

14. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by Sue Barnett
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"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

15. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Moved by Helga Campbell
Seconded by Elizabeth Klassen

"That the business transacted in Committee of the Whole be now ratified by the Board."
CARRIED

16. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Shannon Mitchell
Seconded by Sue Barnett

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on October 27, 2026, 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

17. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.

KATE BAGGOTT	**KELLY PISEK**
Chair	Chief Executive Officer and Secretary