TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 22, 2026

Open Session: 5:30 P.M. (In person in the Boardroom)

AGENDA

ATTENDANCE

Trustee Committee Members

Trustee Beamer (Chair), Trustee Baggott, Trustee Barnett, Trustee Brousseau, Trustee Mitchell

Administration

Kelly Pisek (Chief Executive Officer), Jennifer Feren (General Counsel), Karen Bellamy (Executive Assistant to CEO)

Recording Secretary

Kerry Baker (Law Clerk to General Counsel)

A. WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL TERRITORY

B. CALL TO ORDER / NOTING OF MEMBERS ABSENT

C. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

D. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

1. Policy Governance Framework
(report attached)

2. Policy Update - Preamble
(report attached)

E. NEW BUSINESS

1. Draft Minute Posting
(verbal – Kelly Pisek)

F. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, October 6, 2026, at 5:30 pm

G. ADJOURNMENT

Policy Governance Framework

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

BACKGROUND:

During this Board's term, the Policy Committee met three times a year to review policies scheduled under the established review cycle and determine whether they should be updated or revoked. The Trustees' proactive engagement in reviewing individual policies and considering their governance role provided a strong foundation for taking a broader view of the policy library, while also highlighting the opportunity for a more coordinated and efficient approach.

At its June 8, 2026, meeting, the Governance Committee discussed a more purposeful approach to reviewing the policy library and supported the concept of working to streamline the policy library focusing on the policies that need to be public facing and eliminating others. As reflected in the Minutes, the Governance Committee identified three categories for reviewing and streamlining the policy library:

- policies to retain
- policies to revoke and convert to public guidance available as tools or guidelines to assist families and Trustees navigate situations
- Policies to revoke as not relevant to the public (e.g., staff retirement guidance)

The Governance Committee Minutes also reflect that once the policy library review is complete, future policy reviews could be brought directly to the Board as part of its ongoing work.

Based on the discussion and feedback received through the Governance Committee meeting, a Policy Governance Framework has been developed.

CATEGORY			RATIONALE
1A	**GOVERNANCE**	**FOR TRUSTEE APPROVAL**	• Policies that address significant legislative, regulatory or other legal requirements, or that involve an exercise of permitted discretion warranting Board authorization • Propose that these policies would be considered at the Governance Committee before being presented to the Board
1B	**GOVERNANCE**	**FOR TRUSTEE RECEIPT**	• Policies that primarily reflect or give administrative effect to legislation, regulations, Ministry policy or other legal requirements, without requiring the Board to make a significant discretionary policy choice • Propose that these policies be received directly at Board meetings
2	**POLICY TO REVOKE**	**COMMUNITY FACING RESOURCE EXISTS OR RECOMMENDED**	• Information is already contained in community facing resources on website through guidelines, handbooks or other practical resources • Alternatively, convert important concepts to public guidance as policy may contain some useful information for family and/or community that could instead be provided on the website through guidelines, handbooks or other practical resources

3	**POLICY TO REVOKE**	**NO COMMUNITY FACING RESOURCE RECOMMENDED**	• Content is operational in nature and/or internal and/or staff related

At the next meeting, the proposed placement of policies within the framework will be considered further, informed by the perspectives and preliminary observations brought to the discussion.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Feren
General Counsel

Date: September 22, 2026

For further information, please contact Jennifer Feren, General Counsel

Policy Update - Preamble

Tuesday, September 22, 2026

BACKGROUND:

At its June 8, 2026 meeting, the Governance Committee considered a more purposeful approach to reviewing and considering the Board's policy library, which is being considered in the proposed companion Policy Governance Framework report.

On June 22, 2026, the Board amended its By-Laws and Rules of Orders streamlining its committee structure.

These changes require changes to the current pre-amble policies **i-01: Policy-General**; **i-02: Policy Committee**; and **i-03: Policy Generating Process** to reflect the changes to the By-Laws and Rules and Order and Governance Committee's more purposeful approach to reviewing and streamlining the policy library.

RECOMMENDED MOTION:

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

"That Policy i-01: Policy Framework be approved."

Respectfully submitted,

Jennifer Feren
General Counsel

Date: September 22, 2026

For further information, please contact Jennifer Feren, General Counsel

District School Board of Niagara

POLICY

SECTION:	PREAMBLE	POLICY:	**i-01**
TOPIC:	**POLICY FRAMEWORK**	PAGE:	Page 1 of 2
		DATE:	September 2026
REVIEW DATE:	September 2031	REVISED:	

The *Education Act* establishes distinct and complementary roles for the Board of Trustees in governing the school board and for the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) in providing executive, administrative and educational leadership in accordance with their statutory responsibilities. Within this framework, the Board of Trustees establish focused governance policy in accordance with legislation while respecting the distinct statutory authority of the CEO.

The Board of Trustees govern through strategic direction, policy, oversight and accountability. Board policies set governance expectations within their legal authority. The Board of Trustees do not direct routine operations or detailed administrative processes.

The Board of Trustees are required under the *Education Act* to develop and maintain policies to:

- Promote student achievement and well-being
- Promote positive school climate that is inclusive and accepting of all pupils, including pupils of any race, ancestry, place of origin, colour, ethnic origin, citizenship, creed, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, age, marital status, family status or disability
- Promote the prevention of bullying
- Deliver effective and appropriate education programs to its pupils.

The policy library will support the District School Board of Niagara’s strategic priorities.

Consistent with this focused role, policies will come before the Board of Trustees in one of two ways. Policies will proceed through the Governance Committee to the Board for approval where the significance of the applicable legislation, regulations or other legal requirements—or the discretion exercised in implementing them—calls for Board authorization. Policies that primarily reflect or give administrative effect to legislation, regulations, Ministry policy or other legal requirements will be presented directly to the Board for receipt where Board awareness supports oversight and accountability.

- **Board Approval Policies:** policies that address significant legislative, regulatory or other legal requirements, or that involve an exercise of permitted discretion warranting Board authorization. These policies will be considered by the Governance Committee before being presented to the Board for approval. They will be reviewed on the Board-approved cycle or sooner where required.

  Board Approval Policies scheduled for review will be posted on the DSBN website for thirty (30) calendar days, with notice provided through an email distribution list. Stakeholders may submit input electronically, and a summary of the input will be presented with the revised policy to the Governance Committee.

- **Board Receipt Policies:** policies that primarily reflect or give administrative effect to legislation, regulations, Ministry policy or other legal requirements, without requiring the Board to make a significant discretionary policy choice. These policies will be presented directly to the Board for information and oversight, with receipt serving as the appropriate governance action.

Where an immediate policy amendment is required to maintain compliance with a legislative or regulatory change, binding Ministry direction, or other legal requirement, and the usual committee or Board process cannot reasonably be completed in time, the CEO will make the required amendment to ensure that the Board continues to meet its legal obligations. The CEO’s office will promptly advise the Board of the amendment, and the amended policy will be presented at the next Board meeting for information.

Similarly, the CEO may make administrative or editorial revisions to Board policies to Board policies between review cycles, including such things as:

- 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 with approved Board policies and

- housekeeping changes that do not materially affect the policy's authority, responsibilities, or substantive requirements of the policy.

These revised policies will also be presented at the next Board meeting for information.

Current governance policies will be published in DSBN’s public policy library. Superseded and revoked versions will be retained in accordance with DSBN’s records management requirements.

References

Education Act
DSBN Website - Policies