BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, JANUARY 23, 2024

Private Session: 6:15 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. | Public Session: 7:00 p.m. – 7:38 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

BOARD

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

STUDENT TRUSTEES

Audrey Akharoh, Nodin Buck, Julianna Marcel

OFFICIALS

Kelly Pisek (Director of Education), Lora Courtois, Ann Gilmore, Marian Reimer Friesen, Melanie Sendzik, Neil Sheard, Leanne Smith, Michael St. John, Stacy Veld, Jennifer Feren, Milica Petkovic, Karen Bellamy, Cheryl Morgan

RECORDING SECRETARY

Jennifer McGugan

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

Nate Burns, Ann Hamm, and Andrew Latham

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. and welcomed newly appointed Director of Education, Kelly Pisek and Superintendent of Education, Melanie Sendzik.

3. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of conflict of interest.

B. COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE (PRIVATE SESSION)

Moved by Nancy Beamer

Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Board do now enter Committee of the Whole."
CARRIED

Moved by Nancy Beamer
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the Board return to Open meeting."
CARRIED

The Board returned to open meeting at 6:30 p.m.

C. SINGING OF 'O CANADA'

The Board stood as '*O Canada*' was performed by the Wellington Heights Public School Choir, via video.

D. REFLECTIVE READING

Trustee Susan Jovanovic shared a reflective reading.

E. BUSINESS OF THE BOARD

1. Adoption of the Agenda

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Deanne MacIntosh

"That the Agenda be adopted."
CARRIED

2. APPROVAL OF BOARD MINUTES

Moved by Lora Campbell
Seconded by Nancy Beamer

"That the Minutes of the Regular Meeting of the District School Board of Niagara dated December 5, 2023, 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 Helga Campbell
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

"That the business transacted in Committee of the Whole on January 23, 2024, 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 – Leigh-Anne Ralston, DSBN Social Worker
Director Pisek recognized Leigh-Anne for being an incredible support to the Welland, Wainfleet and Port Colborne school communities through her ability to build trusting relationships with families and facilitate collaboration between home and school. Students see her as a trusted adult and know that when they need her, she is always willing to make time for them. Leigh-Anne also helps school staff feel equipped with the tools needed to support students in the classroom. She is as authentic, and honest, and establishes strong rapport and alliance with everyone she connects with through her work. Director Pisek thanked Leigh-Anne for embodying the DSBN strategic priority of thriving.

Director's Recognition for Extraordinary Contributions – Colin Strickland, Education and Community Partnership Program (ECPP), Teacher, Shifting Gears Classroom
Director Pisek recognized Colin for the many roles he has held in the education field, including learning resource teacher, intermediate homeroom teacher, Pathstone day treatment teacher, and special education behaviour consultant. His success in teaching is deeply rooted in his understanding of learners and his ability to build strong relationships with students, agency partners, parents, colleagues, and the community. He goes above and beyond to ensure everyone feels comfortable and heard. Colin consistently seeks opportunities to enhance his knowledge and fosters a culture of curiosity and growth among his students and colleagues. Director Pisek thanked Colin for embodying the DSBN strategic priority of belonging.

b) Director's Report
Director Pisek provided recent highlights from across the system with a focus on the strategic priority of belonging, which included information about:

- **Family Feast - Community Dinner at Plymouth Public School**
- **Giving Made Easy - Holiday Gift Initiative at St. Catharines Collegiate**
- **Family Fun - Pine Grove Hosted Families in December**
- **Ready for Registration - Schools Prepare to Welcome Future Students & Families**
- **"All Are Welcome" - Artisan Card Contest Winner Captures Theme of Belonging**

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 Parent Involvement Committee

Moved by Deanne MacIntosh
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

"That the report of the Parent Involvement Committee dated December 6, 2023, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee MacIntosh reported that the committee received an overview of the board's 2022-23 EQAO results, discussed changes to secondary school graduation dates and the board's transportation policy and had an opportunity to review and provide feedback on the proposed draft of 2024-25 school year calendars. The committee also debriefed about the PIC Conference that was held in November and the committee is considering a date for next year's conference as well as other activities that PIC can host this year to support school councils and parents throughout the board.

2. Report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee

Moved by Elizabeth Klassen
Seconded by Helga Campbell

"That the report of the Supervised Alternative Learning Committee dated December 13, 2023, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Helga Campbell reported that the committee reviewed thirteen new cases. Of the thirteen new cases reviewed, all thirteen were approved for SAL. The Committee also reviewed the progress of thirty-six current SAL plans.

3. 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 7, 2023, be received."

"That the report of the Special Education Advisory Committee dated January 11, 2024, be received."
CARRIED

Trustee Mitchell reported details from both the December and January meetings that began with student voice videos. One from a JK student at Prince of Wales Public School in St. Catharines who successfully transitioned from preschool into kindergarten, and the other from a grade 11 SSTC student at E.L. Crossley Secondary School who shared about the supportive school environment that has allowed her to participate in both business and art classes. Trustee Mitchell shared that the committee welcomed new SEAC members from Bethesda and Niagara Children's Centre and received information on professional development opportunities offered to staff, the preschool transition process, and self-regulation. The committee also learned that School Based Rehabilitation Services (SBRS) occupational therapy services are transitioning to a Tiered Model of Intervention and that the Niagara Region is involved in a new extensive needs program through Hamilton Health Sciences designed to provide wrap-around support to children with very complex needs.

4. Report of the Finance Committee

Moved by Jonathan Fast
Seconded by Alex Bradnam

"That the report of the Finance Committee dated January 17, 2024, be received."
"That the 2023-24 First Interim Financial Report be received."
"That the Summary of Accounts paid for the months of November and December 2023, totaling $69,715,661 be received."
"That the Summary of Award of Contracts Report for the period ending December 31, 2023, be received."
CARRIED

Superintendent Veld shared that the committee received presentations on the 2023-24 First Interim Financial Report, the Summary of Accounts report for the months of November and December, and the Summary of Award of Contracts. She noted that the DSBN continues to see increases in both elementary and secondary enrolment. The First Interim Report includes increases in teaching and support staff including an additional 10 Educational Assistants. The Board continues to be in a very stable financial position.

5. Student Trustee Update

Student Trustee Buck shared details about a new initiative, Wired Interview, for the Student Trustee elections. The Wired Interview will be a video that will help students understand the role and experience of a student trustee. Student Trustee Akharoh shared that at the final Senate Meeting of 2023 the equity and inclusion subcommittee group began a new project called "Breaking Barriers: A Project to Promote Equity and Inclusion in Education." This project will involve the creation of a series of posts for the DSBN Student Senate Instagram in celebration of the various Months of Significance, striving to educate students and promote cultural awareness and understanding. Student Trustee Marcel highlighted a collaboration that took place between the Student Success and Connections &

Engagement subcommittees to discuss various reporting systems within the board and how they impact student success and engagement. Also, the Connections & Engagement subcommittee is working on a study vlog to help students with exam motivation and offer tips and insights into effective study habits. Student senators will be highlighted using the Instagram platform as a way to connect them with the wider student body.

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

In response to email correspondence sent trustees, Trustee Beamer requested a review of the revised commencement ceremonies process prior to the next school year.

4. Trustee Communications And School Liaison

There were no trustee communications.

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

Trustee Baggott noted that trustees and superintendents will be attending the Public Education Symposium this week.

6. Future Meetings

The calendar of February 2024 meetings was provided. The Finance Committee meeting has been moved to Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 5:00 pm.
The February Days of Significance calendar was provided. It was noted that Mardi Gras is on the Tuesday before Ash Wednesday.

N. RATIFICATION OF BUSINESS CONDUCTED IN THIS REGULAR MEETING

Moved by Susan Jovanovic
Seconded by Lora Campbell

"That the business transacted by the Board of Trustees at its meeting held on January 23, 2024, 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 7:38 p.m.

SUE BARNETT	**KELLY PISEK**
Chair	Director of Education and Secretary